House Bill No. 7287

Public Act No. 25-168

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET.

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

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the GENERAL FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
LEGISLATIVE		
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT		
Personal Services	60,694,802	64,296,079
Other Expenses	22,660,836	24,954,131
Equipment	3,295,000	3,295,000
Flag Restoration	65,000	65,000
Minor Capital Improvements	4,000,000	4,000,000
Interim Salary/Caucus Offices	750,556	591,748
Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering	219,000	226,000
Old State House	850,000	900,000
Translators	150,000	150,000
Wall of Fame	10,000	10,000

Interstate Conference Fund	502,701	529,095
New England Board of Higher Education	218,988	226,488
AGENCY TOTAL	93,416,883	99,243,541
AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS		
Personal Services	15,401,961	16,701,328
Other Expenses	451,727	451,727
AGENCY TOTAL	15,853,688	17,153,055
COMMISSION ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, SENIORS, EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY		
Personal Services	1,127,850	1,227,933
Other Expenses	60,000	60,000
AGENCY TOTAL	1,187,850	1,287,933
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE		
Personal Services	3,983,704	3,983,704
Other Expenses	635,401	635,401
National Governors' Association	115,735	121,522
AGENCY TOTAL	4,734,840	4,740,627
SECRETARY OF THE STATE		
Personal Services	5,011,011	5,402,637
Other Expenses	3,144,562	3,517,936
Commercial Recording Division	5,419,159	5,419,159
Early Voting	3,320,000	1,320,000
Bridgeport Election Monitor	150,000	150,000
AGENCY TOTAL	17,044,732	15,809,732
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE		
Personal Services	865,598	865,598
Other Expenses	46,323	46,323
AGENCY TOTAL	911,921	911,921

ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION		
Elections Enforcement Commission	4,257,796	4,255,296
OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS		
Office of State Ethics	2,069,345	2,059,779
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION		
Freedom of Information Commission	2,283,813	2,283,813
STATE TREASURER		
Personal Services	3,543,056	3,543,056
Other Expenses	359,854	359,854
AGENCY TOTAL	3,902,910	3,902,910
STATE COMPTROLLER		
Personal Services	30,478,063	30,478,063
Other Expenses	18,417,000	18,417,000
AGENCY TOTAL	48,895,063	48,895,063
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES		
Personal Services	54,602,016	54,700,984
Other Expenses	4,617,358	4,617,358
AGENCY TOTAL	59,219,374	59,318,342
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY		
Other Expenses	25,098	25,098
Child Fatality Review Panel	139,183	139,183
Contracting Standards Board	858,234	859,334
Judicial Review Council	191,511	191,511
Judicial Selection Commission	117,678	117,678
Office of the Child Advocate	1,032,892	1,032,892
Office of the Victim Advocate	519,674	519,674
Board of Firearms Permit Examiners	148,193	148,193

Office of the Correction Ombuds	790,799	763,692
Office of the Educational Ombudsperson	180,000	180,000
AGENCY TOTAL	4,003,262	3,977,255
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT		
Personal Services	21,379,691	21,379,691
Other Expenses	6,841,422	3,305,422
Automated Budget System and Data Base Link	20,438	20,438
Justice Assistance Grants	865,967	865,967
Tax Relief For Elderly Renters	25,020,226	25,020,226
Private Providers	50,000,000	156,000,000
Reimbursement Property Tax - Disability Exemption	364,713	364,713
Distressed Municipalities	1,500,000	1,500,000
Property Tax Relief Elderly Freeze Program	4,000	4,000
Property Tax Relief for Veterans	2,708,107	2,708,107
Municipal Restructuring	300,000	300,000
AGENCY TOTAL	109,004,564	211,468,564
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS		
Personal Services	23,565,623	23,687,289
Other Expenses	4,086,113	4,106,113
SSMF Administration	560,345	560,345
Veterans' Opportunity Pilot	245,047	245,047
Veterans' Rally Point	512,764	512,764
Burial Expenses	6,666	6,666
Headstones	307,834	307,834
AGENCY TOTAL	29,284,392	29,426,058
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
Personal Services	100,780,339	100,780,339
Other Expenses	31,251,286	31,251,286
Loss Control Risk Management	88,003	88,003
Employees' Review Board	32,611	32,611

Refunds Of Collections	20,381	20,381
Rents and Moving	4,136,035	4,136,035
W. C. Administrator	5,562,120	5,562,120
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	21,825,088	21,830,588
IT Services	67,732,158	67,732,158
Firefighters Fund	400,000	400,000
Office of the Claims Commissioner	460,499	460,499
State Properties Review Board	337,113	337,113
State Marshal Commission	330,556	365,556
AGENCY TOTAL	232,956,189	232,996,689
ATTORNEY GENERAL		
Personal Services	40,164,183	40,234,183
Other Expenses	1,054,810	1,054,810
AGENCY TOTAL	41,218,993	41,288,993
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE		
Personal Services	57,461,166	58,219,053
Other Expenses	5,102,201	5,102,201
Witness Protection	200,000	200,000
Training And Education	147,398	147,398
Expert Witnesses	135,413	135,413
Medicaid Fraud Control	1,509,942	1,509,942
Criminal Justice Commission	409	409
Cold Case Unit	292,041	292,041
Shooting Taskforce	1,427,286	1,427,286
AGENCY TOTAL	66,275,856	67,033,743
REGULATION AND PROTECTION		
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION		
Personal Services	183,361,731	180,361,731
Other Expenses	34,749,783	34,715,572
Fleet Purchase	7,449,099	7,782,053
Criminal Justice Information System	4,763,320	4,763,320

CRISIS	400,000	1,800,000
Law Enforcement Training Partnerships	850,000	2,050,000
Fire Training School - Willimantic	242,176	242,176
Maintenance of County Base Fire Radio Network	19,528	19,528
Maintenance of State-Wide Fire Radio Network	12,997	12,997
Police Association of Connecticut	172,353	172,353
Connecticut State Firefighter's Association	176,625	176,625
Fire Training School - Torrington	172,267	172,267
Fire Training School - New Haven	108,364	108,364
Fire Training School - Derby	50,639	50,639
Fire Training School - Wolcott	171,162	171,162
Fire Training School - Fairfield	127,501	127,501
Fire Training School - Hartford	176,836	176,836
Fire Training School - Middletown	70,970	70,970
Fire Training School - Stamford	75,541	75,541
Volunteer Firefighter Training	140,000	140,000
AGENCY TOTAL	233,290,892	233,189,635
MILITARY DEPARTMENT		
Personal Services	3,305,492	3,305,492
Other Expenses	2,144,823	2,144,823
Honor Guards	561,600	561,600
Veteran's Service Bonuses	61,800	379,500
JEEP Program	169,600	338,600
Governor's Guards	330,000	330,000
AGENCY TOTAL	6,573,315	7,060,015
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION		
Personal Services	16,096,179	16,807,275
Other Expenses	719,940	757,940
AGENCY TOTAL	16,816,119	17,565,215
LABOR DEPARTMENT		

Personal Services	17,414,340	17,911,298
Other Expenses	4,808,285	4,693,827
CETC Workforce	606,460	606,460
Workforce Investment Act	29,938,610	29,938,610
Job Funnels Projects	712,857	712,857
Connecticut's Youth Employment Program	7,768,488	10,268,488
Jobs First Employment Services	13,173,620	13,173,620
Apprenticeship Program	604,369	604,369
Connecticut Career Resource Network	152,112	152,112
STRIVE	88,779	88,779
Opportunities for Long Term Unemployed	5,121,184	5,121,184
Second Chance Initiative	327,038	327,038
Cradle To Career	100,000	100,000
New Haven Jobs Funnel	750,000	750,000
Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative	4,627,698	4,627,698
Domestic Workers Education and Training Grant Program	400,000	400,000
AGENCY TOTAL	86,593,840	89,476,340
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES		
Personal Services	8,543,283	8,768,241
Other Expenses	668,527	398,527
Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission	5,977	5,977
AGENCY TOTAL	9,217,787	9,172,745
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
Personal Services	4,413,414	4,713,414
Other Expenses	2,373,332	2,373,332
Senior Food Vouchers	518,418	518,418
Dairy Farmer - Agriculture Sustainability	1,000,000	1,000,000
WIC Coupon Program for Fresh Produce	247,938	247,938
AGENCY TOTAL	8,553,102	8,853,102

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
Personal Services	23,865,954	23,865,954
Other Expenses	1,372,261	1,602,261
Mosquito and Tick Control	284,240	284,240
State Superfund Site Maintenance	399,577	399,577
Laboratory Fees	122,565	122,565
Dam Maintenance	151,902	151,902
Emergency Spill Response	7,657,024	7,657,024
Solid Waste Management	4,078,312	4,078,312
Underground Storage Tank		1,085,420
Clean Air	4,449,309	4,449,309
Environmental Conservation	4,893,567	4,893,567
Environmental Quality	7,056,504	7,056,504
Fish Hatcheries	3,004,540	3,004,540
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	278,315	278,315
Interstate Environmental Commission	3,333	3,333
New England Interstate Water Pollution Commission	26,554	26,554
Northeast Interstate Forest Fire Compact	3,082	3,082
Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission	30,295	30,295
Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission	45,151	45,151
AGENCY TOTAL	57,722,485	59,037,905
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
Personal Services	9,532,248	9,842,148
Other Expenses	1,611,278	611,278
Spanish-American Merchants Association	442,194	442,194
Office of Military Affairs	181,521	181,521
CCAT-CT Manufacturing Supply Chain	2,585,000	2,585,000
Capital Region Development Authority	10,845,022	10,845,022
Manufacturing Growth Initiative	178,133	178,133
Hartford 2000	20,000	20,000
Office of Workforce Strategy	1,303,046	1,303,046

Black Business Alliance	442,194	442,194
Hartford Economic Development Corporation	442,194	442,194
CONNSTEP	500,000	500,000
Various Grants	18,651,000	20,176,930
MRDA	1,100,000	1,300,000
AdvanceCT	2,000,000	2,000,000
Futures Inc	85,000	85,000
Forge City Works	365,000	300,000
CT Community Empowerment Foundation	100,000	100,000
City Seed	300,000	300,000
AGENCY TOTAL	50,683,830	51,654,660
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING		
Personal Services	2,649,343	2,649,343
Other Expenses	157,210	157,210
Elderly Rental Registry and Counselors	1,011,170	1,011,170
Homeless Youth	3,235,121	3,235,121
Outreach Services for Norwich	250,000	250,000
Subsidized Assisted Living Demonstration	3,200,000	3,402,000
Congregate Facilities Operation Costs	12,642,659	12,864,700
Elderly Congregate Rent Subsidy	2,172,786	2,172,786
Housing/Homeless Services	101,198,923	114,398,923
Project Longevity - Housing	2,491,355	2,491,355
Housing/Homeless Services - Municipality	692,651	692,651
AGENCY TOTAL	129,701,218	143,325,259
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION		
Personal Services	7,197,533	7,197,533
Other Expenses	1,081,499	1,081,499
Mosquito and Tick Disease Prevention	857,623	857,623
Wildlife Disease Prevention	133,357	133,357
AGENCY TOTAL	9,270,012	9,270,012
HEALTH		

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH		
Personal Services	40,620,559	40,640,559
Other Expenses	8,132,228	8,939,228
Gun Violence Prevention	4,404,299	4,404,299
Lung Cancer Detection and Referrals	479,137	479,137
Pancreatic Cancer Screening	106,996	127,161
Public Health Response	868,858	720,931
Community Health Services	2,398,494	2,398,494
Rape Crisis	616,233	616,233
Local and District Departments of Health	6,509,802	8,213,916
School Based Health Clinics	13,540,721	14,400,721
AGENCY TOTAL	77,677,327	80,940,679
OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY		
Personal Services	3,370,606	3,370,606
Other Expenses	1,170,255	1,170,255
Covered Connecticut Program	500,000	
AGENCY TOTAL	5,040,861	4,540,861
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER		
Personal Services	9,036,394	9,036,394
Other Expenses	2,479,935	2,479,935
Equipment	24,846	24,846
Medicolegal Investigations	22,150	22,150
AGENCY TOTAL	11,563,325	11,563,325
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES		
Personal Services	224,654,418	224,654,418
Other Expenses	20,119,245	21,019,245
Housing Supports and Services	1,400,000	1,400,000
Family Support Grants	3,700,840	3,700,840
Clinical Services	2,337,724	2,337,724
Behavioral Services Program	12,857,593	12,857,593
Supplemental Payments for Medical Services	2,558,132	2,558,132

ID Partnership Initiatives	2,528,138	2,528,138
Emergency Placements	5,980,932	5,980,932
Rent Subsidy Program	5,262,312	5,262,312
Employment Opportunities and Day Services	393,563,096	407,451,072
Community Residential Services	887,265,294	938,815,100
AGENCY TOTAL	1,562,227,724	1,628,565,506
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES		
Personal Services	259,328,417	257,078,417
Other Expenses	37,421,895	37,617,895
Housing Supports and Services	29,153,945	29,716,445
Managed Service System	74,687,785	77,687,785
Legal Services	764,660	764,660
Connecticut Mental Health Center	9,229,406	9,229,406
Professional Services	23,400,697	23,400,697
Behavioral Health Recovery Services	26,592,864	26,407,864
Nursing Home Screening	652,784	652,784
Young Adult Services	95,902,326	95,902,326
TBI Community Services	9,443,717	9,443,717
Behavioral Health Medications	8,170,754	8,170,754
Medicaid Adult Rehabilitation Option	4,419,683	4,419,683
Discharge and Diversion Services	43,157,991	43,157,991
Home and Community Based Services	25,657,158	26,723,158
Nursing Home Contract	1,152,856	1,152,856
Katie Blair House	17,016	17,016
Forensic Services	11,544,887	11,544,887
Grants for Substance Abuse Services	37,103,118	37,103,118
Grants for Mental Health Services	77,117,159	77,117,159
Employment Opportunities	9,873,631	9,873,631
AGENCY TOTAL	784,792,749	787,182,249
PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD		
Personal Services	367,270	367,270
Other Expenses	24,943	24,943
AGENCY TOTAL	392,213	392,213

HUMAN SERVICES		
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES		
Personal Services	158,758,860	159,660,660
Other Expenses	165,050,000	168,068,200
Genetic Tests in Paternity Actions	81,906	81,906
HUSKY B Program	31,550,000	32,760,000
Substance Use Disorder Waiver Reserve	18,370,000	18,370,000
Medicaid	3,702,380,000	3,950,330,000
Old Age Assistance	54,450,000	56,900,000
Aid To The Blind	623,700	657,800
Aid To The Disabled	53,820,000	56,020,000
Temporary Family Assistance - TANF	69,400,000	75,400,000
Emergency Assistance	1	1
Food Stamp Training Expenses	9,341	9,341
DMHAS-Disproportionate Share	108,935,000	108,935,000
Connecticut Home Care Program	48,450,000	51,180,000
Human Resource Development-Hispanic Programs	1,070,348	1,070,348
Safety Net Services	1,500,145	1,500,145
Refunds Of Collections	89,965	89,965
Services for Persons With Disabilities	309,661	309,661
Nutrition Assistance	3,020,994	6,020,994
State Administered General Assistance	17,480,000	19,000,000
Connecticut Children's Medical Center	13,138,737	13,138,737
Community Services	10,997,162	10,992,162
Human Services Infrastructure Community Action Program	4,274,240	4,274,240
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	1,394,639	1,394,639
Domestic Violence Shelters	8,650,381	8,650,381
Hospital Supplemental Payments	568,300,000	778,300,000
Regional Hospice of Western CT	1,000,000	1,000,000
Teen Pregnancy Prevention - Municipality	98,281	98,281
AGENCY TOTAL	5,043,203,361	5,524,212,461

DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES		
Personal Services	8,626,272	8,626,272
Other Expenses	2,042,575	2,182,575
Educational Aid for Children - Blind or Visually Impaired	5,036,360	5,036,360
Employment Opportunities – Blind & Disabled	416,974	416,974
Vocational Rehabilitation - Disabled	7,895,382	7,895,382
Supplementary Relief and Services	97,251	97,251
Special Training for the Deaf Blind	264,045	264,045
Connecticut Radio Information Service	70,194	70,194
Independent Living Centers	1,025,528	1,025,528
Programs for Senior Citizens	5,036,165	5,036,165
Elderly Nutrition	5,141,074	5,141,074
Communication Advocacy Network	200,000	200,000
AGENCY TOTAL	35,851,820	35,991,820
EDUCATION		
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
Personal Services	18,326,641	18,557,641
Other Expenses	20,086,963	28,295,963
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	10,571,192	10,571,192
Primary Mental Health	335,288	335,288
Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	312,211	312,211
Adult Education Action	169,534	169,534
Connecticut Writing Project	95,250	95,250
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sheff Settlement	23,714,911	18,721,292
Parent Trust Fund Program	267,193	350,000
Commissioner's Network	9,869,398	9,869,398
Local Charter Schools	957,000	957,000
Bridges to Success	27,000	27,000
Talent Development	2,068,449	2,068,449

School-Based Diversion Initiative	900,000	900,000
EdSight	1,140,690	1,140,690
Sheff Transportation	77,661,541	80,326,212
Curriculum and Standards	4,215,782	4,215,782
Non-Sheff Transportation	14,275,787	14,275,787
Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program	6,000,000	6,000,000
Dual Credit		6,000,000
Local Food for Local Schools Incentive Program	1,500,000	3,430,000
Office of Dyslexia	680,000	680,000
American School For The Deaf	12,357,514	12,357,514
Regional Education Services	262,500	262,500
Family Resource Centers	6,352,710	7,000,000
Charter Schools	142,803,548	144,122,548
Child Nutrition State Match	2,354,000	2,354,000
Health Foods Initiative	4,151,463	4,151,463
Rose City Learning	159,000	159,000
Vocational Agriculture	26,295,732	26,295,732
Adult Education	21,694,983	25,953,382
Health and Welfare Services Pupils Private Schools	3,438,415	6,447,702
Education Equalization Grants	2,456,768,109	2,456,935,081
Bilingual Education	3,832,260	3,832,260
Priority School Districts	30,818,778	30,818,778
Interdistrict Cooperation	1,537,500	1,537,500
School Breakfast Program	2,158,900	2,158,900
Excess Cost - Student Based	221,119,782	221,119,782
Open Choice Program	31,472,503	31,472,503
Magnet Schools	322,925,940	344,345,603
After School Program	5,750,695	5,750,695
Extended School Hours	2,919,883	2,919,883
School Accountability	3,412,207	3,412,207
High Dosage Tutoring Grants		5,000,000
Special Education Expansion and Development Grant	30,000,000	30,000,000
High Quality Special Ed Incentives		9,900,000

Learner Engagement and Attendance Program		7,000,000
AGENCY TOTAL	3,526,761,252	3,593,605,722
CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM		
Personal Services	175,558,658	175,558,658
Other Expenses	31,957,461	31,957,461
AGENCY TOTAL	207,516,119	207,516,119
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD		
Personal Services	9,926,912	9,926,912
Other Expenses	1,694,731	8,294,731
Birth to Three	33,293,626	36,093,626
Evenstart	545,456	545,456
2Gen - TANF	575,685	575,685
Nurturing Families Network	12,669,995	14,469,995
OEC Parent Cabinet	152,264	152,264
Capitol Child Development Center	263,000	263,000
Head Start Services	5,833,238	5,833,238
Care4Kids TANF/CCDF	147,957,756	151,227,096
Child Care Quality Enhancements	5,954,530	5,954,530
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership	1,500,000	1,500,000
Early Care and Education	193,845,725	201,845,725
Smart Start	3,325,000	6,325,000
AGENCY TOTAL	417,537,918	443,007,258
STATE LIBRARY		
Personal Services	5,419,751	5,419,751
Other Expenses	1,442,223	1,460,515
State-Wide Digital Library	1,709,210	1,709,210
Interlibrary Loan Delivery Service	380,136	380,136
Legal/Legislative Library Materials	674,540	674,540
Library for the Blind	100,000	100,000
Support Cooperating Library Service Units	124,402	124,402
Connecticard Payments	703,638	703,638

AGENCY TOTAL	10,553,900	10,572,192
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION		
Personal Services	1,855,031	1,855,031
Other Expenses	2,563,079	3,142,258
Minority Advancement Program	1,674,835	1,674,835
National Service Act	320,151	320,151
Minority Teacher Incentive Program	570,134	570,134
CT Loan Reimbursement	5,000,000	6,000,000
Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Fund	26,288,637	41,288,637
Health Care Adjunct Grant Program	260,000	260,000
AGENCY TOTAL	38,531,867	55,111,046
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT		
Operating Expenses	265,235,002	250,543,874
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	250,000	250,000
Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy	550,000	550,000
UConn Veterans Program	250,000	250,000
Health Services - Regional Campuses	1,400,000	1,400,000
Puerto Rican Studies Initiative	500,000	500,000
AGENCY TOTAL	268,185,002	253,493,874
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER		
Operating Expenses	142,875,155	136,673,524
AHEC	429,735	429,735
Neuromodulation Treatment		2,000,000
AGENCY TOTAL	143,304,890	139,103,259
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD		
Personal Services	2,291,080	2,291,080
Other Expenses	496,003	482,003
Retirement Contributions - Normal Cost	293,618,465	299,800,000
Retirement Contributions - UAL	1,511,502,535	1,405,300,000
Retirees Health Service Cost	29,507,250	44,356,000
Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Costs	6,630,000	8,840,000

AGENCY TOTAL	1,844,045,333	1,761,069,083
CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES		
Charter Oak State College	3,934,487	4,041,029
Community Tech College System	234,717,627	241,998,796
Connecticut State University	193,717,659	201,697,946
Board of Regents	503,881	519,512
Developmental Services	10,190,984	10,190,984
Outcomes-Based Funding Incentive	1,374,425	1,374,425
O'Neill Chair	315,000	315,000
Debt Free Community College	34,150,000	34,150,000
Expanded PACT		7,700,000
Disabilities Study		250,000
Various Initiatives	53,000	
AGENCY TOTAL	478,957,063	502,237,692
CORRECTIONS		
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION		
Personal Services	470,144,513	470,144,513
Other Expenses	86,348,616	89,528,616
Inmate Medical Services	145,629,165	150,129,165
Board of Pardons and Paroles	6,822,490	6,822,490
STRIDE	80,181	80,181
HITEC	620,645	644,174
Aid to Paroled and Discharged Inmates	3,000	3,000
Legal Services To Prisoners	797,000	797,000
Volunteer Services	87,725	87,725
Community Support Services	47,566,468	47,566,468
Reentry Centers		1,500,000
AGENCY TOTAL	758,099,803	767,303,332
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES		
Personal Services	303,233,500	303,233,500

Other Expenses	31,137,956	31,137,956
Family Support Services	1,064,233	1,064,233
Differential Response System	9,367,256	9,367,256
Regional Behavioral Health Consultation	1,838,167	1,838,167
Community Care Coordination	8,957,944	8,957,944
Health Assessment and Consultation	1,596,776	1,596,776
Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	17,880,105	17,880,105
Day Treatment Centers for Children	8,219,601	8,219,601
Child Abuse and Neglect Intervention	9,988,016	9,988,016
Community Based Prevention Programs	9,657,655	9,657,655
Family Violence Outreach and Counseling	4,009,230	4,009,230
Supportive Housing	21,180,221	21,180,221
No Nexus Special Education	2,452,640	2,452,640
Family Preservation Services	7,242,683	7,242,683
Substance Abuse Treatment	9,929,982	10,073,982
Child Welfare Support Services	2,854,163	2,854,163
Board and Care for Children - Adoption	106,884,511	106,884,511
Board and Care for Children - Foster	123,521,818	123,521,818
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	65,628,396	65,628,396
Individualized Family Supports	3,871,304	3,871,304
Community Kidcare	52,411,129	61,011,129
Covenant to Care	185,911	185,911
Juvenile Review Boards	3,897,957	6,043,187
Youth Transition and Success Programs	1,016,220	1,016,220
Love146	500,000	500,000
Youth Service Bureaus	2,733,240	2,733,240
Youth Service Bureau Enhancement	1,115,161	1,115,161
AGENCY TOTAL	812,375,775	823,265,005
JUDICIAL		
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT		
Personal Services	384,040,624	385,678,706
Other Expenses	74,656,188	74,997,164
Forensic Sex Evidence Exams	1,348,010	1,348,010

Alternative Incarceration Program	68,429,155	70,000,000
Justice Education Center, Inc.	516,287	516,287
Juvenile Alternative Incarceration	35,332,650	35,768,876
Probate Court	3,634,932	3,634,932
Workers' Compensation Claims	6,042,106	6,042,106
Victim Security Account	8,792	8,792
Children of Incarcerated Parents	542,683	542,683
Legal Aid	3,547,144	4,397,144
Youth Violence Initiative	5,592,428	5,592,428
Youth Services Prevention	8,293,132	8,293,132
Children's Law Center	150,000	150,000
Project Longevity	4,221,255	4,221,255
Juvenile Planning	945,000	945,000
Juvenile Justice Outreach Services	27,570,357	27,945,080
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	12,835,126	12,953,332
LGBTQ Justice and Opportunity Network	256,382	256,382
Counsel for Domestic Violence	1,250,000	1,250,000
Outreach Services for Norwich	675,000	675,000
AGENCY TOTAL	639,887,251	645,216,309
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION		
Personal Services	58,196,969	58,383,519
Other Expenses	1,565,163	1,589,903
Assigned Counsel - Criminal	37,784,482	41,354,960
Expert Witnesses	2,775,604	2,775,604
Training And Education	119,748	119,748
AGENCY TOTAL	100,441,966	104,223,734
NON-FUNCTIONAL		
DEBT SERVICE - STATE TREASURER		
Debt Service	1,982,214,696	2,041,951,996
UConn 2000 - Debt Service	209,033,862	213,698,862
CHEFA Day Care Security	4,000,000	4,000,000

Pension Obligation Bonds - TRB	268,251,771	284,364,458
Municipal Restructuring	46,126,129	47,778,925
AGENCY TOTAL	2,509,626,458	2,591,794,241
STATE COMPTROLLER - MISCELLANEOUS		
Nonfunctional - Change to Accruals		65,278,956
STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS		
Unemployment Compensation	4,128,400	4,049,400
Higher Education Alternative Retirement System	95,819,900	101,569,100
Pensions and Retirements - Other Statutory	2,362,961	2,433,850
Judges and Compensation Commissioners Retirement	30,551,644	31,587,446
Insurance - Group Life	9,591,350	9,736,350
Employers Social Security Tax	218,274,821	227,326,623
State Employees Health Service Cost	553,879,142	708,024,030
Retired State Employees Health Service Cost	790,564,000	957,183,800
Tuition Reimbursement - Training and Travel	290,000	150,000
Other Post Employment Benefits	63,375,498	65,073,558
SERS Defined Contribution Match	18,762,859	27,991,712
State Employees Retirement Contributions - Normal Cost	195,276,136	201,080,536
State Employees Retirement Contributions - UAL	1,410,902,244	1,324,870,699
AGENCY TOTAL	3,393,778,955	3,661,077,104
RESERVE FOR SALARY ADJUSTMENTS		
Reserve For Salary Adjustments	18,165,598	186,551,369
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
Workers' Compensation Claims	6,509,800	6,509,800
Workers' Compensation Claims – University of Connecticut	2,271,228	2,271,228

Claims – University of Connecticut Health Center	3,460,985	3,460,985
Workers' Compensation Claims – Board of Regents Higher Ed	3,289,276	3,289,276
Claims – Department of Children and Families	10,036,952	10,036,952
Workers' Compensation Claims Mental Health & Addiction Serv	18,061,027	18,061,027
Claim Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	3,723,135	3,723,135
Claims – Department of Developmental Services	12,073,417	12,073,417
Workers' Compensation Claims – Department of Correction	37,722,823	37,722,823
AGENCY TOTAL	97,148,643	97,148,643
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	24,130,611,244	25,455,622,254
LESS:		
Unallocated Lapse	-63,710,570	-73,710,570
Unallocated Lapse - Judicial	-5,000,000	-5,000,000
Targeted Savings	-25,518,692	-15,000,000
NET - GENERAL FUND	24,036,381,982	25,361,911,684

Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT		
Personal Services	770,498	770,498
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		

Personal Services	2,937,990	2,937,990
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	17,467,920	17,467,920
IT Services	1,619,686	1,619,686
AGENCY TOTAL	22,025,596	22,025,596
REGULATION AND PROTECTION		
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES		
Personal Services	53,959,126	53,959,126
Other Expenses	19,078,262	19,778,262
Equipment	668,756	668,756
DMV Modernization	3,000,000	3,000,000
Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks Project	324,676	324,676
AGENCY TOTAL	77,030,820	77,730,820
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
Personal Services	3,781,576	3,781,576
Other Expenses	665,006	665,006
AGENCY TOTAL	4,446,582	4,446,582
TRANSPORTATION		
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		
Personal Services	236,076,271	236,076,271
Other Expenses	63,434,586	63,434,586
Equipment	1,376,329	1,376,329
Minor Capital Projects	449,639	449,639
Highway Planning And Research	3,060,131	3,060,131
Rail Operations	316,004,297	318,803,218
Bus Operations	296,608,656	301,407,448
ADA Para-transit Program	51,982,687	51,982,687
Non-ADA Dial-A-Ride Program	576,361	576,361

Pay-As-You-Go Transportation Projects	18,054,208	18,054,208
Transportation Asset Management	3,004,254	3,004,254
Transportation to Work	2,370,629	2,370,629
AGENCY TOTAL	992,998,048	1,000,595,761
NON-FUNCTIONAL		
DEBT SERVICE - STATE TREASURER		
Debt Service	914,650,787	1,025,610,574
STATE COMPTROLLER - MISCELLANEOUS		
Nonfunctional - Change to Accruals		5,337,671
STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS		
Unemployment Compensation	360,000	360,000
Insurance - Group Life	395,600	401,600
Employers Social Security Tax	20,862,731	21,697,231
State Employees Health Service Cost	66,798,800	65,927,200
Other Post Employment Benefits	4,215,697	4,321,112
SERS Defined Contribution Match	1,229,898	1,835,222
State Employees Retirement Contributions - Normal Cost	22,660,619	23,334,444
State Employees Retirement Contributions - UAL	145,173,898	136,192,810
AGENCY TOTAL	261,697,243	254,069,619
RESERVE FOR SALARY ADJUSTMENTS		
Reserve For Salary Adjustments	10,868,037	19,864,541
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
Workers' Compensation Claims	6,723,297	6,723,297
TOTAL - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2,291,210,908	2,417,174,959

LESS:		
Unallocated Lapse	-12,000,000	-12,000,000
NET - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2,279,210,908	2,405,174,959

Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT		
Grants To Towns	52,541,796	52,541,796

Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the BANKING FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
Personal Services	413,105	413,105
Fringe Benefits	307,747	307,747
IT Services	360,334	360,334
AGENCY TOTAL	1,081,186	1,081,186
REGULATION AND PROTECTION		
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING		
Personal Services	15,476,809	15,496,809
Other Expenses	1,378,010	1,375,510

Equipment	44,900	44,900
Fringe Benefits	12,383,403	12,399,055
Indirect Overhead	1,404,178	1,404,178
AGENCY TOTAL	30,687,300	30,720,452
LABOR DEPARTMENT		
Opportunity Industrial Centers	738,708	738,708
Customized Services	965,689	965,689
AGENCY TOTAL	1,704,397	1,704,397
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING		
Fair Housing	670,000	670,000
JUDICIAL		
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT		
Foreclosure Mediation Program	2,158,656	2,158,656
NON-FUNCTIONAL		
STATE COMPTROLLER - MISCELLANEOUS		
Nonfunctional - Change to Accruals		261,199
TOTAL - BANKING FUND	36,301,539	36,595,890

Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the INSURANCE FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT		

Personal Services	374,039	374,039
Other Expenses	6,012	6,012
Fringe Benefits	277,130	277,130
AGENCY TOTAL	657,181	657,181
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
Personal Services	905,796	905,796
Fringe Benefits	656,984	656,984
IT Services	514,136	514,136
AGENCY TOTAL	2,076,916	2,076,916
REGULATION AND PROTECTION		
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT		
Personal Services	17,428,950	17,428,950
Other Expenses	1,609,489	1,609,489
Equipment	62,500	62,500
Fringe Benefits	13,071,712	13,071,712
Indirect Overhead	1,594,604	1,594,604
AGENCY TOTAL	33,767,255	33,767,255
OFFICE OF THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE		
Personal Services	1,947,836	1,947,836
Other Expenses	392,991	292,991
Equipment	5,000	5,000
Fringe Benefits	1,831,655	1,831,655
Indirect Overhead	79,775	79,775
AGENCY TOTAL	4,257,257	4,157,257
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING		
Crumbling Foundations	182,977	182,977

HEALTH		
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH		
Needle and Syringe Exchange Program	513,515	513,515
Children's Health Initiatives	3,389,838	3,389,838
AIDS Services	5,366,231	5,366,231
Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection and Treatment	2,563,100	2,563,100
Immunization Services	49,176,811	50,845,097
X-Ray Screening and Tuberculosis Care	971,849	971,849
Venereal Disease Control	203,256	203,256
AGENCY TOTAL	62,184,600	63,852,886
OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY		
Personal Services	1,487,574	1,487,574
Other Expenses	10,646,454	10,398,780
Equipment	10,000	10,000
Fringe Benefits	1,406,339	1,406,339
AGENCY TOTAL	13,550,367	13,302,693
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES		
Managed Service System	462,699	462,699
HUMAN SERVICES		
OFFICE OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVOCATE		
Personal Services	387,000	387,000
Other Expenses	65,500	65,500
Fringe Benefits	401,000	401,000
Indirect Overhead	22,500	22,500
AGENCY TOTAL	876,000	876,000
DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES		
Fall Prevention	382,660	382,660

NON-FUNCTIONAL		
STATE COMPTROLLER - MISCELLANEOUS		
Nonfunctional - Change to Accruals		391,026
TOTAL - INSURANCE FUND	118,397,912	120,109,550

Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT		
Personal Services	200,396	200,396
Other Expenses	2,000	2,000
Fringe Benefits	196,074	196,074
AGENCY TOTAL	398,470	398,470
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
Personal Services	96,173	96,173
Fringe Benefits	88,135	88,135
AGENCY TOTAL	184,308	184,308
REGULATION AND PROTECTION		
OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL		
Personal Services	2,288,944	2,288,944
Other Expenses	461,482	461,482
Equipment	2,200	2,200
Fringe Benefits	1,724,601	1,724,601
Indirect Overhead	157,648	157,648

AGENCY TOTAL	4,634,875	4,634,875
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
Personal Services	17,340,038	17,340,038
Other Expenses	1,479,367	1,479,367
Equipment	19,500	19,500
Fringe Benefits	12,689,262	12,689,262
Indirect Overhead	489,330	489,330
AGENCY TOTAL	32,017,497	32,017,497
NON-FUNCTIONAL		
STATE COMPTROLLER - MISCELLANEOUS		
Nonfunctional - Change to Accruals		284,112
TOTAL - CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND	37,235,150	37,519,262

Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
Personal Services	663,688	663,688
Fringe Benefits	528,600	528,600
IT Services	199,938	199,938
AGENCY TOTAL	1,392,226	1,392,226
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE		

Personal Services	474,947	474,947
Other Expenses	10,428	10,428
Fringe Benefits	489,396	489,396
AGENCY TOTAL	974,771	974,771
REGULATION AND PROTECTION		
LABOR DEPARTMENT		
Occupational Health Clinics	708,113	708,113
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION		
Personal Services	9,841,921	9,841,921
Other Expenses	2,476,091	2,476,091
Equipment	1	1
Fringe Benefits	8,561,814	8,561,814
Indirect Overhead	1,586,205	1,586,205
AGENCY TOTAL	22,466,032	22,466,032
HUMAN SERVICES		
DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES		
Personal Services	634,783	634,783
Other Expenses	48,440	48,440
Rehabilitative Services	595,631	595,631
Fringe Benefits	467,987	467,987
AGENCY TOTAL	1,746,841	1,746,841
NON-FUNCTIONAL		
STATE COMPTROLLER - MISCELLANEOUS		
Nonfunctional - Change to Accruals		149,142
TOTAL - WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	27,287,983	27,437,125

Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
JUDICIAL		
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT		
Criminal Injuries Compensation	2,934,088	2,934,088

Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the TOURISM FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
Statewide Marketing	4,500,000	4,500,000
Hartford Urban Arts Grant	242,371	242,371
New Britain Arts Council	39,380	39,380
Westville Village Renaissance Alliance	145,000	145,000
Neighborhood Music School	200,540	200,540
Greater Hartford Community Foundation Travelers Championship	150,000	150,000
CT Convention & Sports Bureau	500,000	500,000
Nutmeg Games	40,000	40,000
Discovery Museum	196,895	196,895
National Theatre of the Deaf	78,758	78,758
Connecticut Science Center	546,626	546,626
CT Flagship Producing Theaters Grant	360,000	360,000
Performing Arts Centers	787,571	787,571
Performing Theaters Grant	900,600	900,600
Arts Commission	1,497,298	1,497,298

Art Museum Consortium	887,313	887,313
Litchfield Jazz Festival	29,000	29,000
Arte Inc.	20,735	20,735
CT Virtuosi Orchestra	15,250	15,250
Barnum Museum	50,000	50,000
Various Grants	1,090,000	1,090,000
Creative Youth Productions	300,000	300,000
Music Haven	100,000	100,000
West Hartford Pride	80,000	80,000
Amistad Center for Arts and Culture	100,000	100,000
Leffingwell House Museum	50,000	50,000
CT Main Street Center	350,000	350,000
Norwalk International Cultural Exchange – NICE Festival	50,000	50,000
Ball & Socket Arts	300,000	300,000
Greater Hartford Arts Council	74,079	74,079
Stepping Stones Museum for Children	80,863	80,863
Maritime Center Authority	803,705	803,705
Connecticut Humanities Council	1,185,000	1,360,000
Amistad Committee for the Freedom Trail	36,414	36,414
New Haven Festival of Arts and Ideas	414,511	414,511
New Haven Arts Council	77,000	77,000
Beardsley Zoo	400,000	400,000
Mystic Aquarium	322,397	472,397
Northwestern Tourism	400,000	400,000
Eastern Tourism	400,000	400,000
Central Tourism	400,000	400,000
Twain/Stowe Homes	81,196	81,196
Cultural Alliance of Fairfield	52,000	52,000
Stamford Downtown Special Services District	50,000	50,000
AGENCY TOTAL	17,884,502	18,709,502

Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the CANNABIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY SERVICES FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
HEALTH		
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES		
Fringe Benefits	221,000	221,000
Cannabis Prevention	3,144,268	3,144,268
AGENCY TOTAL	3,365,268	3,365,268

Sec. 11. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the CANNABIS REGULATORY FUND for the annual periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES		
Personal Services	484,188	484,188
ATTORNEY GENERAL		
Personal Services	407,309	407,309
REGULATION AND PROTECTION		
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION		
Personal Services	509,758	509,758
Other Expenses	124,000	124,000
AGENCY TOTAL	633,758	633,758
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES		
Personal Services	540,135	540,135
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION		
Personal Services	5,335,317	5,335,317

Other Expenses	348,769	348,769
AGENCY TOTAL	5,684,086	5,684,086
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT		
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
Personal Services	104,305	104,305
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION		
Personal Services	259,067	259,067
Other Expenses	65,000	65,000
AGENCY TOTAL	324,067	324,067
HEALTH		
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH		
Personal Services	192,520	192,520
Other Expenses	275,700	275,700
AGENCY TOTAL	468,220	468,220
TRANSPORTATION		
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		
Other Expenses	550,000	550,000
EDUCATION		
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER		
Operating Expenses	178,385	178,385
TOTAL - CANNABIS REGULATORY FUND	9,374,453	9,374,453

Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following sums are appropriated from the MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING FUND for the annual

periods indicated for the purposes described.

	2025-2026	2026-2027
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT		
Supplemental Revenue Sharing Grants	85,932,470	85,932,470
Motor Vehicle Tax Grants	127,496,890	127,496,890
Tiered PILOT	345,980,314	345,980,314
AGENCY TOTAL	559,409,674	559,409,674

Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may make reductions in allotments for the executive branch for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, in order to achieve (1) budget savings in the General Fund of $63,710,570 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and $73,710,570 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and (2) targeted savings in the General Fund of $25,518,692 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and $15,000,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

(b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may make reductions in allotments for the judicial branch for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, in order to achieve budget savings in the General Fund of $5,000,000 during each such fiscal year. Such reductions shall be achieved as determined by the Chief Justice and Chief Public Defender.

Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may transfer amounts appropriated for Personal Services in sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act from agencies to the Reserve for Salary Adjustments account to specifically provide for the impact of collective bargaining and related costs.

(b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may transfer funds appropriated in section 1 of this act, for Reserve for Salary

Adjustments, to any agency in any appropriated fund to give effect to salary increases, other employee benefits, agency costs related to staff reductions, including accrual payments, achievement of agency personal services reductions, or other personal services adjustments authorized by this act, any other act or other applicable statute.

Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) (a) That portion of unexpended funds, as determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, appropriated in public act 23-204, as amended by public act 24-81, that relate to collective bargaining agreements and related costs, shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and such funds shall continue to be available for such purpose during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

(b) That portion of unexpended funds, as determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, appropriated in section 1 of this act, that relate to collective bargaining agreements and related costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall not lapse on June 30, 2026, and such funds shall continue to be available for such purpose during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

Sec. 16. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any appropriation, or portion thereof, made to any agency, under sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act, may be transferred at the request of such agency to any other agency by the Governor, with the approval of the Finance Advisory Committee, to take full advantage of federal matching funds, provided both agencies shall certify that the expenditure of such transferred funds by the receiving agency will be for the same purpose as that of the original appropriation or portion thereof so transferred. Any federal funds generated through the transfer of appropriations between agencies may be used for reimbursing appropriated expenditures or for expanding program services or a combination of both as determined by the Governor, with the approval of the Finance Advisory Committee.

Sec. 17. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any appropriation, or portion thereof, made to any agency under sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act, may be adjusted by the Governor, with approval of the Finance Advisory Committee, in order to maximize federal funding available to the state, consistent with the relevant federal provisions of law.

Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Children and Families may, with the approval of the Office of Policy and Management, and in compliance with any advanced planning document approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, establish receivables for the reimbursement anticipated from approved projects.

Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any appropriation, or portion thereof, made to The University of Connecticut Health Center in section 1 of this act may be transferred by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to the Medicaid account in the Department of Social Services for the purpose of maximizing federal reimbursement.

Sec. 20. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) All funds appropriated to the Department of Social Services for DMHAS – Disproportionate Share shall be expended by the Department of Social Services in such amounts and at such times as prescribed by the Office of Policy and Management. The Department of Social Services shall make disproportionate share payments to hospitals in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for operating expenses and for related fringe benefit expenses. Funds received by the hospitals in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, for fringe benefits, shall be used to reimburse the Comptroller. All other funds received by the hospitals in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall be deposited to grants - other than federal accounts. All disproportionate share payments not expended in grants - other than federal accounts shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-85 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall not allot funds appropriated in sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act for Nonfunctional – Change to Accruals.

Sec. 22. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) During the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, $1,000,000 of the federal funds received by the Department of Education, from Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), shall be transferred to the Office of Early Childhood in each such fiscal year, for the Birth-to-Three program, in order to carry out Part B responsibilities consistent with the IDEA.

Sec. 23. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the distribution of priority school district grants, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-266p of the general statutes, shall be as follows: (1) For priority school districts in the amount of $30,818,778, (2) for extended school building hours in the amount of $2,919,883, and (3) for school accountability in the amount of $3,412,207.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the distribution of priority school district grants, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-266p of the general statutes, shall be as follows: (1) For priority school districts in the amount of $30,818,778, (2) for extended school building hours in the amount of $2,919,883, and (3) for school accountability in the amount of $3,412,207.

Sec. 24. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17a-17 of the general statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the provisions of said section shall not be considered in any increases or decreases to residential rates or allowable per diem payments to private residential treatment centers licensed pursuant to section 17a-145 of the general statutes.

Sec. 25. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of

the general statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the total grants paid to municipalities from the moneys available in the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund established pursuant to section 3-55i of the general statutes shall be as follows:

Grantee	Grant Amount For Fiscal Year 2026	Grant Amount For Fiscal Year 2027
Andover	6,680	6,680
Ansonia	113,045	113,045
Ashford	12,010	12,010
Avon	-	-
Barkhamsted	6,728	6,728
Beacon Falls	12,467	12,467
Berlin	-	-
Bethany	881	881
Bethel	-	-
Bethlehem	4,125	4,125
Bloomfield	94,314	94,314
Bolton	3,244	3,244
Bozrah	9,143	9,143
Branford	-	-
Bridgeport	5,606,925	5,606,925
Bridgewater	3,734	3,734
Bristol	400,282	400,282
Brookfield	-	-
Brooklyn	191,703	191,703
Burlington	-	-
Canaan	6,202	6,202
Canterbury	15,208	15,208
Canton	-	-
Chaplin	73,052	73,052
Cheshire	1,962,440	1,962,440
Chester	3,278	3,278
Clinton	-	-
Colchester	23,167	23,167
Colebrook	6,045	6,045

Columbia	4,857	4,857
Cornwall	4,434	4,434
Coventry	13,336	13,336
Cromwell	-	-
Danbury	678,398	678,398
Darien	-	-
Deep River	4,490	4,490
Derby	207,304	207,304
Durham	1,003	1,003
Eastford	7,529	7,529
East Granby	987	987
East Haddam	3,042	3,042
East Hampton	6,742	6,742
East Hartford	156,898	156,898
East Haven	82,006	82,006
East Lyme	270,204	270,204
Easton	-	-
East Windsor	1,015,432	1,015,432
Ellington	4,081	4,081
Enfield	1,224,751	1,224,751
Essex	-	-
Fairfield	114,941	114,941
Farmington	-	-
Franklin	9,738	9,738
Glastonbury	-	-
Goshen	2,687	2,687
Granby	-	-
Greenwich	-	-
Griswold	55,478	55,478
Groton	1,232,069	1,232,069
Guilford	-	-
Haddam	908	908
Hamden	725,946	725,946
Hampton	8,881	8,881
Hartford	6,136,523	6,136,523
Hartland	6,593	6,593
Harwinton	3,676	3,676
Hebron	3,350	3,350

Kent	1,298	1,298
Killingly	94,184	94,184
Killingworth	-	-
Lebanon	13,139	13,139
Ledyard	1,391,000	1,391,000
Lisbon	11,287	11,287
Litchfield	-	-
Lyme	1,997	1,997
Madison	-	-
Manchester	412,450	412,450
Mansfield	179,151	179,151
Marlborough	1,807	1,807
Meriden	698,609	698,609
Middlebury	-	-
Middlefield	5,616	5,616
Middletown	1,060,747	1,060,747
Milford	236,690	236,690
Monroe	-	-
Montville	1,446,162	1,446,162
Morris	5,059	5,059
Naugatuck	147,899	147,899
New Britain	1,980,822	1,980,822
New Canaan	-	-
New Fairfield	-	-
New Hartford	822	822
New Haven	5,503,352	5,503,352
Newington	164,924	164,924
New London	1,667,837	1,667,837
New Milford	2,049	2,049
Newtown	829,098	829,098
Norfolk	8,899	8,899
North Branford	2,647	2,647
North Canaan	12,383	12,383
North Haven	86,789	86,789
North Stonington	880,690	880,690
Norwalk	577,059	577,059
Norwich	2,360,229	2,360,229
Old Lyme	-	-

Old Saybrook	-	-
Orange	6,408	6,408
Oxford	-	-
Plainfield	82,099	82,099
Plainville	27,635	27,635
Plymouth	33,955	33,955
Pomfret	9,172	9,172
Portland	2,902	2,902
Preston	1,165,290	1,165,290
Prospect	1,085	1,085
Putnam	75,902	75,902
Redding	-	-
Ridgefield	-	-
Rocky Hill	213,545	213,545
Roxbury	2,188	2,188
Salem	7,370	7,370
Salisbury	-	-
Scotland	11,620	11,620
Seymour	24,111	24,111
Sharon	2,001	2,001
Shelton	-	-
Sherman	109	109
Simsbury	-	-
Somers	1,564,515	1,564,515
Southbury	-	-
Southington	7,160	7,160
South Windsor	-	-
Sprague	17,479	17,479
Stafford	60,839	60,839
Stamford	625,635	625,635
Sterling	24,317	24,317
Stonington	30,000	30,000
Stratford	30,567	30,567
Suffield	2,760,598	2,760,598
Thomaston	16,872	16,872
Thompson	38,307	38,307
Tolland	-	-
Torrington	196,642	196,642

Trumbull	-	-
Union	19,013	19,013
Vernon	79,820	79,820
Voluntown	80,641	80,641
Wallingford	33,058	33,058
Warren	4,369	4,369
Washington	-	-
Waterbury	2,637,435	2,637,435
Waterford	-	-
Watertown	11,631	11,631
Westbrook	-	-
West Hartford	27,820	27,820
West Haven	807,097	807,097
Weston	-	-
Westport	-	-
Wethersfield	137,556	137,556
Willington	17,399	17,399
Wilton	-	-
Winchester	49,474	49,474
Windham	793,155	793,155
Windsor	-	-
Windsor Locks	387,713	387,713
Wolcott	16,939	16,939
Woodbridge	-	-
Woodbury	-	-
Woodstock	5,694	5,694
Golden Hill Paugussett	20,000	20,000
Paucatuck Eastern Pequot	20,000	20,000
Schaghticoke	20,000	20,000
TOTALS	52,532,789	52,532,789

Sec. 26. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The amounts appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Economic and Community Development, for MRDA, shall be used to support the personal services and fringe benefits costs for staff and operating costs at the Connecticut

Municipal Redevelopment Authority during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Sec. 27. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) of section 45a-82 of the general statutes, any balance in the Probate Court Administration Fund on June 30, 2025, shall remain in said fund and shall not be transferred to the General Fund.

Sec. 28. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than June 30, 2026, the Comptroller shall negotiate with nongovernmental licensed short-term general hospitals in the state to revise rates of reimbursement for inpatient and outpatient care provided at such hospitals for current state employees and retired state employees who are not eligible for Medicare. Adjusted rates may vary between the active state employee health plan and the retired state employee health plan. If one or more of such hospitals do not agree to revise rates pursuant to negotiations with the Comptroller under this subsection, the hospital's existing contract for in-network participation shall continue to apply.

(b) Any such hospital that agrees to reduced rates, in accordance with terms negotiated with the Comptroller pursuant to this section, shall accept such reduced payments from the Comptroller's contracted administrative services organization as full payment for services, and such hospital shall not balance bill members of the active state employee health plan or the retired state employee health plan beyond the amount of cost share required by the member's benefit design or seek additional reimbursement from the Comptroller's contracted administrative services organization.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Comptroller to adjust hospital reimbursement rates for any plan offered pursuant to sections 3-123aaa to 3-123yyy, inclusive, of the general statutes. Such plan premiums shall be calculated using the contracted hospital reimbursement rates of the contracted administrative services

organization without regard to any rate revision negotiated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and shall not reflect the reduced costs to the active state employee health plan or retired state employee health plan that result from such rate revision.

(d) If, prior to July 1, 2026, the Comptroller estimates that reductions to rates of reimbursement will be achieved for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, as a result of negotiations conducted in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the amount of hospital supplemental payments paid under subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 17b-239e of the general statutes shall be increased by an amount not less than the amount of such reductions for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. In no event shall supplemental payments be made in a manner that fails to comply with applicable federal requirements and required federal approvals, including, but not limited to, the requirement that supplemental payments shall not be paid in a manner that causes total hospital payments in an applicable category to exceed the upper payment limit, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 17b-239 of the general statutes.

Sec. 29. (*Effective from passage*) Up to $3,500,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Housing for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and up to $5,000,000 of such appropriated amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be used to maintain cold weather response service, but need not be used to provide continuous call center service. Applications for grants-in-aid for the purpose of maintaining cold weather response shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Housing.

Sec. 30. (*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, and carried forward in section 9 of public act 24-81, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and shall be made

available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to support removal of the John Mason statue from the state Capitol building.

Sec. 31. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of $500,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the State Library, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30 2027, shall be made available for grants in equal amounts to the following library-related programs: (1) United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library; (2) Read to Grow; and (3) Reach Out and Read.

Sec. 32. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) That portion of unexpended funds, as determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Judicial Department, for Youth Services Prevention and Youth Violence Initiative, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall not lapse on June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively, 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 years ending June 30, 2027, and June 30, 2028.

Sec. 33. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The amounts appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Judicial Department, for Youth Services Prevention, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available in said fiscal year for the following grants:

Grantee	Grant
Friends of Bethel Parks and Recreation, Inc.	75,000
Kind Works, Inc.	75,000
United Way of Greenwich, Inc.	40,000
Barbara's House, Inc.	60,000
Family Centers, Inc.	25,000
Greenwich Alliance for Education Foundation, Inc.	25,000
East End NRZ Market & Cafe	45,000
Building Leaders Across Communities, Inc.	15,000

ACCESS Educational Services, Inc.	50,000
The Walter E. Luckett, Jr. Foundation, Inc.	50,000
Business Industry Foundation	10,000
Police Activity League of Middletown, Inc.	40,000
Middletown Youth Services Bureau	8,000
The Hart Wellness Collaborative, Inc.	30,000
YMCA of Northern Middlesex County, Inc.	142,000
Mental Health Connecticut	60,000
From Quicksand Unto Solid Ground	10,000
Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders, Inc.	30,000
Color A Positive Thought Organization	30,000
North End Little League	15,000
Mystic Seaport Museum, Inc.	20,000
Aluminum Falcon Robotics, Inc.	5,000
New England Science & Sailing Foundation	7,500
Groton Mystic Youth Football League	10,000
Groton Little League	15,000
Inter District Committee for Project Oceanology ('Project Oceanology')	25,000
Mystic Community Bikes, Inc.	5,000
Project LEARN	7,500
Denison Pequotsepous Nature Center	5,000
Ocean Community YMCA	15,000
Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed	7,500
Yellow Farmhouse Education Center, Inc.	2,500
University of Connecticut	7,500
Community Speaks Out, Inc.	7,500
Arte, Inc.	40,000
Bregamos Community Theater Company	25,000
Puerto Ricans United	30,000
Edgewood PTA Child Care Program, Inc.	35,000
City Angels Baseball Academy	20,000
Hartford Stage Company, Inc.	50,000
Charter Oak Temple Restoration Association, Inc.	50,000
The Police Activities League of Hartford, Inc.	50,000
Hoops 4 All, Inc.	40,000
Intempo Organization, Inc.	40,000
100 Black Men of Stamford, Inc. (100 BMOS)	30,000

Six Love Tennis	25,000
Stamford Alumni Diamond Foundation, Inc.	40,000
The Bridge Family Center, Inc.	150,000
Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders	160,000
Cook and Grow, LLC	20,000
Village Initiative Project, Inc.	80,000
East End Baptist Tabernacle Church	25,000
Summerfield United Methodist Church - Youth With A Purpose	40,000
The Legacy Foundation of Hartford, Inc.	175,000
Park Street Public Library	30,000
Charter Oak Boxing Academy	30,000
Hispanic Health Council	10,000
Friends of Pope Park, Inc.	30,000
Youth Challenge of Connecticut, Inc.	20,000
Boys and Girls Club of Hartford, Inc.	30,000
Hartford Health Initiative, Inc.	14,500
Hartford Communities That Care, Inc.	28,000
Harford Lions Soccer Academy, Inc.	7,500
Mothers United Against Violence, Inc.	15,000
Second Chance Re-entry Initiative Program (SCRIP)	10,000
Ebony Horsewomen, Inc.	80,000
Hartford Premier & Development League	10,000
Artists Collective, Inc.	10,000
Blue Hills Civic Association, Inc.	20,000
The Gifted Onez, Inc.	50,000
Athletes R Us, Inc.	50,000
Iron Sharpens Iron Mentor Ministries, Inc.	5,500
West Haven Board of Education	8,000
Ray Teller Midget Football League, Inc.	4,000
The Bread Room, Inc.	17,000
Good Shepherd Ministries	13,000
Ready, Inc.	40,000
Christ Christian Church, Inc.	12,500
Teach Kids Music, Inc.	20,000
Team West Haven, Inc.	30,000
New London Soccer Club	10,000
Safe Futures	10,000

The Center - A Drop in Community Learning & Resource Center, Inc.	10,000
Higher Edge, Inc.	20,000
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund	30,000
New London NAACP Youth Council	10,000
New London Little League	10,000
New London Babe Ruth	10,000
New London Football League, Inc.	15,000
Garde Arts Center, Inc.	25,000
C.O.R.N.E.R.S, Inc.	5,000
Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, Inc.	30,000
My Architecture Workshops, Inc.	25,000
The Ferguson Library	12,500
Future 5, Inc.	15,000
Domus Kids, Inc.	12,500
Mill River Collaborative, Inc.	25,000
God Provides Ministries International, Inc.	10,000
Rivera Memorial Foundation, Inc.	70,000
C. O. Sports Academy, Inc.	5,000
Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, Inc.	20,000
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury	80,000
CT Rebound, Inc.	10,000
Hoops 4 Life, Inc.	5,000
Jeep Enthusiasts of Connecticut	5,000
BAGS Foundation CT, Inc.	5,000
Park Central, Inc.	10,000
Walnut-Orange-Walsh Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, Inc.	80,000
Black Girls Get LegalTee, Inc.	75,000
EJ'S HEART	60,000
The Open Door Shelter, Inc.	15,000
Town of East Hartford Health & Human Services Department	75,000
Town of Manchester Youth Service Bureau	75,000
Mcgivney Community Center, Inc.	10,000
Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County	20,000
Hip Hop 1001	10,000
New Britain Fire Explorers	15,000

Human Resource Agency of New Britain, Inc.	30,000
New Life 11 Teaching You Another Way	25,000
New Britain ROOTS, Inc.	30,000
Meriden-New Britain-Berlin Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.	35,000
New Britain Police Athletic League	25,000
Boys and Girls Club of New Britain	40,000
The Young Women's Christian Association of New Britain	10,000
Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain, Inc.	35,000
Maria Reina de la Parish Corporation	15,000
Connecticut Scholars, Inc.	5,000
Connecticut Institute for Community Development - Puerto Rican Parade	5,000
St. George Armenian Apostolic Church/Diocese of the Armenian Church	15,000
Police Activities League of Hartford, Inc.	50,000
Angel of Edgewood, Inc.	5,000
Organized Parents Make A Difference, Inc.	55,000
Boys & Girls Club of New Britain	40,000
New Britain Legacies	25,000
Advocacy Academy Accomplish Education, Inc.	15,000
CT Riptide, LLC	5,000
Meriden Police Cadets (Meriden Police Department)	15,000
Boys & Girls Club of Meriden	10,000
Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc.	10,000
Ball Headz, Inc.	25,000
Women and Families Center	20,000
Beat The Street Community Center, Inc.	25,000
Silver City Girls Softball	15,000
Build A Better You Family Services, LLC	15,000
Danbury Grassroots Academy	25,000
Danbury Law Enforcement Cadets, Inc.	25,000
Danbury Youth Soccer Club, Inc.	10,000
Friends of the Danbury Museum & Historical Society	50,000

Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut	25,000
Dominican Community Center, Inc.	15,000
Youth Business Initiative	25,000
LIFT Foundation, Inc.	25,000
Basket Of Love, Inc.	25,000
Abe Prior—Keep 5 Alive, Inc.	25,000
Project 9 Foundation	25,000
Sports Academy	250,000
333 Valley Street Center Intergenerational Organization	300,000
New Haven Ecology Project	250,000
Christian Community Action, Inc.	200,000
CT Violence Intervention Program, Inc.	200,000
Integrated Day Charter School Foundation	18,000
Norwich Public Schools Education Foundation, Inc.	18,000
Norwich Free Academy	15,000
Norwich Youth Football League	15,000
DHW Athletics	5,000
Norwich Bully Busters	3,000
Night Flight Association, Inc.	8,000
Sankofa Education and Leadership, Inc.	55,000
Historically Black College Alumni, Inc.	23,000
CT Chapter of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America, Inc.	30,000
Town of East Hartford	50,000
Asian Pacific American Coalition of CT	35,000
Milan Cultural Association, Inc.	60,000
Fixing Fathers One Dad at a Time, Inc.	75,000
Transcend The Trend, Inc.	75,000
Elevate Bridgeport, Inc.	75,000
CT State Building Trades Training Institute, Inc.	75,000
Yuke Nation, Inc.	25,000
The Sonship Institute, Inc.	25,000
Creative Youth Productions, Inc.	10,000
The Color a Positive Thought Organization	50,000
Left Hearts, Inc.	10,000
Unique & Unified New Era Youth Movement	50,000

The Dominican American Coalition of Connecticut, Inc.	25,000
Town of Stratford	25,000
Northern Middlesex YMCA	120,000
Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater	40,000
Business Industry Foundation of Middlesex County, Inc.	10,000
Hartford Hurricanes	15,000
Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative	20,000
DreamBig College	40,000
Bloomfield Jr. Warhawks, Inc.	20,000
The Archer Foundation	20,000
RF Youth Boxing	100,000
Stamford Public Education Foundation, Inc.	50,000
SoundWaters, Inc.	25,000
Project Music, Inc.	30,000
Bangladesh Society of Connecticut	50,000
Bangladesh Christian Association of Connecticut	25,000
Bangladeshi American Friends & Family of Connecticut	25,000
Bangladeshi American Association of Connecticut	25,000
Farnam-Neighborhood House, Inc.	50,000
Reentry Success Plan	300,000
Youth Continuum, Inc.	100,000
Music Haven, Inc.	100,000

Sec. 34. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The amounts appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Judicial Department, for Youth Violence Initiative, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each said fiscal year for the following grants:

Grantee	Grant
Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders, Inc.	200,000
Bridgeport City Hall for Lighthouse Program	375,000
Ht CT, Inc.	200,000
Ralphola Taylor Community Center	200,000
City of Danbury	50,000

Danbury Police Activities League	150,000
Hartford Knights Corp.	400,000
Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, Inc.	85,000
Meriden-New Britain-Berlin Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.	40,000
Girls Inc. of Meriden	50,000
Casa Boricua De Meriden, Inc.	70,000
New Opportunities, Inc.	5,000
Boys & Girls Club of Meriden	50,000
Beat The Street Community Center, Inc.	45,000
Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.	25,000
Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain, Inc.	50,000
New Britain ROOTS, Inc.	15,000
The Young Women's Christian Association of New Britain	15,000
Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc.	10,000
New Britain Little League	20,000
Polish American Foundation of Connecticut, Inc.	10,000
Hospital for Special Care	25,000
Hospital of Central Connecticut	30,000
Boys & Girls Club of New Britain, Inc.	75,000
New Britain Football and Cheer, Inc.	15,000
Tow Youth Justice Institute	397,406
Dom Aitro Baseball League, Inc.	50,000
Marine Cadets of America, Inc.	50,000
Barack H. Obama Magnet University School	75,000
Dixwell Avenue Congregational United Church of Christ Youth Program	75,000
NXTHVN, Inc.	50,000
Kiyama Movement, Inc.	60,000
Center for Family Justice	66,000
Safe Futures Family Justice Center	66,000
HOPE Family Justice Center	66,000
East Rock Lodge No 141 IBPOE of W, Inc.	100,000
CERCLE	100,000
Solar Youth, Inc.	75,000

Reentry Success Plan	1,000,000
New Haven Youth Soccer	25,000
Annex Little League, Inc.	30,000
Fellowship Place, Inc.	100,000
Shiloh Development Corp, Inc.	40,000
Heavy Hitters USA, Inc.	25,000
The Haitian Hub Resource Center, Inc.	30,000
Community Level Up, Inc.	50,000
Positive Adversity	20,000
The Samaritan House, Inc.	30,000
Today's Youth Tomorrow's Future	20,000
Norwich Free Academy	55,000
Kids Christmas, Inc.	10,000
Sikh Art Gallery, Inc.	20,000
Castle Church, Inc.	35,000
Sankofa Education and Leadership, Inc.	55,000
City Youth Theater, Inc.	6,000
The Leadership University, Inc.	7,500
Rivera Memorial Foundation, Inc.	40,000
Madre Latina Organization, Inc.	25,000
Connecticut Junior Republic	12,000
Greater Waterbury YMCA - Waterbury Youth Services	15,000
Shakesperience Productions, Inc.	5,000
Afro Caribbean Cultural Center, Inc.	10,000
Waterbury Patriots Football and Cheer	10,000
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Waterbury, Inc.	20,000
We Believe Academy, Inc.	5,000
Hoops4life, Inc.	5,000
The UnGroup Society	25,000
St. Margaret Willow Plaza NRZ, Inc.	60,000
Police Activity League of Waterbury, Inc.	50,000
Park Central, Inc.	7,500
Greater Waterbury YMCA	50,000
Waterbury Knights Youth Football and Cheer, Inc.	10,000
The Gathering Festival, Inc.	10,000
FreeTHEM, Inc.	5,000

Walnut-Orange-Walsh Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Association, Inc.	20,000
Congregation K'tana of Waterbury	5,000
Community InReach Corp.	12,000
Teach Kids Music	35,000
Alexander Jordan Jamieson Foundation, Inc.	20,000
West Haven Seahawks	20,000
City of West Haven Youth Services	30,000
Bridges Healthcare Inc.	15,000
West Haven Rotary Club Foundation, Inc.	15,000
Umbrella Impact, Inc.	30,000

Sec. 35. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall identify unexpended funds totaling $258,000,000 from the amounts appropriated in section 1 of public act 23-204, which shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and such funds shall be transferred and made available as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) (1) To Reserve for Salary Adjustments, the sum of $100,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of $36,000,000, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027; and

(2) To the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits, for State Employees Health Service Cost, the sum of $122,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Sec. 36. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The sum of $3,000,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal year to provide a grant to EastCONN Regional Educational Service Center.

(b) The sum of $900,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal year to provide a grant to EdAdvance Regional Educational Service

Center.

(c) The sum of $20,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Norwalk MLK Scholarship Fund.

(d) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of $25,000 of such amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years for robotics.

(e) The sum of $800,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Brother Carl Institute.

(f) The sum of $150,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Artists Collective.

(g) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Girls on the Run Greater Connecticut.

(h) The sum of $350,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made

available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Connecticut for mentoring in the cities of Hartford and New Haven.

(i) The sum of $200,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to the town of Middletown for youth programming.

(j) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley for operational support.

(k) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Hartford Knights.

(l) The sum of $15,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Hartford Youth Programming.

(m) The sum of $150,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Active City for youth athletics.

(n) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of

this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Serving All Vessels Equally (SAVE), Inc. in Norwalk.

(o) The sum of $2,000,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years for electrical and computer engineering recruitment and after school K-2 reading tutoring.

(p) The sum of $25,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to EdAdvance School Readiness Council.

(q) The sum of $210,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Stamford Public Education Foundation.

(r) The sum of $1,000,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Full Circle Youth Empowerment.

(s) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse.

(t) The sum of $200,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to New Haven Reads.

(u) The sum of $200,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Thompson Alliance District.

(v) The sum of $150,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of $200,000 of such amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years to provide a grant to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

(w) The sum of $20,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Girls on the Run Greater Connecticut.

(x) The sum of $450,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of $350,000 of such amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years to provide a grant to Effective School Solutions.

(y) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the

fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available in said fiscal year to provide a grant to Athlife.

(z) The sum of $100,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education for boards of education training.

(AA) The sum of $400,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of $200,000 of such amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years to provide a grant to the Connecticut Association of Schools/Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference for Curriculum Development.

(BB) The sum of $200,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available in said fiscal year to provide a grant to Free Agent Now.

(CC) The sum of $5,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee of Greater Middletown.

(DD) The sum of $175,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years to provide a grant to VR Sim.

(EE) The sum of $10,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the

fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available in said fiscal year to provide a grant to Greenwich YMCA Scholarship Program.

(FF) The sum of $30,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years to provide a grant to the town of Waterford for school lunch debt.

(GG) The sum of $36,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to the town of Montville for school lunch debt.

(HH) The sum of $25,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Fairfield River-Lab.

(II) The sum of $200,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders.

(JJ) The sum of $175,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Elevate Bridgeport.

(KK) The sum of $75,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the

fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to the Bridgeport Board of Education for the Bridgeport Public Schools Debate League.

(LL) The sum of $25,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Yellow Mill Scholarship Fund.

(MM) The sum of $1,500,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Waterbury Promise.

(NN) The sum of $250,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Meriden Boys and Girls Club.

(OO) The sum of $10,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Newington Public Schools for diverse library circulation materials.

(PP) The sum of $25,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Boys and Girls Club of Milford for AI training.

(QQ) The sum of $500,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of

this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to New London Public Schools Pre-K and early childhood, including transitional kindergarten.

(RR) The sum of $90,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Stamford Public Education Foundation.

(SS) The sum of $50,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Sound Waters Summer Camp.

(TT) The sum of $250,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to Windham Public Schools.

(UU) The sum of $750,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years for a teacher residency program.

(VV) The sum of $500,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall be made available in each of said fiscal years to provide a grant to the State Education Resource Center for disconnected youth programming.

Sec. 37. (*Effective from passage*) Up to $100,000 of the amount appropriated to the Labor Department, for Cradle to Career, in section 1 of public act 23-204, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and shall be transferred to the Office of Early Childhood, for Other Expenses, and made available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, as a grant to the United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut.

Sec. 38. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of $115,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Judicial Department, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available to provide a grant-in-aid to Survivors of Homicide, Inc.

Sec. 39. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following amounts shall be transferred from the resources of the General Fund to the Cannabis Regulatory Fund: (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, ten million three hundred thousand dollars, and (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, ten million five hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 40. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-183z of the general statutes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the portion of the actuarially determined employer contribution representing the unfunded liability of the teachers' retirement system shall be $1,511,502,535.

Sec. 41. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall transfer one hundred fifty million dollars of the resources of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to be accounted for as revenue of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Sec. 42. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than June 30, 2026, the Comptroller shall transfer two hundred forty-four million dollars of the resources of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to

be accounted for as revenue of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

Sec. 43. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The following amounts shall be transferred from the resources of the General Fund to the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund: (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, one hundred one million dollars, and (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, ninety million dollars.

Sec. 44. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall transfer one hundred forty million dollars of the resources of the Special Transportation Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, seventeen million dollars of which is to be accounted for as revenue of the Special Transportation Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and one hundred twenty-three million of which is to be accounted for as revenue of the Special Transportation Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

Sec. 45. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Whenever the federal government passes into law any regular or supplemental appropriations bill, continuing resolution or other legislation that reduces the amount of federal funds to be provided to the state during the state fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027, inclusive, as compared to the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall, not later than thirty days after passage of such legislation, submit to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budget of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding a plan that (1) identifies the programs the secretary projects will be affected by such reductions, including an estimate of the amount by which each such program will be affected, (2) makes recommendations on the feasibility, prudence and legal requirements to use state resources, including, but not limited to, the funds in the Budget Reserve Fund, to supplant all or a portion of any reduction in federal

funding, and (3) provides a draft supplemental appropriations and revenue bill, if applicable, to enact such recommendations.

(b) If the plan submitted under subsection (a) of this section includes a draft supplemental appropriations and revenue bill, such draft bill shall prioritize maintenance of health care, food assistance, education, state employment and arts and cultural activities.

Sec. 46. (*Effective from passage*) 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.

Sec. 47. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available appropriations, develop a methodology and implementation plan for one or more financing structures or alternative payment methodologies for hospital services in the state, including, but not limited to, a global budget payment methodology for licensed acute care hospitals, including, but not limited to, children's hospitals, under the AHEAD federal innovation model administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. The commissioner shall, not later than January 31, 2026, 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 human services, public health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies regarding such methodology and implementation plan.

(b) Not earlier than thirty days after submitting such report, the commissioner may apply for a Medicaid research and demonstration waiver under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act to implement a financing structure or alternative payment methodology developed pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section. If

implemented, such financing structure or alternative payment methodology (1) shall apply to each licensed acute care hospital, including, but not limited to, children's hospitals, that voluntarily chooses to participate in such financing structure or alternative payment methodology for all service categories included in such structure or methodology, and (2) may, within available resources dedicated to the implementation of such financing structure or alternative payment methodology, include incentive or other enhanced payments for any such licensed acute care hospital. No state agency shall (A) require any licensed acute care hospital to participate in any financing structure or alternative payment methodology implemented pursuant to the provisions of this section, (B) require any licensed acute care hospital to participate in any such financing structure or alternative payment methodology as a condition of Medicaid reimbursement or approval of a certificate of need application, or (C) impose any penalty or reduction on any licensed acute care hospital as a result of its decision not to participate in any such financing structure or alternative payment methodology.

Sec. 48. Section 3-13i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On and after January 1, 2001, or on and after the first adoption of an investment policy statement under section 3-13b, whichever is later, any contract for services related to the investment of trust funds, as defined in section 3-13c, shall be subject to the investment policy statement adopted under section 3-13b. No contract for services related to the investment of such funds shall be awarded to a provider of such services until the Treasurer's recommendation of a provider is reviewed by the Investment Advisory Council. The Treasurer shall provide notice of such recommendation at a meeting of the council. Not later than forty-five days after such meeting, the council may file a written review of the Treasurer's recommendation concerning the selection of such

provider with the Office of the Treasurer where it shall be available for public inspection. The Treasurer may proceed to award the contract after (1) such forty-five-day period, (2) receipt of the council's written review, or (3) notification by the council that it does not intend to submit a written review, whichever is sooner.

(b) The Treasurer shall establish procurement procedures for the award of any such contract, in accordance with standards set forth in the investment policy statement adopted under section 3-13b, that foster impartial and comprehensive evaluations of potential providers and encourage the selection of the most responsible provider who can provide the best value to the state. Any such contract shall not be considered a personal service agreement, as defined in section 4-212, or a contract for contractual services, as defined in section 4a-50.

Sec. 49. Section 51-47 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The judges of the Superior Court, judges of the Appellate Court and judges of the Supreme Court shall receive annually salaries as follows:

[(1) On and after July 1, 2022, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred twenty-six thousand seven hundred eleven dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred seventeen thousand eight hundred fifty-four dollars; (C) each associate judge of the Supreme Court, two hundred nine thousand seven hundred seventy dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred seven thousand four hundred fifty dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, one hundred ninety-seven thousand forty-six dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, one hundred ninety-three thousand four hundred twenty dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, one hundred eighty-nine thousand four hundred

eighty-three dollars.**]**

[(2)**]** (1) On and after July 1, 2023, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred thirty-three thousand five hundred twelve dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred twenty-four thousand three hundred ninety dollars; (C) each associate judge of the Supreme Court, two hundred sixteen thousand sixty-three dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred thirteen thousand six hundred seventy-four dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred two thousand nine hundred fifty-seven dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, one hundred ninety-nine thousand two hundred twenty-three dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, one hundred ninety-five thousand one hundred sixty-seven dollars.

[(3)**]** (2) On and after July 1, 2024, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred forty thousand five hundred eighteen dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred thirty-one thousand one hundred twenty-one dollars; (C) each associate judge of the Supreme Court, two hundred twenty-two thousand five hundred forty-five dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred twenty thousand eighty-four dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred nine thousand forty-six dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, two hundred five thousand one hundred ninety-nine dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, two hundred one thousand twenty-three dollars.

(3) On and after July 1, 2025, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred forty-eight thousand nine hundred thirty-six dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred thirty-nine thousand two hundred ten dollars; (C) each associate judge of the

Supreme Court, two hundred thirty thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred twenty-seven thousand seven hundred eighty-six dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred sixteen thousand three hundred thirty-six dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, two hundred twelve thousand three hundred eighty-one dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, two hundred eight thousand fifty-nine dollars.

[(b) (1) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2022, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars in additional compensation.**]**

[(2)**]** (b) (1) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2023, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand three hundred thirty-one

dollars in additional compensation.

[(3)**]** (2) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2024, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand three hundred seventy-one dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand three hundred seventy-one dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand three hundred seventy-one dollars in additional compensation.

(3) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2025, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand four hundred nineteen dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand four hundred nineteen dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand four hundred nineteen dollars in additional compensation.

(c) Each such judge shall be an elector and a resident of this state, shall be a member of the bar of the state of Connecticut and shall not engage in private practice, nor on or after July 1, 1985, be a member of any board of directors or of any advisory board of any state bank and trust company, state bank or savings and loan association, national banking association or federal savings bank or savings and loan

association. **[**Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a senior judge from participating in any alternative dispute resolution program approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc.**]**

(d) Each such judge, excluding any senior judge, who has completed not less than ten years of service as a judge of either the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court, or the Superior Court, or of any combination of such courts, or of the Court of Common Pleas, the Juvenile Court or the Circuit Court, or other state service or service as an elected officer of the state, or any combination of such service, shall receive semiannual longevity payments based on service as a judge of any or all of such six courts, or other state service or service as an elected officer of the state, or any combination of such service, completed as of the first day of July and the first day of January of each year, as follows:

(1) A judge who has completed ten or more years but less than fifteen years of service shall receive one-quarter of three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) A judge who has completed fifteen or more years but less than twenty years of service shall receive one-half of three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

(3) A judge who has completed twenty or more years but less than twenty-five years of service shall receive three-quarters of three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

(4) A judge who has completed twenty-five or more years of service shall receive three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 50. Subsection (f) of section 52-434 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(f) Each judge trial referee shall receive, for acting as a referee or as a single auditor or committee of any court or for performing duties assigned by the Chief Court Administrator with the approval of the Chief Justice, for each day the judge trial referee is so engaged, in addition to the retirement salary: (1) (A) **[**on and after July 1, 2022, the sum of two hundred eighty-five dollars, (B) on**]** On and after July 1, 2023, the sum of two hundred ninety-four dollars; **[**, and (C)**]** (B) on and after July 1, 2024, the sum of three hundred two dollars; and (C) on and after July, 1, 2025, the sum of three hundred twelve dollars; and (2) expenses, including mileage. Such amounts shall be taxed by the court making the reference in the same manner as other court expenses.

Sec. 51. Subsection (h) of section 46b-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

[(h) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred sixty-four thousand nine hundred thirty-two dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred fifty-six thousand nine hundred seventy-three dollars.**]**

[(2)**]** (h) (1) On and after July 1, 2023, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred sixty-nine thousand eight hundred eighty dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred sixty-one thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars.

[(3)**]** (2) On and after July 1, 2024, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred seventy-four thousand nine hundred seventy-six dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred sixty-six thousand five hundred thirty-three dollars.

(3) On and after July 1, 2025, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred eighty-one thousand one hundred one dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred seventy-two thousand three hundred sixty-one dollars.

Sec. 52. Subsection (b) of section 46b-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) **[**(1) On and after July 1, 2022, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred forty-five dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

(2)**]** (1) On and after July 1, 2023, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred fifty-two dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

[(3)**]** (2) On and after July 1, 2024, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred sixty dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

(3) On and after July 1, 2025, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred sixty-nine dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

Sec. 53. Subsection (o) of section 15-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(o) On or before January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the board of directors shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) A description of the projects undertaken by the authority in the preceding year; (2) a list of projects which, if undertaken by the state, would support the state's maritime policies and encourage maritime commerce and industry; (3) a description of the authority's finances; (4) recommendations for improvements to existing maritime policies, programs and facilities; and (5) recommendations for legislation to promote the authority's purpose. **[**The Commissioner of Administrative Services and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall jointly review and comment on each report before such report is submitted to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation.**]**

Sec. 54. Subsection (a) of section 12-217rr of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to applications filed on or after said date*):

(a) As used in this section, "youth development organization" means a nonprofit organization <u>in this state</u> that is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) 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 that (1) provides evidence-supported interventions to high-risk youth to improve school and family engagement, and (2) offers skills development, transitional employment and job placement and support to assist young adults to be employed and self-sufficient.

Sec. 55. Subsection (b) of section 14-21m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

passage):

(b) The moneys in said account shall be distributed **[**quarterly**]** annually by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to the United States Olympic Committee, a nonprofit entity. Said moneys shall be expended by the United States Olympic Committee on efforts dedicated to providing athletes with support and training, and preparing athletes for sports competition.

Sec. 56. Subsection (d) of section 14-21u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) The funds in the account shall be distributed **[**quarterly**]** annually by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to Connecticut Support Our Troops, Inc.

Sec. 57. Subsection (d) of section 14-21v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) The funds in the account shall be distributed **[**quarterly**]** annually by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to the Connecticut Nurses Foundation.

Sec. 58. Section 12-217n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*):

(a) There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter the amount determined under subsection (c) of this section in respect of the research and development expenses paid or incurred during any income year, subject to the limitations of this section.

(b) **[**For purposes of**]** As used in this section:

(1) "Research and development expenses" means research or experimental expenditures deductible under Section 174 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on May 28, 1993, determined without regard to Section 280C(c) thereof or any elections made by a taxpayer to amortize such expenses on its federal income tax return that were otherwise deductible, and basic research payments as defined under Section 41 of said Internal Revenue Code to the extent not deducted under said Section 174, provided: (A) Such expenditures and payments are paid or incurred for such research and experimentation and basic research conducted in this state; and (B) such expenditures and payments are not funded, within the meaning of Section 41(d)(4)(H) of said Internal Revenue Code, by any grant, contract, or otherwise by a person or governmental entity other than the taxpayer unless such other person is included in a combined return with the person paying or incurring such expenses;

(2) "Combined return" means a combined unitary tax return under section 12-222;

(3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;

(4) "Qualified small business" means a **[**company**]** taxpayer that (A) has gross income for the previous income year that does not exceed one hundred million dollars, and (B) has not, in the determination of the commissioner, met the gross income test through transactions with a related person, as defined in section 12-217w; and

(5) "Taxpayer" means (A) a taxpayer, as defined in section 12-213, and (B) a single member limited liability company that (i) has more than three thousand employees in this state, and (ii) is engaged in manufacturing, with expertise in mechatronics, alignment and sensor

technology and optical fabrication. For purposes of this section, if a single member limited liability company is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner for federal income tax purposes, the calculation of the total number of employees in this state of the limited liability company shall include both the employees of the limited liability company and the employees of such limited liability company's owner.

(c) (1) The amount allowed as a credit in any income year shall be the tentative credit calculated under subdivision (2) of this subsection, modified as provided in subsection (e) or (f) of this section, if applicable, except that in the case of a qualified small business the tentative credit allowed for research and development expenses shall be equal to six per cent of such expenses or in the case of any business employing over two thousand five hundred people in the state of Connecticut with annual revenues in excess of three billion dollars and headquartered in an enterprise zone the tentative credit allowed for research and development expenses shall be equal to the greater of (A) the tentative credit calculated under subdivision (2), modified as provided in subsection (e) or (f) of this section, if applicable, or (B) three and one-half per cent of such expense.

(2) Where the research and development expenses paid or incurred in the income year equal: (A) Fifty million dollars or less, the tentative credit allowed shall be an amount equal to one per cent of such expenses; (B) more than fifty million dollars but not more than one hundred million dollars, the tentative credit allowed shall be equal to five hundred thousand dollars plus two per cent of the excess of such expenses over fifty million dollars; (C) more than one hundred million dollars but not more than two hundred million dollars, the tentative credit allowed shall be equal to one million five hundred thousand dollars plus four per cent of the excess of such expenses over one hundred million dollars; and (D) more than two hundred million dollars, the tentative credit allowed shall be equal to five million five

hundred thousand dollars plus six per cent of the excess of such expenses over two hundred million dollars.

(d) (1) The credit provided for by this section shall be allowed for any income year commencing on or after January 1, 1993, provided any credits allowed for income years commencing on or after January 1, 1993, and prior to January 1, 1995, may not be taken until income years commencing on or after January 1, 1995, and, for the purposes of subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall be treated as if the credit for each such income year first became allowable in the first income year commencing on or after January 1, 1995.

(2) No more than one-third of the amount of the credit allowable for any income year may be included in the calculation of the amount of the credit that may be taken in that income year.

(3) The total amount of the credit under subdivision (1) of this subsection that may be taken for any income year may not exceed the greater of (A) fifty per cent of the taxpayer's tax liability or in the case of a combined return, fifty per cent of the combined tax liability, for such income year, determined without regard to any credits allowed under this section, and (B) the lesser of (i) two hundred per cent of the credit otherwise allowed under subsection (c) of this section for such income year, and (ii) ninety per cent of the taxpayer's tax liability or in the case of a combined return, ninety per cent of the combined liability for such income year, determined without regard to any credits allowed under this section.

(4) (A) Credits that are allowed under this section for income years commencing prior to January 1, 2021, that exceed the amount permitted to be taken in an income year pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection shall be carried forward to each of the successive income years until such credits, or applicable portion thereof, are fully taken.

(B) Credits that are allowed under this section for income years commencing on or after January 1, 2021, that exceed the amount permitted to be taken in an income year pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection shall be carried forward to each of the successive income years until such credits, or applicable portion thereof, are fully taken. No credit or portion thereof allowed under this section for income years commencing on or after January 1, 2021, shall be carried forward for a period of more than fifteen years.

(C) No credit allowed under this section shall be taken in any income year until the full amount of all allowable credits carried forward to such year from any prior income year, commencing with the earliest such prior year, that otherwise may be taken under subdivision (2) of this subsection in that income year, have been fully taken.

(D) If the taxpayer that pays or incurs research and development expenses is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited liability company's owner, provided such owner is subject to the tax imposed under this chapter.

(e) In addition to the wage base test set forth in subsection (f) of this section, any aerospace company or in the case of a combined return, any combined group including an aerospace company, shall be subject to this subsection for any income year commencing on or after January 1, 1993, and prior to January 1, 1996. For purposes of this subsection, an aerospace company is any taxpayer, whether or not included in a combined return, engaged principally in the aerospace industry whose research and development expenses during each of the income years beginning on or after January 1, 1990, 1991 and 1992, respectively, exceeded two hundred million dollars. No aerospace company, or in the case of a combined return, a combined group including an aerospace company, shall be allowed any credit under this section for any income year to which this subsection applies in which the aggregate transfers

by an aerospace company, if any, of historical economic base functions outside of this state, other than to a location outside the United States, since January 1, 1993, through the end of such income year, have materially reduced the historical economic base functions in this state. For purposes of this subsection, the historical economic base functions shall be those economic base functions conducted by an aerospace company, which need not be all economic base functions of the aerospace company, in this state on January 1, 1993, whose continuance in this state, as determined by the commissioner in his discretion, will further the policies set forth in section 32-221. Such historical economic base functions shall be set forth in a binding memorandum of understanding between the commissioner and an aerospace company that may be entered into at any time prior to the expiration of the first income year to which this subsection applies, with sufficient specificity to allow the commissioner and the aerospace company to determine in all income years subject to this subsection whether there has been such a reduction in said historical economic base functions. As a prerequisite to the allowance of any credit otherwise allowable under this section for any income year to which this subsection applies, each aerospace company shall obtain a certificate of eligibility issued by the commissioner to the aerospace company for such income year. The aerospace company shall not later than sixty days after the close of each income year to which this subsection applies certify to the commissioner that there has been no such aggregate material reduction in the historical economic base functions in this state for the income year just completed that otherwise has not been offset as provided below. Within sixty days thereafter, the commissioner shall review the certification and, if the commissioner determines that there has been no such net aggregate material reduction in the historical economic base functions in this state, the commissioner shall issue a certificate of eligibility for said income year. The following shall not constitute a material reduction in the historical economic base functions in this state: (1) A reduction of not more than two per cent of the historical economic base functions; (2)

transfer of an historical economic base function to a person in this state; (3) transfer of a historical economic base function outside of the United States; or (4) reductions in historical economic base functions attributable to reductions in volume, productivity improvements or the discontinuance of operations due to obsolescence or the like. Any transfers that may otherwise be counted in determining if a material reduction occurred may be offset to the extent economic base functions listed in, or comparable to those listed in, the memorandum of understanding are increased in this state, transferred into this state, or established in this state. Any such increase, transfer or establishment made during an income year, or subsequent to such income year but prior to the filing of the return for such income year, shall be effective for such income year and all income years thereafter. The commissioner may issue or reissue a certificate of eligibility for the applicable income year following any such offset. The commissioner shall, upon request, provide a copy of the certificate of eligibility and memorandum of understanding to the Commissioner of Revenue Services.

(f) The tentative credit allowable to the taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, the combined group, that pays or incurs research and development expenses in excess of two hundred million dollars for the income year shall be reduced for any income year in which the workforce reductions, if any, exceed the percentages set forth below. For purposes of this subsection, workforce reductions shall be reductions of the historical Connecticut wage base of the taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, the combined group, as a result of the transfer outside of this state, other than to a location outside the United States, of work done by employees of the taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, the combined group. Such reduction in the tentative credit shall be as follows: (1) If the historical Connecticut wage base for the income year is so reduced by not more than two per cent, the tentative credit allowable for the income year shall not be reduced; (2) if the historical Connecticut wage base for the income year is so reduced by more than

two per cent but not more than three per cent, the tentative credit allowable for the income year shall be reduced by ten per cent; (3) if the historical Connecticut wage base for the income year is so reduced by more than three per cent but not more than four per cent, the tentative credit allowable for the income year shall be reduced by twenty per cent; (4) if the historical Connecticut wage base for the income year is so reduced by more than four per cent but not more than five per cent, the tentative credit allowable for the income year shall be reduced by forty per cent; (5) if the historical Connecticut wage base for the income year is so reduced by more than five per cent but not more than six per cent, the tentative credit allowable for the income year shall be reduced by seventy per cent; and (6) if the historical Connecticut wage base for the income year is so reduced by more than six per cent, no credit for the income year shall be allowed. The Connecticut wage base for any income year shall be the total wages assigned to Connecticut for such income year under section 12-218 excluding wages paid to the ten most highly-compensated executives of the taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, the combined group, and any compensation that does not subject the recipient thereof to federal income tax thereon in said income year. The historical Connecticut wage base shall be the Connecticut wage base for the third full income year immediately preceding the current income year; provided the historical Connecticut wage base for the first three income years commencing on or after January 1, 1993, shall be the Connecticut wage base for May 1993, converted to an annual basis. The following shall not constitute a workforce reduction for any income year: (A) A reduction of wages attributable to the transfer of work done by a taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, by the combined group, in this state to a party in this state; (B) a reduction of wages attributable to the transfer of work done by a taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, by the combined group, outside the United States; or (C) a reduction in wages attributable to reductions in volume, productivity improvements or the discontinuance of operations due to obsolescence or the like. Solely for

purposes of determining whether the allowable credit is to be reduced under this subsection for any income year, the Connecticut wages attributable to any new jobs or jobs moved into this state by the taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, the combined group, during such income year or subsequent to such income year but prior to the filing of the return for such income year shall be an offset to any workforce reduction of a taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, the combined group, for said income year. A new job shall be a job that did not exist in the business of a taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, a member of the combined group, in this state at the end of the income year just completed. Notwithstanding subsection (g) of this section, a taxpayer may elect for any income year to separately compute its allowable tentative credit under this subsection for any one or more business units that had gross revenues for such income year in excess of one hundred million dollars. Any taxpayer subject to this subsection shall not later than sixty days after the close of each income year certify to the commissioner whether or not there has been any workforce reduction for the income year just completed, the amount thereof, and any offsets thereto as provided above. Not later than sixty days thereafter, the commissioner shall review the certification and, if the commissioner determines that there has been no more than a six per cent workforce reduction, net of any such offsets, the commissioner shall issue a certificate of eligibility stating the amount of net workforce reduction so determined for said income year, if any. The commissioner shall not issue a certificate of eligibility for any income year in which the commissioner determines that there has been more than a six per cent net workforce reduction. The commissioner shall, upon request, provide a copy of the certificate of eligibility to the Commissioner of Revenue Services.

(g) Where one or more taxpayers properly included in a combined return pays or incurs research and development expenses, all allowances and limitations under this section shall be made on an

aggregate basis for all taxpayers included in such combined return, provided, the credit attributable to a qualified small business may be taken only against the combined tax liability attributable to such qualified small business. The amount of the combined tax for all corporations properly included in a combined corporation business tax return that is attributable to a qualified small business shall be in the same ratio to such combined tax that the net income apportioned to this state of the qualified small business bears to the net income, in the aggregate of all corporations included in such combined return. Solely for the purposes of computing such ratio, any net loss apportioned to this state by a corporation included in such combined return shall be disregarded.

(h) Any taxpayer, or in the case of a combined return, any combined group of taxpayers, that claims a credit under section 12-217j for any income year shall reduce the amount of research and development expenses that otherwise may be taken into account in computing the allowable credit under subsection (c) of this section for such income year by the amount of excess research and experimental expenditures, as computed under said section 12-217j, for which the credit thereunder is given.

(i) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. 59. Section 12-217j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed on any **[**corporation**]** taxpayer under this chapter, with respect to income years of such corporation commencing on or after January 1, 1994, an amount equal to twenty per cent of the amount spent by such

[corporation**]** taxpayer directly on research and experimental expenditures, as defined in Section 174 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, which are conducted in this state and which exceeds the amount spent by such **[**corporation**]** taxpayer during the preceding income year of such **[**corporation**]** taxpayer for such expenditures.

(2) As used in this section, "taxpayer" means (A) a taxpayer, as defined in section 12-213, and (B) a single member limited liability company that (i) has more than three thousand employees in this state, and (ii) is engaged in manufacturing, with expertise in mechatronics, alignment and sensor technology and optical fabrication. For purposes of this section, if a single member limited liability company is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner for federal income tax purposes, the calculation of the total number of employees in this state of the limited liability company shall include both the employees of the limited liability company and the employees of such limited liability company's owner.

(b) (1) With respect to any income year commencing on or after January 1, 2000, a credit or any portion of a credit that is allowed under this section but that is not used by a taxpayer because the amount of the credit exceeds the tax due and owing by the taxpayer shall be carried forward to each of the successive income years until such credit, or applicable portion of the credit, is fully taken. In no case shall a credit, or any portion of a credit, that is not used by a taxpayer be carried forward for a period of more than fifteen years.

(2) (A) With respect to any income year commencing on or after January 1, 1997, and prior to January 1, 2000, a credit or any portion of a credit that is allowed under this section but that is not used by a biotechnology company because the amount of the credit exceeds the tax due and owing by the taxpayer shall be carried forward to each of

the successive income years until such credit, or applicable portion of the credit, is fully taken. In no case shall a credit, or any portion of a credit, that is not used by a biotechnology company be carried forward for a period of more than fifteen years.

(B) For purposes of this subsection, "biotechnology company" means a company engaged in the business of applying technologies, such as recombinant DNA techniques, biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, genetics and genetic engineering, biological cell fusion techniques, and new bioprocesses, using living organisms, or parts of organisms, to produce or modify products, to improve plants or animals, to develop microorganisms for specific uses, to identify targets for small molecule pharmaceutical development, or to transform biological systems into useful processes and products.

(3) If the taxpayer that pays or incurs research and experimental expenditures is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited liability company's owner, provided such owner is subject to the tax imposed under this chapter.

Sec. 60. Section 5-141d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The state shall save harmless and indemnify any state officer or employee, as defined in section 4-141, and any member of the Public Defender Services Commission from financial loss and expense arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of his alleged negligence or alleged deprivation of any person's civil rights or other act or omission resulting in damage or injury, if the officer, employee or member is found to have been acting in the discharge of his duties or within the scope of his employment and such act or omission is found not to have been wanton, reckless or malicious. As used in this section, "state officer or employee" includes any member of a state officer's or

employee's immediate family who is named or included in any such claim, demand, suit or judgment solely by reason of such familial relationship; and "immediate family" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79.

(b) The state, through the Attorney General, shall provide for the defense of any such state officer, employee or member in any civil action or proceeding in any state or federal court arising out of any alleged act, omission or deprivation which occurred or is alleged to have occurred while the officer, employee or member was acting in the discharge of his duties or in the scope of his employment, except that the state shall not be required to provide for such a defense whenever the Attorney General, based on his investigation of the facts and circumstances of the case, determines that it would be inappropriate to do so and he so notifies the officer, employee or member in writing.

(c) (1) The state, through the Attorney General, may provide for the defense of any such state officer, employee or member for such officer, employee or member's participation as a witness in any criminal investigation conducted if the officer, employee or member's status as a witness arises from the officer, employee or member's discharge of his duties or in the scope of his employment in any case in which the Attorney General determines, based on his investigation of the facts and circumstances of the case, that the officer, employee or member is not identified as a target, subject or person of interest in the investigation or proceeding at the time of the request.

(2) If the Attorney General makes a determination that a conflict of interest exists between the individual seeking representation and the state's broader legal interests, the Attorney General shall promptly notify the individual and advise whether or not the use of outside counsel at the state's expense will be authorized.

(3) Representation under this subsection shall be limited strictly to

matters arising from the individual's status as a witness or their official duties and shall not extend to personal legal matters or unrelated conduct.

(4) The Attorney General shall conduct a periodic review to confirm the individual's status as a witness and ensure compliance with the terms of representation. If the individual becomes a target, subject or person of interest, or is subsequently indicted or arrested, the Attorney General shall make a determination whether in his discretion, representation shall cease and the individual shall be promptly notified of such determination.

(d) The state, through the Attorney General, may provide for the defense of any such state officer, employee or member in a federal criminal investigation or prosecution arising out of any alleged act, omission or deprivation which occurred or is alleged to have occurred while the officer, employee or member was acting in the discharge of such officer, employee or member's duties or in the scope of such officer, employee or member's employment in any case in which the relevant agency head or constitutional officer requests representation and the Attorney General determines, in the Attorney General's discretion, that:

(1) The alleged act, omission or deprivation was consistent with such officer, employee or member's obligations under state law and the tenth amendment to the United States Constitution; and

(2) The legal basis on which the federal criminal investigation or prosecution is founded is without merit.

[(c)**]** (e) Legal fees and costs incurred as a result of the retention by any such officer, employee or member of an attorney to defend his interests in any **[**such**]** civil action or proceeding shall be borne by the state only in those cases where (1) the Attorney General has stated in writing to the officer, employee or member, pursuant to subsection (b)

of this section, that the state will not provide an attorney to defend the interests of the officer, employee or member, and (2) the officer, employee or member is thereafter found to have acted in the discharge of his duties or in the scope of his employment, and not to have acted wantonly, recklessly or maliciously. Such legal fees and costs incurred by such officer, employee or member shall be paid to such officer, employee or member only after the final disposition of the suit, claim or demand and only in such amounts as shall be determined by the Attorney General to be reasonable. In determining whether such amounts are reasonable, the Attorney General may consider whether it was appropriate for a group of officers, employees or members to be represented by the same counsel.

[(d)**]** (f) Such officer, employee or member may bring an action in the Superior Court against the state to enforce the provisions of this section.

[(e)**]** (g) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to any such officer, employee or member to the extent he has a right to indemnification under any other section of the general statutes.

Sec. 61. Subdivision (5) of subsection (k) of section 54-56d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(5) The state shall hold harmless and indemnify any health care guardian appointed by the court pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection from financial loss and expense arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of such health care guardian's alleged negligence or alleged deprivation of any person's civil rights or other act or omission resulting in damage or injury, provided the health care guardian is found to have been acting in the discharge of his or her duties pursuant to said subdivision and such act or omission is found not to have been wanton, reckless or malicious. The provisions of subsections (b), **[**(c)**]** (e) and **[**(d)**]** (f) of section 5-141d shall apply to such

health care guardian. The provisions of chapter 53 shall not apply to a claim against such health care guardian.

Sec. 62. Subsection (b) of section 4-68m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) The division shall promote a more effective and cohesive state criminal justice system by:

(1) Conducting an in-depth analysis of the criminal justice system;

(2) Determining the long-range needs of the criminal justice system and recommending policy priorities for the system;

(3) Identifying critical problems in the criminal justice system and recommending strategies to solve those problems;

(4) Assessing the cost-effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the criminal justice system;

(5) Recommending means to improve the deterrent and rehabilitative capabilities of the criminal justice system;

(6) Advising and assisting the General Assembly in developing plans, programs and proposed legislation for improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system;

(7) Making computations of daily costs and comparing interagency costs on services provided by agencies that are a part of the criminal justice system;

(8) Reviewing the program inventories and cost-benefit analyses submitted pursuant to section 4-68s and considering incorporating such inventories and analyses in its budget recommendations to the General Assembly;

(9) Making population computations for use in planning for the long-range needs of the criminal justice system;

(10) Determining long-range information needs of the criminal justice system and acquiring that information;

(11) Cooperating with the Office of the Victim Advocate by providing information and assistance to the office relating to the improvement of crime victims' services;

(12) Serving as the liaison for the state to the United States Department of Justice on criminal justice issues of interest to the state and federal government relating to data, information systems and research;

(13) Measuring the success of community-based services and programs in reducing recidivism;

(14) Developing and implementing a comprehensive reentry strategy as provided in section 18-81w; **[**and**]**

(15) Engaging in other activities consistent with the responsibilities of the division; and

(16) Developing and implementing policies for the state-wide delivery of postsecondary educational programs in correctional facilities, including, but not limited to, policies pertaining to federal Pell grants and prison education programs.

Sec. 63. Subsection (a) of section 12-211a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, and except as otherwise provided in subdivision **[**(5)**]** (6) of this subsection or in subsection (b) of this section, the amount of tax credit or credits

otherwise allowable against the tax imposed under this chapter for any calendar year shall not exceed seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to such calendar year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits.

(2) For the calendar year commencing January 1, 2011, "type one tax credits" means tax credits allowable under section 12-217jj, 12-217kk or 12-217*ll*; "type two tax credits" means tax credits allowable under section 38a-88a; "type three tax credits" means tax credits that are not type one tax credits or type two tax credits; "thirty per cent threshold" means thirty per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credit; "fifty-five per cent threshold" means fifty-five per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits; and "seventy per cent threshold" means seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits.

(3) For the calendar year commencing January 1, 2012, "type one tax credits" means the tax credit allowable under section 12-217*ll*; "type two tax credits" means tax credits allowable under section 38a-88a; "type three tax credits" means tax credits that are not type one tax credits or type two tax credits; "thirty per cent threshold" means thirty per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credit; "fifty-five per cent threshold" means fifty-five per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits; and "seventy per cent threshold" means seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits.

(4) For calendar years commencing on or after January 1, 2013, and prior to January 1, 2025, "type one tax credits" means the tax credit allowable under sections 12-217jj, 12-217kk and 12-217*ll*; "type two tax credits" means tax credits allowable under section 38a-88a; "type three

tax credits" means tax credits that are not type one tax credits or type two tax credits; "thirty per cent threshold" means thirty per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credit; "fifty-five per cent threshold" means fifty-five per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits; and "seventy per cent threshold" means seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits.

(5) For calendar years commencing on or after January 1, 2025, "type one tax credits" means the tax credit allowable under sections 12-217jj and 12-217kk; "type two tax credits" means tax credits allowable under section 38a-88a; "type three tax credits" means tax credits that are not type one tax credits or type two tax credits; "thirty per cent threshold" means thirty per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credit; "fifty-five per cent threshold" means fifty-five per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits; and "seventy per cent threshold" means seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from a taxpayer under this chapter prior to the application of tax credits.

[(5)**]** (6) For calendar years commencing on or after January 1, 2011, and subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2), (3)**,** **[**and**]** (4) and (5) of this subsection, the amount of tax credit or credits otherwise allowable against the tax imposed under this chapter shall not exceed:

(A) If the tax credit or credits being claimed by a taxpayer are type three tax credits only, thirty per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to said calendar years of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits.

(B) If the tax credit or credits being claimed by a taxpayer are type one tax credits and type three tax credits, but not type two tax credits,

fifty-five per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to said calendar years of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits, provided (i) type three tax credits shall be claimed before type one tax credits are claimed, (ii) the type three tax credits being claimed may not exceed the thirty per cent threshold, and (iii) the sum of the type one tax credits and the type three tax credits being claimed may not exceed the fifty-five per cent threshold.

(C) If the tax credit or credits being claimed by a taxpayer are type two tax credits and type three tax credits, but not type one tax credits, seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to said calendar years of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits, provided (i) type three tax credits shall be claimed before type two tax credits are claimed, (ii) the type three tax credits being claimed may not exceed the thirty per cent threshold, and (iii) the sum of the type two tax credits and the type three tax credits being claimed may not exceed the seventy per cent threshold.

(D) If the tax credit or credits being claimed by a taxpayer are type one tax credits, type two tax credits and type three tax credits, seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to said calendar years of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credits, provided (i) type three tax credits shall be claimed before type one tax credits or type two tax credits are claimed, and the type one tax credits shall be claimed before the type two tax credits are claimed, (ii) the type three tax credits being claimed may not exceed the thirty per cent threshold, (iii) the sum of the type one tax credits and the type three tax credits being claimed may not exceed the fifty-five per cent threshold, and (iv) the sum of the type one tax credits, the type two tax credits and the type three tax credits being claimed may not exceed the seventy per cent threshold.

(E) If the tax credit or credits being claimed by a taxpayer are type

one tax credits and type two tax credits only, but not type three tax credits, seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to said calendar years of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credits, provided (i) the type one tax credits shall be claimed before type two tax credits are claimed, (ii) the type one tax credits being claimed may not exceed the fifty-five per cent threshold, and (iii) the sum of the type one tax credits and the type two tax credits being claimed may not exceed the seventy per cent threshold.

Sec. 64. Subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 12-217jj of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(h) (1) An eligible production company shall apply to the department for a tax credit voucher on an annual basis, but not later than ninety days after the first production expenses or costs are incurred in the production of a qualified production, and shall provide with such application such information as the department may require to determine such company's eligibility to claim a credit under this section. No production expenses or costs may be listed more than once for purposes of the tax credit voucher pursuant to this section **[**, or pursuant to**]** or section 12-217kk, **[**or 12-217*ll*,**]** and if a production expense or cost has been included in a claim for a credit, such production expense or cost may not be included in any subsequent claim for a credit.

Sec. 65. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 32-1m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(10) An overview of the department's activities concerning digital media, motion pictures and related production activity, and an analysis of the use of the film production tax credit established under section 12-217jj **[**,**]** and the entertainment industry infrastructure tax credit established under section 12-217kk, **[**and the digital animation

production tax credit established under section 12-217*ll*,**]** including the amount of any tax credit issued under said sections, the total amount of production expenses or costs incurred in the state by the taxpayer who was issued such a tax credit and the information submitted in the report required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision **[**(1)**]** (2) of subsection (h) of section 12-217jj.

Sec. 66. Subdivision (6) of section 32-1p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(6) To prepare an explanatory guide showing the impact of relevant state and municipal tax statutes, regulations and administrative opinions on typical production activities and to implement the tax credits provided for in sections 12-217jj **[**,**]** and 12-217kk; **[**and 12-217*ll*;**]**

Sec. 67. Section 3-115b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the Comptroller, in the Comptroller's sole discretion, may initiate a process intended to result in the implementation of the use of generally accepted accounting principles, as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, with respect to the preparation and maintenance of the annual financial statements of the state pursuant to section 3-115.

(b) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall initiate a process intended to result in the implementation of generally accepted accounting principles, as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, with respect to the preparation of the biennial budget of the state.

[(c) The Comptroller shall establish an opening combined balance sheet for each appropriated fund as of July 1, 2013, on the basis of

generally accepted accounting principles. The accumulated deficit in the General Fund on June 30, 2013, as determined on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles and identified in the annual comprehensive financial report of the state as the unassigned negative balance of the General Fund on said date, reduced by any funds deposited in the General Fund from other resources for the purpose of reducing the negative unassigned balance of the fund, shall be amortized in each fiscal year of each biennial budget, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and for the succeeding twelve fiscal years. The Comptroller shall, to the extent necessary to report the fiscal position of the state in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, reconcile the unassigned balance in the General Fund at the end of each fiscal year to the unassigned balance in the General Fund on June 30, 2013, the portion already amortized and any unassigned balance created after June 30, 2013. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall annually publish a recommended amortization schedule to fully reduce such negative unassigned balance by June 30, 2028.

(d) The unreserved negative balance in the General Fund reported in the annual comprehensive financial report issued by the Comptroller for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, reduced by (1) the negative unassigned balance in the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, and (2) any funds from other resources deposited in the General Fund for the purpose of reducing the negative unassigned balance of the fund shall be amortized in each fiscal year of each biennial budget, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and for the succeeding ten fiscal years. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall annually publish a recommended amortization schedule to fully reduce such negative unassigned balance by June 30, 2028.**]**

Sec. 68. Sections 3-20i, 12-217*ll* and 32-41v of the general statutes are

repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 69. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (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 such student's financial aid, or (B) a minimum award of five hundred dollars for a full-time student or 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 Connecticut State University System and Charter Oak State College;

(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) participated in the debt-free community college program, established pursuant to section 10a-174 of the general statutes, and completed not fewer than sixty credits through said program at the Connecticut State Community College, (B) enrolls as a full-time or part-time student for the fall semester of 2026, or any semester thereafter, at a state university within the Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College in a program leading to a bachelor's degree, (C) is classified as an in-state student pursuant to section 10a-29 of the general statutes, (D) made satisfactory academic progress while enrolled at the Connecticut State Community College and continues to make satisfactory academic progress while enrolled at such state university or Charter Oak State College, (E) has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and (F) has accepted all available financial aid;

(5) "Full-time student" means a student who is enrolled at a state

university within the Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College and (A) is carrying twelve or more credit hours in a semester, or (B) has a learning disability documented with such university 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 state university within the Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College and is carrying not less than six but fewer than twelve credit hours in a semester.

(b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall (1) establish a finish line scholars program to make awards to qualifying students each semester, (2) adopt rules, procedures and forms necessary to implement the finish line scholars program, and (3) submit a report outlining such rules, procedures and forms, 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.

(c) For the fall semester of 2026, 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 state university within the Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College, as applicable, or until such qualifying student earns a bachelor's degree, whichever is earlier, 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 November 1, 2026, and March 1, 2027, and each semester thereafter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall 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 higher education and employment advancement and appropriations and the budgets of the state agencies regarding the finish line scholars program, including, but not limited to, (1) the number of qualifying students enrolled at a state university within the Connecticut State University System and Charter Oak State College 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 degree completion rates of qualifying students receiving awards under this section by subject area.

Sec. 70. Section 51-9c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For purposes of this section, "Project Longevity Initiative" means a comprehensive community-based initiative that is designed to reduce gun violence in state municipalities.

(b) The Chief Court Administrator shall (1) provide planning and management assistance to municipal officials in the city of New Haven in order to ensure the continued implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative in said city and the Chief Court Administrator may utilize state and federal funds as may be appropriated for such purpose;

and (2) do all things necessary to apply for and accept federal funds allotted to or available to the state under any federal act or program which support the continued implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative in the city of New Haven.

(c) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee, in consultation with the United States Attorney for the district of Connecticut, the Chief State's Attorney, the Commissioner of Correction, the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, the mayors of the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury **[**, Norwich**]** and New London and clergy members, nonprofit service providers and community leaders from said cities shall implement the Project Longevity Initiative in said cities.

(d) The Chief Court Administrator shall (1) provide planning and management assistance to municipal officials in the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury **[**, Norwich**]** and New London in order to ensure implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative in said cities and the Chief Court Administrator may utilize state and federal funds as may be appropriated for such purpose; and (2) do all things necessary to apply for and accept federal funds allotted to or available to the state under any federal act or program which will support implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative in said cities.

(e) The Chief Court Administrator may accept and receive on behalf of the Judicial Branch, any bequest, devise or grant made to the Judicial Branch to further the objectives of the Project Longevity Initiative and may hold and use such property for the purpose specified, if any, in such bequest, devise or gift.

(f) (1) Until June 30, 2022, the secretary, in consultation with the federal and state officials described in subsection (c) of this section, shall create a plan for implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative on a

state-wide basis. Such plan shall, at a minimum, consider how to provide clients served by the Project Longevity Initiative with access to courses of instruction and apprentice programs provided by, but not limited to, a college, a university, a community college or the Technical Education and Career System. The secretary shall submit such plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

(2) In the event that the secretary failed to submit the plan required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, on and after July 1, 2022, the Chief Court Administrator in consultation with the federal and state officials described in subsection (c) of this section, shall create a plan for implementation of the Project Longevity Initiative on a state-wide basis. Such plan shall, at a minimum, consider how to provide clients served by the Project Longevity Initiative with access to courses of instruction and apprentice programs provided by, but not limited to, a college, a university, a community college or the Technical Education and Career System. Not later than January 1, 2023, the Chief Court Administrator shall submit such plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security and the judiciary in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

Sec. 71. Subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 12-806 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(13) To **[**pay the Office of Policy and Management to**]** reimburse the Department of Consumer Protection for the reasonable and necessary costs arising from the department's regulatory oversight of the operation of the lottery, retail sports wagering, online sports wagering and fantasy contests by the corporation, in accordance with the assessment made pursuant to section 12-806b, including costs arising

directly or indirectly from the licensing of lottery agents, performance of state police background investigations, and the implementation of subsection (b) of section 12-562 and sections 12-563a, 12-568a, 12-569, 12-570, 12-570a, 12-800 to 12-818, inclusive, and sections 12-853, 12-854, 12-863 to 12-865, inclusive, 12-867 and 12-868;

Sec. 72. Section 12-806b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Commencing July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the Office of Policy and Management shall assess the Connecticut Lottery Corporation in an amount sufficient to compensate the Department of Consumer Protection for the reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the department for the regulatory activities specified in subdivision (13) of subsection (b) of section 12-806 for the preceding fiscal year ending June thirtieth.

[(b) For the assessment year ending June 30, 2012, the Office of Policy and Management shall, on or before August 1, 2012, submit the total of the assessment made in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, together with a proposed assessment for the succeeding fiscal year based on the preceding fiscal year cost, to the Connecticut Lottery Corporation. The assessment for the preceding fiscal year shall be determined not later than September 15, 2011, after receiving any objections to the proposed assessments and making such changes or adjustments as the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management determines to be warranted. The corporation shall pay the total assessment in quarterly payments to the Office of Policy and Management, with the first payment commencing on October 1, 2011, and with the remaining payments to be made on January 1, 2012, April 1, 2012, and June 1, 2012. The office shall deposit any such payment in the lottery assessment account established under subsection (d) of this section.**]**

[(c)**]** (b) (1) For the assessment year ending June 30, 2013, and each assessment year thereafter until and including the assessment year ending June 30, 2026, the Office of Policy and Management shall, on or before May first of each year, submit the total of the assessment made in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, together with a proposed assessment for the succeeding fiscal year based on the preceding fiscal year cost, to the Connecticut Lottery Corporation. The assessment for the preceding fiscal year shall be determined not later than June fifteenth of each year, after receiving any objections to the proposed assessments and making such changes or adjustments as the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management determines to be warranted. The corporation shall pay the total assessment in quarterly payments to the Office of Policy and Management, with the first payment commencing on July first of each year, and with the remaining payments to be made on October first, January first and April first annually. The office shall deposit any such payment in the lottery assessment account established under subsection **[**(d)**]** (c) of this section.

(2) For the assessment year ending June 30, 2027, and each assessment year thereafter, the Office of Policy and Management shall, on or before August first of each year, submit the total of the assessment made in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, which shall be an estimate of the current fiscal year cost based on the preceding fiscal year cost, to the Connecticut Lottery Corporation. If the actual fiscal year cost does not equal the estimated fiscal year cost used to calculate the assessment, the assessment for the succeeding fiscal year shall be adjusted accordingly. The assessment for each fiscal year shall be determined not later than September fifteenth of each year, after receiving any objections to the proposed assessments and making such changes or adjustments as the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management determines to be warranted. The corporation shall pay the total assessment in triannual payments to the Department of Consumer Protection, with the first payment commencing on October first of each

year, and with the remaining payments to be made on January first and April first annually. The department shall deposit any such payment in the lottery assessment account established under subsection (c) of this section.

[(d)**]** (c) There is established an account to be known as the "lottery assessment account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Department of Consumer Protection.

[(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the final quarterly payment for the assessment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, shall be paid on July 1, 2011.**]**

Sec. 73. Subsection (i) of section 4b-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(i) As used in this subsection, (1) "project" means any state program, except the downtown Hartford higher education center project, as defined in section 4b-55, requiring consultant services if the cost of such services is estimated to exceed one hundred thousand dollars or, in the case of a program of a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, **[**the cost of such services is estimated to exceed three hundred thousand dollars, or in the case of**]** a building or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, a **[**or**]** property where the Judicial Department is the primary occupant or a program executed by the Department of Administrative Services, the cost of such services is estimated to exceed three hundred thousand dollars; (2) "consultant" means "consultant" as defined in section 4b-55; and (3) "consultant services" means "consultant services" as defined in section 4b-55. Any contracts entered into by the Commissioner of Administrative Services with any consultants for employment (A) for

any project under the provisions of this section, (B) in connection with a list established under subsection (e) of section 4b-51, or (C) by task letter issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services to any consultant on such list pursuant to which the consultant will provide services valued in excess of **[**one**]** three hundred thousand dollars, shall be subject to the approval of the Properties Review Board prior to the employment of such consultant or consultants by the commissioner. The Properties Review Board shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such selection of or contract with any consultant, approve or disapprove the selection of or contract with any consultant made by the Commissioner of Administrative Services pursuant to sections 4b-1 and 4b-55 to 4b-59, inclusive. If upon the expiration of the thirty-day period a decision has not been made, the Properties Review Board shall be deemed to have approved such selection or contract.

Sec. 74. Subsection (a) of section 4b-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Except as provided under subsection (e) of this section, whenever it appears from the specifications of the requesting agency or institution that the space needs equal or exceed two thousand five hundred square feet and the Commissioner of Administrative Services has determined that such needs will be met by lease of space, the commissioner shall **[**give public**]** post notice of such space needs and specifications **[**by advertising, at least once, in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the area in which such space is sought,**]** on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services no less than fifteen days prior to the date of final selection. A copy of such notice shall be sent to the regional chapter of the Connecticut Association of Realtors serving the area in which such space is sought. **[**The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to require the commissioner to lease space only from persons responding to such advertisements.**]**

Sec. 75. Subsection (a) of section 4b-24b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Whenever realty uses designed uniquely for state use and for periods over five years are concerned, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall, whenever practicable, attempt to construct on state-owned land. Whenever the Commissioner of Administrative Services has established specific plans and specifications for new construction on state land or new construction for sale to the state: (1) If it appears to the commissioner that the cost of the project shall be less than one million five hundred thousand dollars, contracts shall be made, where practicable, through a process of sealed bidding as provided in section 4b-91 relating to projects in excess of one million five hundred thousand dollars; (2) if it appears to the commissioner that the space needs of the requesting agency are less than five thousand square feet, the commissioner shall, whenever practicable, **[**carry on advertising**]** post online notice, in accordance with the provisions of section 4b-34 relating to projects in excess of five thousand square feet, in order to allow an equal opportunity for third parties to do business with the state without regard to political affiliation, political contributions or relationships with persons in state, federal or local governmental positions.

Sec. 76. Subsection (a) of section 4b-56 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There shall be established within the Department of Administrative Services state construction services selection panels which (1) for projects valued at **[**five**]** seven million five hundred thousand dollars or more, **[**shall**]** consist of five members, four of whom **[**shall be**]** are current or retired employees of the Department of Administrative Services appointed by the commissioner and one of

whom **[**shall be**]** is appointed by the head or acting head of the user agency, and (2) for projects valued at less than **[**five**]** seven million five hundred thousand dollars, **[**shall**]** consist of three members, two of whom **[**shall be**]** are current or retired employees of the Department of Administrative Services appointed by the commissioner and one of whom **[**shall be**]** is appointed by the head or acting head of the user agency. Each member of a section panel, regardless of the appointing authority, shall serve only for deliberations involving the project for which such member is appointed.

Sec. 77. Subsection (a) of section 45a-594 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(a) Compensation payable to the conservator or guardian of any person who is supported wholly or in part by the state in any humane institution, or who is receiving benefits under any of the state's programs of public assistance, shall be based upon services rendered and shall not exceed five per cent of the gross income to the estate during the period covered by any account. The conservator or guardian shall be entitled to compensation of not less than fifty dollars for any accounting period continuing for at least a year. If extraordinary services are rendered by any conservator or guardian, the court of probate, upon petition and hearing, may authorize reasonable additional compensation. **[**A copy of the petition and notice of hearing shall be lodged in the office of the Commissioner of Administrative Services in Hartford at least ten days before the hearing.**]** No commission or compensation shall be allowed on any moneys or other assets received from a prior guardian or conservator nor upon any amount received from liquidation of loans or other investments.

Sec. 78. Section 45a-630 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

In the case of any application for the appointment of a guardian of the estate of a minor pursuant to the provisions of sections 45a-132, 45a-593 to 45a-597, inclusive, 45a-603 to 45a-622, inclusive, and 45a-629 to 45a-638, inclusive, the application shall state that such minor either is, or is not, receiving aid or care from the state, whichever is true. **[**, and a copy of each application which states the minor is receiving such aid or care shall be sent by the court to the Commissioner of Administrative Services at least ten days in advance of any hearing on such application. Said commissioner or his designee may participate at any hearing on such application.**]**

Sec. 79. Section 45a-646 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

Any person may petition the Probate Court in the district in which he or she resides, is domiciled or is located at the time the petition for voluntary representation is filed either for the appointment of a conservator of the person or a conservator of the estate, or both. If the petition excuses bond, no bond shall be required by the court unless later requested by the respondent or unless facts are brought to the attention of the court that a bond is necessary for the protection of the respondent. Upon receipt of the petition, the court shall set a time and place for hearing and shall give such notice as it may direct to the petitioner, the petitioner's spouse, if any, **[**the Commissioner of Administrative Services, if the respondent is receiving aid or care from the state,**]** and to other interested parties, if any. After seeing the respondent in person and hearing his or her reasons for the petition and after explaining to the respondent that granting the petition will subject the respondent or respondent's property, as the case may be, to the authority of the conservator, the court may grant voluntary representation and thereupon shall appoint a conservator of the person or estate or both, and shall not make a finding that the petitioner is incapable. The conservator of the person or estate or both, shall have all

the powers and duties of a conservator of the person or estate of an incapable person appointed pursuant to section 45a-650. If the respondent subsequently becomes disabled or incapable, the authority of the conservator shall not be revoked as a result of such disability or incapacity.

Sec. 80. Section 45a-649 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Upon an application for involuntary representation, the court shall issue a citation to the following enumerated parties to appear before it at a time and place named in the citation, which shall be served on the parties at least ten days before the hearing date, or in the case of an application made pursuant to section 17a-543 or 17a-543a, at least seven days before the hearing date. Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 45a-648, or unless continued by the court for cause shown, the hearing on an application under this section shall be held not more than thirty days after the receipt of the application by the Probate Court. Notice of the hearing shall be sent not more than thirty days after receipt of the application. In addition to such notice, (A) notice for a matter brought under sections 45a-667g to 45a-667o, inclusive, shall be given in the manner provided in section 45a-667n, and (B) notice for a matter brought under section 45a-667p shall be given in the manner provided in section 45a-667q.

(2) (A) The court shall direct that personal service of the citation be made, by a state marshal, constable or an indifferent person, upon the respondent and the respondent's spouse, if any, if the spouse is not the applicant. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subparagraph, in cases where the application is for involuntary representation pursuant to section 17b-456, and there is no spouse or the whereabouts of the spouse is unknown, the court shall order notice by certified mail to the children of the respondent and if none, the parents of the respondent and if none, the brothers and sisters of the respondent or their

representatives, and if none, the next of kin of such respondent. (B) Except for the respondent, if the address of any other person entitled to personal service is unknown, or if personal service or service at the person's usual place of abode cannot be reasonably effected within the state, or if the person is out of the state, the judge or the clerk of the court shall order notice be given by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by publication not less than ten days before the date of the hearing. Any such publication shall be in a newspaper of general circulation in the place of the last known address of the person to be notified, whether within or without this state, or if no such address is known, in the place where the petition has been filed.

(3) The court shall order such notice as it directs to the following: (A) The applicant; (B) the person in charge of welfare in the town where the respondent is domiciled or resident and, if there is no such person, the first selectman or chief executive officer of the town if the respondent is receiving assistance from the town; (C) the Commissioner of Social Services, if the respondent is in a state-operated institution or receiving aid, care or assistance from the state; (D) the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs if the respondent is receiving veterans' benefits or the Veterans Residential Services facility, or both, if the respondent is receiving aid or care from said facility, or both; (E) **[**the Commissioner of Administrative Services, if the respondent is receiving aid or care from the state; (F)**]** the children of the respondent and if none, the parents of the respondent and if none, the brothers and sisters of the respondent or their representatives and if none, the next of kin of the respondent; and **[**(G)**]** (F) the person in charge of the hospital, nursing home or some other institution, if the respondent is in a hospital, nursing home or some other institution.

(4) The court, in its discretion, may order such notice as it directs to other persons having an interest in the respondent and to such persons the respondent requests be notified.

(5) If personal service of the notice required in subsection (b) of this section is not made as required in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the court shall be deprived of jurisdiction over the application.

(b) The notice required by subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall specify (1) the nature of involuntary representation sought and the legal consequences thereof, (2) the facts alleged in the application, (3) the date, time and place of the hearing, and (4) that the respondent has a right to be present at the hearing and has a right to be represented by an attorney of the respondent's choice at the respondent's own expense. The notice shall also include a statement in boldface type of a minimum size of twelve points in substantially the following form:

"POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE APPOINTMENT

OF A CONSERVATOR FOR YOU

This court has received an application to appoint a conservator for you. A conservator is a court-appointed legal guardian who may be assigned important decision-making authority over your affairs. If the application is granted and a conservator is appointed for you, you will lose some of your rights.

A permanent conservator may only be appointed for you after a court hearing. You have the right to attend the hearing on the application for appointment of a permanent conservator. If you are not able to access the court where the hearing will be held, you may request that the hearing be moved to a convenient location, even to your place of residence.

You should have an attorney represent you at the hearing on the application. If you are unable to obtain an attorney to represent you at the hearing, the court will appoint an attorney for you. If you are unable to pay for representation by an attorney, the court will pay attorney fees

as permitted by the court's rules. Even if you qualify for payment of an attorney on your behalf, you may choose an attorney if the attorney will accept the attorney fees permitted by the court's rules.

If, after a hearing on the application, the court decides that you lack the ability to care for yourself, pay your bills or otherwise manage your affairs, the court may review any alternative plans you have to get assistance to handle your own affairs that do not require appointment of a conservator. If the court decides that there are no adequate alternatives to the appointment of a conservator, the court may appoint a conservator and assign the conservator responsibility for some or all of the duties listed below. While the purpose of a conservator is to help you, you should be aware that the appointment of a conservator limits your rights. Among the areas that may be affected are:

- Accessing and budgeting your money

- Deciding where you live

- Making medical decisions for you

- Paying your bills

- Managing your real and personal property

You may participate in the selection of your conservator. If you have already designated a conservator or if you inform the court of your choice for a conservator, the court must honor your request unless the court decides that the person designated by you is not appropriate.

The conservator appointed for you may be a lawyer, a public official or someone whom you did not know before the appointment. The conservator will be required to make regular reports to the court about you. The conservator may charge you a fee, under the supervision of the court, for being your conservator."

(c) Notice to all other persons required by this section shall only be required to state that involuntary representation is sought, the nature of the involuntary representation sought, the legal consequences of the involuntary representation and the date, time and place of the hearing on the application for involuntary representation.

(d) If the respondent is unable to request or obtain an attorney for any reason, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the respondent in any proceeding under this title involving the respondent. If the respondent is unable to pay for the services of such attorney, the reasonable compensation for such attorney shall be established by, and paid from funds appropriated to, the Judicial Department, except that if funds have not been included in the budget of the Judicial Department for such purposes, such compensation shall be established by the Probate Court Administrator and paid from the Probate Court Administration Fund.

(e) If the respondent notifies the court in any manner that the respondent wants to attend the hearing on the application but is unable to do so, the court shall schedule the hearing on the application at a place that would facilitate attendance by the respondent.

Sec. 81. Section 45a-652 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

In the case of any application for the appointment of a conservator of the estate, as said terms are defined in section 45a-644, and, in the case of any application for involuntary representation, as defined in subsection (d) of section 45a-644, the application shall state that the respondent, as defined in subsection (e) of section 45a-644, either is or is not, receiving such aid or care from the state, whichever is true. **[**, and a copy of each application which states the respondent is receiving such aid or care shall be sent by the court to the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in accordance with the provisions of

subsection (a) of section 45a-649 or section 45a-646, as the case may be.**]**

Sec. 82. Subsection (e) of section 45a-655 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(e) Upon application of a conservator of the estate, after a hearing with notice to the **[**Commissioner of Administrative Services, the**]** Commissioner of Social Services and to all parties who may have an interest as determined by the court, the court may authorize the conservator to make gifts or other transfers of income and principal from the estate of the conserved person in such amounts and in such form, outright or in trust, whether to an existing trust or a court-approved trust created by the conservator, as the court orders to or for the benefit of individuals, including the conserved person, and to or for the benefit of charities, trusts or other institutions described in Sections 2055(a) and 2522(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended. Such gifts or transfers shall be authorized only if the court finds that: (1) In the case of individuals not related to the conserved person by blood or marriage, the conserved person had made a previous gift to that unrelated individual prior to being declared incapable; (2) in the case of a charity, either (A) the conserved person had made a previous gift to such charity, had pledged a gift in writing to such charity, or had otherwise demonstrated support for such charity prior to being declared incapable; or (B) the court determines that the gift to the charity is in the best interests of the conserved person, is consistent with proper estate planning, and there is no reasonable objection by a party having an interest in the conserved person's estate as determined by the court; (3) the estate of the conserved person and any proposed trust of which the conserved person is a beneficiary is more than sufficient to carry out the duties of the conservator as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, both for the present and

foreseeable future, including due provision for the continuing proper care, comfort and maintenance of such conserved person in accordance with such conserved person's established standard of living and for the support of persons the conserved person is legally obligated to support; (4) the purpose of the gifts is not to diminish the estate of the conserved person so as to qualify the conserved person for federal or state aid or benefits; and (5) in the case of a conserved person capable of making an informed decision, the conserved person has no objection to such gift. The court shall give consideration to the following: (A) The medical condition of the conserved person, including the prospect of restoration to capacity; (B) the size of the conserved person's estate; (C) the provisions which, in the judgment of the court, such conserved person would have made if such conserved person had been capable, for minimization of income and estate taxes consistent with proper estate planning; and (D) in the case of a trust, whether the trust should be revocable or irrevocable, existing or created by the conservator and court approved. The court should also consider the provisions of an existing estate plan, if any. In the case of a gift or transfer in trust, any transfer to a court-approved trust created by the conservator shall be subject to continuing probate court jurisdiction in the same manner as a testamentary trust including periodic rendering of accounts pursuant to section 45a-177. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the court may authorize the creation and funding of a trust that complies with section 1917(d)(4) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(d)(4), as from time to time amended. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to validate or invalidate any gifts made by a conservator of the estate prior to October 1, 1998.

Sec. 83. Section 112 of public act 23-205 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 84. Section 4a-57e of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 85. Section 32-7h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established an account to be known as the "small business express assistance account" which will be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Repayment of principal and interest on loans shall be credited to such fund and shall become part of the assets of the fund. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Department of Economic and Community Development for (1) the purposes of the Small Business Express program established pursuant to section 32-7g, and (2) the purposes enumerated in sections 32-39f and 32-39g. Except as provided in subsection (d) of section 32-7g, all moneys received for the purposes of the Small Business Express program and payments of principal and interest on any loans given under said program shall be credited to the account.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of section 32-7g, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may provide for the payment of any administrative expenses or other costs incurred by the department or its lender partners in carrying out the purposes of (1) the Small Business Express program, or (2) the purposes enumerated in, or any programs established pursuant to, sections 32-39f and 32-39g, not to exceed five per cent of funding **[**from this program**]** provided for such programs or for such enumerated purposes, from the account established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided one per cent shall be dedicated to develop capacity for capital construction projects for minority business enterprises.

Sec. 86. Subsection (b) of section 32-39f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) The department may use any funds available in the CTNext Fund

established under section 32-39i and the small business express assistance account established under section 32-7h for the following purposes:

(1) To foster and oversee the growth and continuous improvement of a state-wide entrepreneurial ecosystem and infrastructure that is supportive of Connecticut innovators and entrepreneurs and to initiate changes to practices that the commissioner deems to be outdated to improve such ecosystem and infrastructure;

(2) To maintain an active and conspicuous presence at all nodes of such ecosystem and infrastructure and continuously increase connections between such nodes;

(3) To regularly reassess the health of such ecosystem and infrastructure, identify their changing needs, adopt initiatives or adapt existing initiatives to meet such needs and regularly inform the General Assembly of such needs by proposing recommended legislation deemed necessary or desirable by the commissioner;

(4) To support the growth of start-up and growth stage businesses;

(5) To promote entrepreneur community-building;

(6) To connect start-up and growth stage business entrepreneurs with other start-up and growth stage business entrepreneurs and with state, federal and private resources;

(7) To facilitate the establishment of innovation places and incubator facilities and the development, growth and evolution of innovation places and incubator facilities individually and in mutually supportive connections to other innovation places and incubator facilities;

(8) To facilitate mentorship for start-up and growth stage business entrepreneurs;

(9) To provide technical training and resources to start-up and growth stage businesses and entrepreneurs;

(10) To facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship at institutions of higher education; and

(11) To identify areas in which current practices and policies at such institutions of higher education are not realizing their full potential.

Sec. 87. Section 32-39g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

For the purposes enumerated in subsection (b) of section 32-39f, the commissioner may:

(1) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of the commissioner's duties and the execution of the commissioner's powers under this section, including contracts and agreements for such professional services as the commissioner deems necessary, including, but not limited to, financial consultant and technical specialists;

(2) Account for and audit funds of the department and funds of any recipients of funds from the department;

(3) Establish advisory committees to provide counsel and advice on the discharge of the commissioner's duties under this section;

(4) Serve as a resource to start-up and growth stage business entrepreneurs in this state by (A) providing counseling and technical assistance in the areas of entrepreneurial business planning and management, financing and marketing for start-up and growth stage businesses; and (B) conducting business workshops, seminars and conferences with local partners, including, but not limited to, in-state public and independent institutions of higher education, municipal

governments, regional economic development districts, private industry, chambers of commerce, small business development organizations and economic development organizations;

(5) Facilitate partnerships between innovative start-up and growth stage businesses, research institutions and venture capitalists or financial institutions;

(6) Increase the quantity and availability of capital for start-up and growth stage businesses and entrepreneurs including, but not limited to, angel investors and venture capitalists;

(7) Promote technology-based development in the state;

(8) Encourage and promote the establishment of and, within available resources, provide financial aid to advanced technology centers;

(9) Maintain an inventory of data and information concerning state and federal programs that are related to the purposes of this section and serve as a clearinghouse and referral service for such data and information;

(10) Promote and encourage and, within available resources, provide financial aid for the establishment, maintenance and operation of incubator facilities and innovation places;

(11) Promote and encourage the coordination of public and private resources and activities within the state in order to assist technology-based business entrepreneurs and business enterprises;

(12) Promote science, engineering, mathematics and other disciplines that are essential to the development and application of technology;

(13) Coordinate the department's efforts with existing business outreach centers, as described in section 32-9qq;

(14) Provide financial aid to persons developing smart buildings, as defined in section 32-23d, incubator facilities or other information technology intensive office and laboratory space;

(15) Coordinate the development and implementation of strategies regarding technology-based talent and innovation among state and quasi-public agencies, including the creation and administration of the Connecticut Small Business Innovation Research Office to act as a centralized clearinghouse and provide technical assistance to applicants in developing small business innovation research programs in conformity with the federal program established pursuant to the Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of 1992, P.L. 102-564, as amended from time to time, and other proposals;

(16) Encourage the retention of younger generation start-up entrepreneurs in the state;

(17) Promote entrepreneurship among students, faculty and alumni of institutions of higher education;

(18) Make planning grants to entities seeking to apply for innovation place designation pursuant to section 32-39*l*, provided each such entity demonstrates that its proposed innovation place meets the purposes set forth in section 32-39k;

(19) Encourage and promote the establishment of business accelerators;

(20) Make higher education entrepreneurship grants-in-aid recommended by the Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee pursuant to section 32-39t;

(21) Implement the provisions of section 32-39x;

(22) Designate innovation places pursuant to sections 32-39k to 32-

39m, inclusive;

(23) Establish a program to provide growth grants-in-aid to businesses in this state for the purposes of facilitating the growth of start-up businesses that have transitioned to growth stage businesses. The department shall establish an application process for such grants-in-aid and shall prioritize such grants-in-aid for uses most likely to facilitate the growth of such businesses, including, but not limited to, sales assistance, marketing, strategy, organizational development, technology assistance, bid assistance, beta testing of products for new purchasers and prototype development. Such grants-in-aid shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars per applicant and shall be conditioned upon a one-third match from the applicant; **[**and**]**

(24) Provide grants-in-aid for the purposes enumerated in section 32-39f; and

[(24)**]** (25) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this section and the powers expressly granted by this section.

Sec. 88. Section 2-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[(a) On or before the twenty-fifth day of each month, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall submit to the Governor, the Comptroller and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, through the Legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis, a list of appropriation accounts in which a potential deficiency exists. Such list shall be accompanied by a statement which explains the reasons for each such potential deficiency.

(b)**]** On the day the Governor submits a budget document to the General Assembly, or a report on the status of the budget enacted in the

previous year, pursuant to section 4-71, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall submit to the Treasurer and **[**said**]** the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, through the Office of Fiscal Analysis, any items to be included in a deficiency bill, which may be passed by the General Assembly to pay expenses of the current fiscal year of the biennium. Each such item shall be accompanied by a statement which explains the need for a deficiency appropriation. Any agency which has an item to be included in the deficiency bill shall, on such day, submit a report to said joint standing committee, through the Office of Fiscal Analysis, concerning any steps taken by the agency to reduce or eliminate the deficiency.

Sec. 89. Section 2-36b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No later than December fifteenth each year, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding shall meet with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the director of the legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis, and such other persons as they deem appropriate, to consider the items submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) On or before November twentieth, annually, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the director of the legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis shall each submit the following to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding: (1) For the current biennium and the next ensuing three fiscal years, a consensus estimate of state revenues developed in accordance with subsection (a) of section 2-36c, an estimate of the level of expenditure change from current year expenditures allowable by consensus revenue estimates in each fund,

any changes to current year expenditures necessitated by fixed cost drivers, and the aggregate changes to current year expenditures required to accommodate fixed cost drivers without exceeding current revenue estimates; (2) the projected tax credits to be used in the current biennium and the next ensuing three fiscal years, and the assumptions on which such projections are based; (3) a summary of any estimated deficiencies in the current fiscal year, the reasons for such deficiencies, and the assumptions upon which such estimates are based; (4) the projected balance in the Budget Reserve Fund at the end of each uncompleted fiscal year of the current biennium and the next ensuing three fiscal years; (5) the projected bond authorizations, allocations and issuances in each of the next ensuing five fiscal years and their impact on the debt service of the major funds of the state; (6) an analysis of revenue and expenditure trends and of the major cost drivers affecting state spending, including identification of any areas of concern and efforts undertaken to address such areas, including, but not limited to, efforts to obtain federal funds; and (7) an analysis of possible uses of surplus funds, including, but not limited to, the Budget Reserve Fund, debt retirement and funding of pension liabilities. For purposes of this section, "fixed cost drivers" may include costs related to debt service, pension contributions, retiree health care, entitlement programs and federal mandates.

[(c) On or before November 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall submit to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding for the biennium commencing July 1, 2011, and each biennium thereafter, a summary in electronic database format of all nonappropriated moneys held by each budgeted agency, which shall be an accounting of moneys received or held by the agency that are authorized or received by any manner other than as an appropriation, at the end of the last-completed fiscal year in a form

consistent with accepted accounting practice.**]**

Sec. 90. Section 4-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The budget document shall present in detail for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium the Governor's recommendation for appropriations to meet the expenditure needs of the state from the General Fund and from all special and agency funds classified by budgeted agencies and showing for each budgeted agency and its subdivisions: (1) A narrative summary describing the agency, the Governor's recommendations for appropriations for the agency, **[**and a list of agency programs,**]** the actual expenditure for the last-completed fiscal year, the estimated expenditure for the current fiscal year, the amount requested by the agency and the Governor's recommendations for appropriations for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium; (2) a summary of permanent full-time positions by fund, setting forth the number filled and the number vacant as of the end of the last-completed fiscal year, the total number intended to be funded by appropriations without reduction for turnover for the fiscal year in progress, the total number requested and the total number recommended for each fiscal year of the biennium to which the budget relates.

[(b) In addition, programs shall be supported by: (1) The statutory authorization for the program; (2) a statement of program objectives; (3) a description of the program, including a statement of need, eligibility requirements and any intergovernmental participation in the program; (4) a statement of performance measures by which the accomplishments toward the program objectives can be assessed, which shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the workload, quality or level of service and effectiveness of the program; (5) program budget data broken down by major object of expenditure, showing additional federal and private funds; (6) a summary of permanent full-time positions by fund, setting forth the number filled and the number vacant as of the end of the last-

completed fiscal year, the total number intended to be funded by appropriations without reduction for turnover for the fiscal year in progress, the total number requested and the total number recommended for each fiscal year of the biennium to which the budget relates; (7) a statement of expenditures for the last-completed and current fiscal years, the agency request and the Governor's recommendation for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium and, for any new or expanded program, estimated expenditure requirements for the fiscal year next succeeding the biennium to which the budget relates; and (8) an explanation of any significant program changes requested by the agency or recommended by the Governor.

(c) There shall be a supporting schedule of total agency expenditures including a line-item, minor object breakdown of personal services, energy costs, contractual services and commodities and a total of state aid grants and equipment, showing the actual expenditures for the last-completed fiscal year, estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and requested and recommended appropriations for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium, classified by objects according to a standard plan of classification.**]**

[(d)**]** (b) All federal funds expended or anticipated for any purpose shall be accounted for in the budget. The document shall set forth a listing of federal programs, showing the actual expenditures for the last-completed fiscal year, estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and anticipated funds available for expenditure for each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium. Such federal funds shall be classified by each budgeted agency but shall not include research grants made to educational institutions.

[(e)**]** (c) The budget document shall also set forth the budget recommendations for the capital program, to be supported by statements listing the agency's requests and the Governor's recommendations with the statements required by section 4-78.

[(f)**]** (d) The appropriations recommended for the legislative branch of the state government shall be the estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management by the Joint Committee on Legislative Management pursuant to section 4-77 and the recommended adjustments and revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, transmitted by said committee pursuant to said section. **[**4-77.**]**

[(g)**]** (e) (1) The appropriations recommended for the Judicial Department shall be the estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management by the Chief Court Administrator pursuant to section 4-77 plus the estimates of expenditure requirements for the biennium transmitted by said administrator pursuant to section 51-47c, and the recommended adjustments and revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, transmitted by said administrator pursuant to section 4-77.

(2) The appropriations recommended for the Division of Public Defender Services shall be the estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management by the Chief Public Defender pursuant to section 4-77 and the recommended adjustments and revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, transmitted by said administrator pursuant to section 4-77.

Sec. 91. Subsection (c) of section 4-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The administrative head of each budgeted agency shall transmit, to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, copies of the agency's monthly (1) financial status report, and (2) personnel status report. **[**, and (3)

nonappropriated moneys status report which shall be an accounting of moneys received or held by the agency that are authorized or received by any manner other than as an appropriation. Such accounting of nonappropriated moneys shall include, at a minimum, an assessment of the status of any agency fund or account of such agency receiving or holding such moneys. Such assessments of such funds and accounts shall, at a minimum, account for all expenditures, encumbrances, liabilities, reimbursements and revenues.**]**

Sec. 92. Subsection (b) of section 4-68m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The division shall promote a more effective and cohesive state criminal justice system by:

(1) Conducting an in-depth analysis of the criminal justice system;

(2) Determining the long-range needs of the criminal justice system and recommending policy priorities for the system;

(3) Identifying critical problems in the criminal justice system and recommending strategies to solve those problems;

(4) Assessing the cost-effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the criminal justice system;

(5) Recommending means to improve the deterrent and rehabilitative capabilities of the criminal justice system;

(6) Advising and assisting the General Assembly in developing plans, programs and proposed legislation for improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system;

(7) Making computations of daily costs and comparing interagency costs on services provided by agencies that are a part of the criminal

justice system;

[(8) Reviewing the program inventories and cost-benefit analyses submitted pursuant to section 4-68s and considering incorporating such inventories and analyses in its budget recommendations to the General Assembly;**]**

[(9)**]** (8) Making population computations for use in planning for the long-range needs of the criminal justice system;

[(10)**]** (9) Determining long-range information needs of the criminal justice system and acquiring that information;

[(11)**]** (10) Cooperating with the Office of the Victim Advocate by providing information and assistance to the office relating to the improvement of crime victims' services;

[(12)**]** (11) Serving as the liaison for the state to the United States Department of Justice on criminal justice issues of interest to the state and federal government relating to data, information systems and research;

[(13)**]** (12) Measuring the success of community-based services and programs in reducing recidivism;

[(14)**]** (13) Developing and implementing a comprehensive reentry strategy as provided in section 18-81w; and

[(15)**]** (14) Engaging in other activities consistent with the responsibilities of the division.

Sec. 93. Section 4-68r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

For purposes of this section: **[**and sections 4-68s and 4-77c:**]**

(1) "Cost-beneficial" means the cost savings and benefits realized over a reasonable period of time are greater than the costs of implementation;

(2) "Program inventory" means the (A) compilation of the complete list of all agency programs and activities; (B) identification of those that are evidence-based, research-based and promising; and (C) inclusion of program costs and utilization data;

(3) "Evidence-based" describes a program that (A) incorporates methods demonstrated to be effective for the intended population through scientifically based research, including statistically controlled evaluations or randomized trials; (B) can be implemented with a set of procedures to allow successful replication in the state; (C) achieves sustained, desirable outcomes; and (D) when possible, has been determined to be cost-beneficial;

(4) "Research-based" describes a program or practice that has some research demonstrating effectiveness, such as one tested with a single randomized or statistically controlled evaluation, but does not meet all of the criteria of an evidence-based program; and

(5) "Promising" describes a program or practice that, based on statistical analyses or preliminary research, shows potential for meeting the evidence-based or research-based criteria.

Sec. 94. Sections 2-33b, 4-68s, 4-77c, 4-85d and 4-95b of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 95. Subsection (b) of section 10a-154e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing **[**committee**]** committees

of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies 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 commissioner.

Sec. 96. Section 4-67z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

[(a)**]** The Chief Data Officer, in consultation with the Attorney General and executive branch agency legal counsel, shall review the legal obstacles to the sharing of high value data of executive branch agencies, inventoried pursuant to section 4-67p, **[**among**]** with executive branch agencies and **[**with**]** the public.

[(b) Not later than January 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Chief Data Officer shall submit a report, developed in consultation with the Attorney General, agency data officers and executive branch agency legal counsel, that includes any recommendations on (1) methods to facilitate the sharing of such high value data to the extent permitted under state and federal law, including, but not limited to, the preparation and execution of memoranda of understanding among executive branch agencies, and (2) any necessary legislation, to the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Concomitantly, the Chief Data Officer shall post each such report on the Office of Policy and Management's Internet web site.

(c) The report submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section

shall be consistent with the state data plan, created under section 4-67p. The Chief Data Officer shall update such report annually with additional information concerning the sharing of high value data and any additional recommendations, including any potential fiscal impact of any recommendations.**]**

Sec. 97. Subsection (b) of section 8-395a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*):

(b) There is established a workforce housing opportunity development program to be administered by the Department of Housing under which individuals or entities who make cash contributions to an eligible developer for an eligible workforce housing opportunity development project located in a federally designated opportunity zone may be allowed a credit against the tax due under chapter 208 or 229 in an amount equal to **[**the amount specified by the commissioner under this section**]** fifty per cent of the cash contribution. Any developer of a workforce housing opportunity development project shall be allowed an exemption from any fees under section 29-263 and any eligible workforce housing opportunity development project shall be assessed using the capitalization of net income method under subsection (b) of section 12-63b.

Sec. 98. Subsection (p) of section 3-20j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(p) (1) Prior to July 1, **[**2025**]** 2027, net earnings of investments of proceeds of bonds issued pursuant to section 3-20 or pursuant to this section and accrued interest on the issuance of such bonds and premiums on the issuance of such bonds shall be deposited to the credit of the General Fund, after (A) payment of any expenses incurred by the

Treasurer or State Bond Commission in connection with such issuance, or (B) application to interest on bonds, notes or other obligations of the state.

(2) On and after July 1, **[**2025**]** 2027, notwithstanding subsection (f) of section 3-20, (A) net earnings of investments of proceeds of bonds issued pursuant to section 3-20 or pursuant to this section and accrued interest on the issuance of such bonds shall be deposited to the credit of the General Fund, and (B) premiums, net of any original issue discount, on the issuance of such bonds shall, after payment of any expenses incurred by the Treasurer or State Bond Commission in connection with such issuance, be deposited at the direction of the Treasurer to the credit of an account or fund to fund all or a portion of any purpose or project authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to any bond act up to the amount authorized by the State Bond Commission, provided the bonds for such purpose or project are unissued, and provided further the certificate of determination the Treasurer files with the secretary of the State Bond Commission for such authorized bonds sets forth the amount of the deposit applied to fund each such purpose and project. Upon such filing, the Treasurer shall record bonds in the amount of net premiums credited to each purpose and project as set forth in the certificate of determination of the Treasurer as deemed issued and retired and the Treasurer shall not thereafter exercise authority to issue bonds in such amount for such purpose or project. Upon such recording by the Treasurer, such bonds shall be deemed to have been issued, retired and no longer authorized for issuance or outstanding for the purposes of section 3-21, and for the purpose of aligning the funding of such authorized purpose and project with amounts generated by net premiums, but shall not constitute an actual bond issuance or bond retirement for any other purposes including, but not limited to, financial reporting purposes.

Sec. 99. Subdivision (1) of section 1-120 of the general statutes is

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

(1) "Quasi-public agency" means Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Connecticut Housing Authority, the MIRA Dissolution Authority, the Capital Region Development Authority, the Connecticut Lottery Corporation, the Connecticut Airport Authority, the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, the Connecticut Green Bank, the Connecticut Port Authority, the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority, the State Education Resource Center and the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority.

Sec. 100. Section 1-124 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Connecticut Housing Authority, the MIRA Dissolution Authority, the Connecticut Airport Authority, the Capital Region Development Authority, the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, the Connecticut Green Bank, the Connecticut Port Authority, the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority and the State Education Resource Center shall not borrow any money or issue any bonds or notes which are guaranteed by the state of Connecticut or for which there is a capital reserve fund of any kind which is in any way contributed to or guaranteed by the state of Connecticut until and unless such borrowing or issuance is approved by the State Treasurer or the Deputy State Treasurer appointed pursuant to section 3-12. The

approval of the State Treasurer or said deputy shall be based on documentation provided by the authority that it has sufficient revenues to (1) pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and notes issued, (2) establish, increase and maintain any reserves deemed by the authority to be advisable to secure the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, (3) pay the cost of maintaining, servicing and properly insuring the purpose for which the proceeds of the bonds and notes have been issued, if applicable, and (4) pay such other costs as may be required.

(b) To the extent Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Connecticut Housing Authority, the MIRA Dissolution Authority, the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the Connecticut Airport Authority, the Capital Region Development Authority, the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, the Connecticut Green Bank, the Connecticut Port Authority, the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority or the State Education Resource Center is permitted by statute and determines to exercise any power to moderate interest rate fluctuations or enter into any investment or program of investment or contract respecting interest rates, currency, cash flow or other similar agreement, including, but not limited to, interest rate or currency swap agreements, the effect of which is to subject a capital reserve fund which is in any way contributed to or guaranteed by the state of Connecticut, to potential liability, such determination shall not be effective until and unless the State Treasurer or his or her deputy appointed pursuant to section 3-12 has approved such agreement or agreements. The approval of the State Treasurer or his or her deputy shall be based on documentation provided by the authority that it has sufficient revenues to meet the financial obligations associated with the agreement or agreements.

Sec. 101. Section 1-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The directors, officers and employees of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Connecticut Housing Authority, the MIRA Dissolution Authority, including ad hoc members of the MIRA Dissolution Authority, the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the Capital Region Development Authority, the Connecticut Airport Authority, the Connecticut Lottery Corporation, the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, the Connecticut Green Bank, the Connecticut Port Authority, the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority, the State Education Resource Center, the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority and the Connecticut Pilot Commission and any person executing the bonds or notes of the agency shall not be liable personally on such bonds or notes or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance thereof, nor shall any director or employee of the agency, including ad hoc members of the MIRA Dissolution Authority, be personally liable for damage or injury, not wanton, reckless, wilful or malicious, caused in the performance of his or her duties and within the scope of his or her employment or appointment as such director, officer or employee, including ad hoc members of the MIRA Dissolution Authority. The agency shall protect, save harmless and indemnify its directors, officers or employees, including ad hoc members of the MIRA Dissolution Authority, from financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, if any, arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of alleged negligence or alleged deprivation of any person's civil rights or any other act or omission resulting in damage or injury, if the director, officer or employee, including ad hoc members of the MIRA Dissolution Authority, is found to have been acting in the discharge of his or her

duties or within the scope of his or her employment and such act or omission is found not to have been wanton, reckless, wilful or malicious.

Sec. 102. Section 8-169hh of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

For purposes of this section and sections 8-169ii to 8-169vv, inclusive:

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

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

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

(4) **[**"Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority development district"**]** "Connecticut Municipal Development 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**]** Development 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**]** or the town of East Hartford;

(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**]** Development 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. 103. Subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of section 8-169ii of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) There is hereby established and created a body politic and corporate, constituting a public instrumentality and political subdivision of the state established and created for the performance of an essential public and governmental function, to be known as the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority. The authority shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the state.

(b) The powers of the authority shall be vested in and exercised by a board of directors, which shall consist of the following members: (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who has expertise in housing development; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate who has expertise in planning and zoning; (3) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who is a certified planner; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who has expertise in transit-oriented development; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who has expertise in regional planning; (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who has expertise in economic development; (7) three appointed by the Governor; and (8) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Labor Commissioner and the Commissioners of Transportation, Energy and Environmental Protection, Public Health, Housing and Economic and Community Development, or their designees, who shall serve as ex-officio, voting

members of the board.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chairperson of the board from among the members. All initial appointments shall be made not later than sixty days after October 1, 2023. All members shall be appointed by the original appointing authority for four-year terms. Any member of the board shall be eligible for reappointment. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term. The appointing authority for any member may remove such member for misfeasance, malfeasance or wilful neglect of duty.

(d) Each member of the board, before commencing such member's duties, shall take and subscribe the oath or affirmation required by section 1 of article eleventh of the Constitution of the state. A record of each such oath shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the State.

(e) The board of directors shall maintain a record of its proceedings in such form as it determines, provided such record indicates attendance and all votes cast by each member. 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 from the board. A majority of the members of the board then in office shall constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote by a majority of the members present at a meeting of the board shall be sufficient for any action taken by the board. No vacancy in the membership of the board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the board. Any action taken by the board may be authorized by resolution at any regular or special meeting and shall take effect immediately unless otherwise provided in the resolution. The board may delegate to three or more of its members, or its officers, agents or employees, such board powers and duties as it may deem proper.

(f) The board of directors shall annually elect one of its members as a vice-chairperson, and shall elect other of its members as officers, adopt a budget and bylaws, designate an executive committee, report semiannually to the appointing authorities with respect to operations, finances and achievement of its economic development objective, be accountable to and cooperate with the state whenever the state may audit the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority or an authority development project or at any other time as the state may inquire as to either, including allowing the state reasonable access to any such project and to the records of the authority.

Sec. 104. Section 8-169jj of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The purposes of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority shall be to: (1) Stimulate economic and transit-oriented development, as defined in section 13b-79kk, within Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority development districts; (2) encourage residential housing development within development districts; (3) manage facilities through contractual agreement or other legal instrument; (4) stimulate new investment within development districts and provide support for the creation of vibrant, multidimensional downtowns; (5) upon request of the legislative body of a member municipality, or the legislative bodies of the municipalities constituting a joint member entity, as applicable, in which a development district is located, work with such municipality or municipalities to assist in development and redevelopment efforts to stimulate the economy of such municipality or municipalities; (6) upon request of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and with the approval of the chief executive officer of a member municipality, or the chief executive officers of the municipalities constituting a joint member entity, as applicable, in which a development district is located, enter into an agreement to facilitate

development or redevelopment within such development district; (7) encourage development and redevelopment of property within development districts; (8) engage residents of member municipalities, or municipalities constituting a joint member entity, as applicable, and other stakeholders in development and redevelopment efforts; (9) market and develop development districts as vibrant and multidimensional; and (10) provide financial support and technical assistance to municipalities to develop housing growth zones.

(b) For the purposes enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, the authority is authorized and empowered to:

(1) Have perpetual succession as a body politic and corporate and to adopt procedures for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business, as provided in section 8-169kk;

(2) Adopt a corporate seal and alter the same at pleasure;

(3) Maintain an office at such place or places as it may designate;

(4) Sue and be sued in its own name, plead and be impleaded;

(5) Contract and be contracted with;

(6) (A) Employ such assistants, agents and other employees as may be necessary or desirable to carry out its purposes, which employees shall be exempt from the classified service and shall not be employees, as defined in subsection (b) of section 5-270; (B) establish all necessary or appropriate personnel practices and policies, including those relating to hiring, promotion, compensation, retirement and collective bargaining, which need not be in accordance with chapter 68. For the purposes of this subdivision, the authority shall not be an employer as defined in subsection (a) of section 5-270, and for the purposes of group welfare benefits and retirement, including, but not limited to, those provided under chapter 66 and sections 5-257 and 5-259, the officers and

all other employees of the authority shall be state employees; and (C) engage consultants, attorneys and appraisers as may be necessary or desirable to carry out its purposes in accordance with sections 8-169ii to 8-169ss, inclusive;

(7) Acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of personal property, and lease, convey or deal in or enter into agreements with respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to carrying out the purposes set forth in this section;

(8) Procure insurance against any liability or loss in connection with its property and other assets, in such amounts and from such insurers as it deems desirable and procure insurance for employees;

(9) Invest any funds not needed for immediate use or disbursement in obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States or the state, including the Short Term Investment Fund, and in other obligations that are legal investments for savings banks in this state, and in-time deposits or certificates of deposit or other similar banking arrangements secured in such manner as the authority determines;

(10) Enter into such memoranda of agreement as the authority deems appropriate to carry out its responsibilities under this section; and

(11) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of, and the powers expressly granted by, this section.

(c) In addition to the powers enumerated in subsection (b) of this section, the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority shall have the following powers with respect to authority development projects:

(1) (A) To acquire by gift, purchase, lease or transfer, lands or rights-in-land and to sell and lease or sublease, as lessor or lessee or sublessor or sublessee, any portion of its real property rights, including air space

above, and enter into related common area maintenance, easement, access, support and similar agreements, and own and operate facilities associated with authority development projects, provided such activity is consistent with all applicable federal tax covenants of the authority; (B) to transfer or dispose of any property or interest therein acquired by the authority at any time; and (C) to receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of money, labor, property or other thing of value, to be held, used and applied to carry out the purposes of this section, subject to the conditions upon which such grants and contributions are made, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants from any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or this state for any purpose consistent with this section, provided (i) the authority shall provide opportunity for public comment prior to any acquisition, transfer or disposal in accordance with this subdivision, and (ii) any land or right-in-land, aid or contribution received by the authority under this subdivision shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 10;

(2) To formulate plans for, acquire, finance and develop, lease, purchase, construct, reconstruct, repair, improve, expand, extend, operate, maintain and market facilities associated with authority development projects, provided such activities are consistent with all applicable federal tax covenants of the authority;

(3) To contract and be contracted with, provided if management, operating or promotional contracts or agreements or other contracts or agreements are entered into with nongovernmental parties with respect to property financed with the proceeds of obligations, the interest on which is excluded from gross income for federal income taxation, the board of directors shall ensure that such contracts or agreements are in compliance with the covenants of the authority upon which such tax exclusion is conditioned;

(4) To fix and revise, from time to time, and to charge and collect fees,

rents and other charges for the use, occupancy or operation of authority development projects, and to establish and revise from time to time procedures concerning the use, operation and occupancy of facilities associated with such projects, including parking rates, rules and procedures, provided such arrangements are consistent with all applicable federal tax covenants of the authority, and to utilize net revenues received by the authority from the operation of such facilities, after allowance for operating expenses and other charges related to the ownership, operation or financing thereof, for other proper purposes of the authority, including, but not limited to, funding of operating deficiencies or operating or capital replacement reserves for such facilities and related parking facilities, as determined to be appropriate by the authority;

(5) To engage architects, engineers, attorneys, accountants, consultants and such other independent professionals as may be necessary or desirable to carry out authority development projects;

(6) To contract for construction, development, concessions and the procurement of goods and services, and to establish and modify procurement procedures from time to time in accordance with the provisions of section 8-169kk to implement the foregoing;

(7) To borrow money and to issue bonds, notes and other obligations of the authority to the extent permitted under section 8-169oo, to fund and refund the same and to provide for the rights of the holders thereof and to secure the same by pledge of assets, revenues and notes;

(8) To do anything necessary and desirable, including executing reimbursement agreements or similar agreements in connection with credit facilities, including, but not limited to, letters of credit or policies of bond insurance, remarketing agreements and agreements for the purpose of moderating interest rate fluctuations, to render any bonds to be issued pursuant to section 8-169oo more marketable; and

(9) To engage in and contract for marketing and promotional activities for authority development projects under the operation or jurisdiction of the authority.

(d) The Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority and the Capital Region Development Authority, established pursuant to chapter 588x, may enter into a memorandum of agreement pursuant to which: (1) Administrative support and services, including all staff support necessary for the operations of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority may be provided by the Capital Region Development Authority, and (2) provision is made for the coordination of management and operational activities that may include: (A) Joint procurement and contracting; (B) the sharing of services and resources; (C) the coordination of promotional activities; and (D) other arrangements designed to enhance revenues, reduce operating costs or achieve operating efficiencies. The terms and conditions of such memorandum of agreement, including provisions with respect to the reimbursement by the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority to the Capital Region Development Authority of the costs of such administrative support and services, shall be as the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority and the Capital Region Development Authority determine to be appropriate.

(e) The authority shall have the power to negotiate, and, with the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, to enter into an agreement with any private developer, owner or lessee of any building or improvement located on land in a development district providing for payments to the authority in lieu of real property taxes. Such an agreement shall be made a condition of any private right of development within the development district, and shall include a requirement that such private developer, owner or lessee make good faith efforts to hire, or cause to be hired, available and qualified minority

business enterprises, as defined in section 4a-60g, to provide construction services and materials for improvements to be constructed within the development district in an effort to achieve a minority business enterprise utilization goal of ten per cent of the total costs of construction services and materials for such improvements. Such payments to the authority in lieu of real property taxes shall have the same lien and priority, and may be enforced by the authority in the same manner, as provided for municipal real property taxes. Such payments as received by the authority shall be used to carry out the purposes of the authority set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

(f) Nothing in sections 8-169ii to 8-169ss, inclusive, shall be construed as limiting the authority of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority to enter into agreements to facilitate development or redevelopment of municipal property or facilities.

Sec. 105. Section 8-169kk of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The board of directors of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority shall adopt written procedures, in accordance with the provisions of section 1-121, for: (1) Adopting an annual budget and plan of operations, which shall include a requirement of board approval before the budget or plan may take effect; (2) hiring, dismissing, promoting and compensating employees of the authority, which shall include an affirmative action policy and a requirement of board approval before a position may be created or a vacancy filled; (3) acquiring real and personal property and personal services, which shall include a requirement of board approval for any nonbudgeted expenditure in excess of ten thousand dollars; (4) contracting for financial, legal, bond underwriting and other professional services, including a requirement that the authority solicit proposals at least once every three years for each such service that it uses; (5) issuing and retiring bonds, notes and other obligations of the

authority; (6) providing loans, grants and other financial assistance, which shall include eligibility criteria, the application process and the role played by the authority's staff and board of directors; and (7) the use of surplus funds.

Sec. 106. Section 8-169*ll* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(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**]** the town of East Hartford, may, by certified resolution of the legislative body of the municipality, or by the board of selectmen in a municipality where the legislative body is the town meeting, opt to join the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority as a member municipality, provided such municipality holds a public hearing or otherwise provides for public comment prior to any vote on such certified resolution.

(2) Any municipality that opts to join the authority as a member municipality or that is deemed a member municipality pursuant to this subsection 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, except for the city of Hartford or the town of East Hartford, may, by certified concurrent resolutions of the legislative bodies of each such municipality, or by the board of selectmen in a municipality where the legislative body is the town meeting, together opt to join the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development 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 or otherwise provides for public comment 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) 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.

Sec. 107. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 8-169mm of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) In lieu of the report required under section 1-123, within the first ninety days of each fiscal year of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority, the board of directors of the authority shall submit a report to the Governor, the Auditors of Public Accounts and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A list of all bonds issued during the preceding fiscal year, including, for each such issue, the financial advisor and underwriters, whether the issue was competitive, negotiated or privately placed, and the issue's face value and net proceeds; (2) a description of each authority development project in which the authority is involved, its location and the amount of funds, if any, provided by the authority with respect to the construction of such project; (3) a list of all outside individuals and firms, including principal and other major stockholders, receiving in excess of five thousand dollars as payments for services; (4) an annual comprehensive financial report prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for governmental enterprises; (5) the cumulative value of all bonds issued, the value of outstanding bonds and the amount of the state's contingent liability; (6) the affirmative action policy adopted pursuant to section 8-169kk, a description of the composition of the workforce of the Connecticut Municipal

[Redevelopment**]** Development Authority by race, sex and occupation and a description of the affirmative action efforts of the authority; and (7) a description of planned activities for the current fiscal year.

(b) The board of directors of the authority shall annually contract with a person, firm or corporation for a compliance audit of the authority's activities during the preceding authority fiscal year. The audit shall determine whether the authority has complied with the authority's policies and procedures concerning affirmative action, personnel practices, the purchase of goods and services and the use of surplus funds. The board shall submit the audit report to the Governor, the Auditors of Public Accounts and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding.

(c) The board of directors of the authority shall annually contract with a firm of certified public accountants to undertake an independent financial audit of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The board shall submit the audit report to the Governor, the Auditors of Public Accounts and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding.

Sec. 108. Section 8-169nn of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person, including, but not limited to, a state or municipal agency, requesting funds from the state, including, but not limited to, any authority created by the general statutes or any public or special act, with respect to any authority development project shall, at the time it makes such request for funds from the state, present a full and complete copy of its application or request along with any supporting documents or exhibits to the authority for its recommendation and to the Secretary

of the Office of Policy and Management. The Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority shall, not later than ninety days after receipt of such application or request, prepare and adopt an economic development statement summarizing its recommendations with respect to such application or request and deliver such statement to the state officer, official, employee or agent of the state or authority to whom such application or request was made. The recommendations in such statement shall include contract provisions regarding performance standards, including, but not limited to, project timelines.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, public or special acts, any regulation or procedure or any other law, no officer, official, employee or agent of the state or any authority created by the general statutes or any public or special act shall expend any funds on any authority development project, unless such officer, official, employee or agent has received an economic development statement prepared by the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, except that if no such statement is received by the ninetieth day after the date of the initial application or request for such funds, such funds may be expended. If funds are expended pursuant to this subsection in a manner not consistent with the recommendations contained in an economic development statement for such expenditure, the officer, official, employee or agent of the state expending such funds shall respond in writing to the authority, providing an explanation of the decision with respect to such expenditure.

(c) The Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority shall coordinate the use of all state, municipal and quasi-public agency planning and financial resources that are made available for any authority development project in which the authority is involved, including any resources available from any quasi-public agency.

(d) All state agencies, departments, boards, commissions and councils and all quasi-public agencies shall cooperate with the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority in carrying out the purposes enumerated in section 8-169jj.

Sec. 109. Subsection (a) of section 8-169oo of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The board of directors of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority is authorized from time to time to issue its bonds, notes and other obligations in such principal amounts as in the opinion of the board shall be necessary to provide sufficient funds for carrying out the purposes set forth in section 8-169jj, including the payment, funding or refunding of the principal of, or interest or redemption premiums on, any bonds, notes and other obligations issued by it, whether the bonds, notes or other obligations or interest to be funded or refunded have or have not become due, the establishment of reserves to secure such bonds, notes and other obligations, loans made by the authority and all other expenditures of the authority incident to and necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes set forth in section 8-169jj.

Sec. 110. Section 8-169pp of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The state of Connecticut does hereby pledge to and agree with the holders of any bonds, notes and other obligations issued under section 8-169oo and with those parties who may enter into contracts with the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority or its successor agency, that the state will not limit or alter the rights hereby vested in the authority or in the holders of any bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority to which contract assistance is pledged pursuant to this section until such bonds, notes or obligations, together

with the interest thereon, are fully met and discharged and such contracts are fully performed on the part of the authority, provided nothing contained herein shall preclude such limitation or alteration if and when adequate provision shall be made by law for the protection of the holders of such bonds, notes and other obligations of the authority or those entering into contracts with the authority. The authority is authorized to include this pledge and undertaking for the state in such bonds, notes and other obligations or contracts.

Sec. 111. Subsection (a) of section 8-169qq 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, "required minimum capital reserve" means the maximum amount permitted to be deposited in a special capital reserve fund by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, to permit the interest on the bonds of the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority secured by such special capital reserve fund to be excluded from gross income for federal tax purposes.

Sec. 112. Subsection (b) of section 8-169tt of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) Notwithstanding section 8-169jj, prior to the execution of any memorandum of agreement that establishes a development district, any chief executive officer of a member municipality, or the chief executive officers of the municipalities constituting a joint member entity, shall create a proposal for a housing growth zone and submit such proposal, including proposed zoning regulations applicable to such zone, for the Connecticut Municipal **[**Redevelopment**]** Development Authority's review and approval.

Sec. 113. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 54-56q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(D) If the court finds that a person is indigent and unable to pay for the substance use treatment component of the program, the court may waive all or any portion of the program fee for that component and the costs of such treatment, provided that such person participates in such treatment at a substance use treatment provider licensed by and located in this state. If such person has health insurance coverage through private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, any eligible costs waived under this subparagraph shall be paid by such insurance for any covered benefit. Any costs waived under this subparagraph that are not covered by such person's private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, including, but not limited to, any copay, coinsurance, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense attributable to such person's private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, shall be paid by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Sec. 114. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 54-56r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(D) If the court finds that a person is indigent and unable to pay for the substance use treatment component of the program, the court may waive all or any portion of the program fee for that component and the costs of such treatment, provided that such person participates in such treatment at a substance use treatment provider licensed by and located in this state. If such person has health insurance coverage through private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, any eligible costs waived under this subparagraph shall be paid by such insurance for any covered benefit. Any costs waived under this subparagraph that are not covered by such person's private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, including, but not limited to, any copay, coinsurance,

deductible or other out-of-pocket expense attributable to such person's private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, shall be paid by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Sec. 115. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17a-674d of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established an Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee to ensure (1) that proceeds received by the state pursuant to section 17a-674c are allocated and spent on substance use disorder abatement infrastructure, programs, services, supports and resources for prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction, and (2) robust public involvement, accountability and transparency in allocating and accounting for the moneys in the fund.

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

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

(2) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

(3) The Commissioners of Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Public Health, or said commissioners' designees, who shall serve as ex-officio members;

(4) The president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, the minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Senate and House chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and public health, or their designees, provided such persons have experience living with a substance use disorder or are the

family member of a person who has experience living with a substance use disorder;

(5) **[**Twenty-three**]** Twenty-five individuals representing municipalities, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

(6) The executive director of the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health, or a representative of the commission designated by the executive director; and

(7) Eight individuals appointed by the commissioner as follows: (A) A provider of community-based substance use treatment services for adults, who shall be a nonvoting member; (B) a provider of community-based substance use treatment services for adolescents, who shall be a nonvoting member; (C) an addiction medicine licensed health care professional with prescribing ability, who shall be a nonvoting member; (D) three individuals with experience living with a substance use disorder or family members of an individual with experience living with a substance use disorder; and (E) two individuals with experience supporting infants and children affected by the opioid crisis.

Sec. 116. Subsection (c) of section 19a-906 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or title 20, no telehealth provider shall prescribe any schedule I, II or III controlled substance through the use of telehealth, except a schedule II or III controlled substance **[**other than an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o,**]** used (1) as part of medication-assisted treatment, or (2) for the treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities or substance use disorders, as defined in section 17a-458, provided such prescription is provided in a manner fully consistent with the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act, 21 USC 829(e), as amended from

time to time. **[**, for the treatment of a person with a psychiatric disability or substance use disorder, as defined in section 17a-458, including, but not limited to, medication-assisted treatment.**]** A telehealth provider using telehealth to prescribe a schedule II or III controlled substance pursuant to this subsection shall electronically submit the prescription pursuant to section 21a-249.

Sec. 117. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 17a-674h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(4) "Opioid drug" has the same meaning as provided in **[**42 CFR 8.2, as amended from time to time**]** section 20-14o;

Sec. 118. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 20-14o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(1) "Opioid drug" **[**has the same meaning as provided in 42 CFR 8.2**]** means "opioid", as defined in 21 USC 802, as amended from time to time;

Sec. 119. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 20-14r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(1) "Opioid drug" has the same meaning as provided in **[**42 CFR 8.2, as amended from time to time**]** section 20-14o;

Sec. 120. Subsection (a) of section 20-633d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A prescribing practitioner, as defined in section 20-14c, who is authorized to prescribe an opioid antagonist, as defined in section 17a-714a, and a pharmacy may enter into an agreement for a medical

protocol standing order at such pharmacy allowing a pharmacist licensed under part II of this chapter to dispense an opioid antagonist that is (1) administered by an intranasal application delivery system or an auto-injection delivery system, (2) approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, and (3) dispensed to any person at risk of experiencing an overdose of an opioid drug, as defined in **[**42 CFR 8.2**]** section 20-14o, or to a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an overdose of an opioid drug.

Sec. 121. Subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of section 7-395 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) The secretary shall refer to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission any municipality that has not been previously referred to said commission pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or section 7-576, 7-576a or 7-576c, provided the municipality has:

(1) A negative fund balance percentage;

(2) Reported a fund balance percentage of less than five per cent in the three immediately preceding fiscal years;

(3) Reported an operating deficit in the two immediately preceding fiscal years and a fund balance percentage of less than five per cent in the immediately preceding fiscal year, as determined by the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance of the general fund of the audited financial statements of the municipality;

(4) Issued tax or revenue anticipation notes in the three immediately preceding fiscal years to meet cash liquidity;

(5) Did not file an annual audit report in the twelve months after the end of the fiscal year;

(6) Reported an annual audit that included at least one material or significant audit finding that was reported in the annual audits of the two immediately preceding fiscal years; **[**or**]**

(7) Received a bond rating below A from a bond rating agency; or

(8) Been a distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p, for fifteen or more consecutive years, provided such municipality has a population of greater than fifteen thousand but less than twenty thousand, as determined by the most recent decennial census.

(e) The secretary may, at the secretary's discretion and based upon the review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, refer to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission any municipality that has not been previously referred to said commission pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or section 7-576, 7-576a or 7-576c.

(f) For the purposes of this section, "deficit", "fund balance" and "fund balance percentage" have the same meanings as provided in section 7-560.

Sec. 122. Section 7-576a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Municipal Finance Advisory Commission (1) shall designate as a tier I municipality, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, any municipality that has been a distressed municipality for fifteen or more consecutive years, provided such municipality has a population of greater than fifteen thousand but less than twenty thousand, as determined by the most recent decennial census, and (2) may designate any other municipality referred to said commission pursuant to subsection (d) of section 7-395 as a tier I municipality, based on an evaluation of such municipality's financial condition and financial practices. The chief elected official of any municipality that does not meet the conditions identified under subsection (d) of section 7-395 may

apply to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission for designation as a tier I municipality, provided such official **[**(1)**]** (A) expects that such municipality will meet one or more such conditions in the following twenty-four month period, and **[**(2)**]** (B) submits a report to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission, in a form and manner prescribed by the commission, that confirms that such condition or conditions will be met in such period. **[**Each decision to designate a municipality as a tier I municipality pursuant to this section shall be based on an evaluation of such municipality's financial condition and financial practices.**]** In addition to the requirements of section 7-394b, each municipality designated as a tier I municipality shall prepare and present a five-year financial plan to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission for its review and approval.

Sec. 123. Section 12-18b of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(NEW) (g) Any amount due under this section to a district, as defined in section 7-324, located wholly within the town of Windham, shall be paid to the town of Windham.

Sec. 124. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall convene an advisory committee to establish quantitative metrics, qualitative measures and an assessment methodology for an annual maternity care report card for birth centers, licensed pursuant to section 19a-566 of the general statutes, and hospitals, licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes, that provide obstetric care that will evaluate maternity care provided at such birth centers and hospitals. Such assessment methodology shall reflect disparities in obstetric care and outcomes across patient demographics using valid statistical principles and other widely accepted data science methodologies to ensure data sufficiency. The advisory committee shall include (1) at least one representative of (A) an association of hospitals in the state, (B) a medical society of physicians in the state, (C) a

professional membership organization for obstetrician-gynecologists, (D) a hospital in the state that has a significant percentage of high-risk births, (E) an independent hospital in the state that is not part of a multihospital health care system, (F) birth centers, and (G) an organization in the state established to promote equity and address health disparities for vulnerable communities through research, advocacy and culturally resonant services, and (2) a person with expertise in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191. Not later than February 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a 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 public health regarding the quantitative metrics, qualitative measures and an assessment methodology established by the advisory committee.

(b) On or after July 1, 2026, the commissioner shall establish an annual maternity care report card based on the quantitative metrics, qualitative measures and an assessment methodology established by the advisory committee. The commissioner shall identify and collect any available data necessary to complete such report card. Such report card shall include, but need not be limited to, quantitative metrics, qualitative measures based on patient-reported experiences and, to the extent recommended by the advisory committee, an equity assessment of care received by patients at each birth center and hospital disaggregated by race, ethnicity and income level. The commissioner shall adjust the report card based on factors identified by the advisory committee and the acuity level of obstetric patients served by each birth center and hospital to ensure fair comparisons between facilities. The commissioner shall post the report card not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, on the Department of Public Health's Internet web site. The commissioner shall, in consultation with the advisory committee, revise the report card criteria at least once every three years and may consult experts regarding the revision of any such criteria. The

report card shall comply with the Health Insurance and Portability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' cell suppression policy, or a stricter policy, with respect to any data made available to the public.

Sec. 125. Subsection (a) of section 32-605 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) In lieu of the report required under section 1-123, within the first **[**ninety**]** one hundred twenty days of each fiscal year of the Capital Region Development Authority, the board of directors of the authority shall submit a report to the Governor, the Auditors of Public Accounts and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A list of all bonds issued during the preceding fiscal year, including, for each such issue, the financial advisor and underwriters, whether the issue was competitive, negotiated or privately placed, and the issue's face value and net proceeds; (2) a description of the capital city project or any economic development project in the capital region in which the authority is involved, its location and the amount of funds, if any, provided by the authority with respect to the construction of such project; (3) a list of all outside individuals and firms, including principal and other major stockholders, receiving in excess of five thousand dollars as payments for services; (4) an annual comprehensive financial report prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for governmental enterprises; (5) the cumulative value of all bonds issued, the value of outstanding bonds and the amount of the state's contingent liability; (6) the affirmative action policy statement, a description of the composition of the work force of the authority by race, sex and occupation and a description of the affirmative action efforts of the authority; (7) a description of planned activities for the current fiscal

year; (8) a list of all private investments made or committed for commercial development within the capital city economic development district; and (9) an analysis of the authority's success in achieving the purposes stated in section 32-602.

Sec. 126. Section 32-610 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The exercise of the powers granted by section 32-602 constitute the performance of an essential governmental function and the Capital Region Development Authority shall not be required to pay any taxes or assessments upon or in respect of the convention center or the convention center project, as defined in section 32-600, or any land or improvements owned or leased by the authority, levied by any municipality or political subdivision or special district having taxing powers of the state and such project and the principal and interest of any bonds and notes issued under the provisions of section 32-607, their transfer and the income therefrom, including revenues derived from the sale thereof, shall at all times be free from taxation of every kind by the state of Connecticut or under its authority, except for estate or succession taxes but the interest on such bonds and notes shall be included in the computation of any excise or franchise tax. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the convention center and the related parking facilities owned by the authority shall be deemed to be state-owned real property for purposes of sections 12-18b and 12-19b and the state shall make grants in lieu of taxes with respect to the convention center and such related parking facilities to the municipality in which the convention center and such related parking facilities are located as otherwise provided in sections 12-18b and 12-19b and with respect to any land or improvements owned or leased by the authority not otherwise exempt from taxation.

Sec. 127. Section 21a-420f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

[(a) (1) There is established an account to be known as the "cannabis regulatory and investment account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Social Equity Council, as defined in section 21a-420, to state agencies for the purpose of paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA, as defined in section 21a-420.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 21a-420e, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the following shall be deposited in the cannabis regulatory and investment account: (A) All fees received by the state pursuant to section 21a-421b and subdivisions (1) to (11), inclusive, of subsection (c) of section 21a-420e; (B) the tax received by the state under section 12-330*ll*; and (C) the tax received by the state under chapter 219 from a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, as those terms are defined in section 12-330*ll*.

(3) At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, all moneys remaining in the cannabis regulatory and investment account shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(b) (1) There is established an account to be known as the "social equity and innovation account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account.

(A) During the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Social Equity Council, to state agencies for the purpose of (i) paying costs incurred by the Social Equity Council, (ii) administering programs under RERACA to provide (I) access to capital for businesses, (II) technical assistance for

the start-up and operation of a business, (III) funding for workforce education, and (IV) funding for community investments, and (iii) paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA.

(B) During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for purposes that the Social Equity Council determines, in the Social Equity Council's sole discretion, further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420, which purposes may include, but need not be limited to, providing (i) access to capital for businesses in any industry, (ii) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business in any industry, (iii) funding for workforce education in any industry, (iv) funding for community investments, and (v) funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 21a-420e and 21a-420o, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the following shall be deposited in the social equity and innovation account: All fees received by the state pursuant to sections 21a-420*l*, 21a-420o and 21a-420u and subdivisions (12) and (13) of subsection (c) of section 21a-420e.

(3) At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, five million dollars shall be transferred from the social equity and innovation account to the General Fund, or, if the account contains less than five million dollars, all remaining moneys in the account. At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, all remaining moneys in the account shall be transferred to the Social Equity and Innovation Fund established under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, there is established a fund to be known as the "Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund". The fund shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund

and shall be held by the Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Amounts in the fund may be expended only pursuant to appropriation by the General Assembly. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding. Moneys in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes of providing the following: Access to capital for businesses in any industry; technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business in any industry; funding for workforce education in any industry; funding for community investments; and paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA. All such appropriations shall be dedicated to expenditures that further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420.

(2) (A) For the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Social Equity Council shall transmit, for even-numbered years, estimates of expenditure requirements and for odd-numbered years, recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, of such estimates, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in the manner prescribed for a budgeted agency under subsection (a) of section 4-77.

(B) The Office of Policy and Management may not make adjustments to any such estimates or adjustments and revisions of such estimates transmitted by the council. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, the Governor shall not reduce the allotment requisitions or allotments in force pursuant to section 4-85 or make reductions in allotments in order to achieve budget savings in the General Fund, concerning any appropriations made by the General Assembly for the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(C) The estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted by the Social Equity Council to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall,

consistent with the requirements established in subsection (a) of section 4-77, include an estimate of the amount of funds required to be distributed among the permissible purposes for appropriations made from the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund as set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.**]**

(a) On and after July 1, 2025, there is established an account to be known as the "social equity and innovation account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for purposes that the Social Equity Council determines, in the Social Equity Council's sole discretion, further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420, which purposes may include, but need not be limited to, providing (1) access to capital for businesses in any industry, (2) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business in any industry, (3) funding for workforce education in any industry, (4) funding for community investments, and (5) funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

[(d)**]** (b) On and after July 1, 2022, there is established a fund to be known as the "Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund". The fund shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Amounts in the fund may be expended only pursuant to appropriation by the General Assembly. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding. Moneys in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes of (1) substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services, which may include, but need not be limited to, the (A) provision of youth cannabis use prevention services by the local advisory councils on drug use and prevention established by municipalities pursuant to subsection (a) of

Section 4126 of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1986, as amended from time to time, regional behavioral health action organizations described in section 17a-484f, or youth service bureaus established pursuant to section 10-19m, and (B) development of a public awareness campaign to raise awareness of the mental and physical health risks of youth cannabis use and cannabis use by pregnant persons, and (2) collection and analysis of data regarding substance use. The Social Equity Council may make recommendations to any relevant state agency regarding expenditures to be made for the purposes set forth in this subsection.

[(e)**]** (c) On and after July 1, 2023, there is established a fund to be known as the "Cannabis Regulatory Fund" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing fund. The fund shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Moneys in the fund shall be appropriated to state agencies for the purposes of paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA, as defined in section 21a-420.

Sec. 128. Section 12-330*ll* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section and sections 12-330mm and 12-330nn:

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

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

(3) "Cannabis edible product" means a product containing cannabis or cannabis concentrate, combined with other ingredients, that is intended for use or consumption through ingestion, including sublingual or oral absorption;

(4) "Cannabis plant material" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-279a;

(5) "Cannabis retailer" means "retailer", as defined in section 21a-420;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(14) "Palliative use" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408;

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

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

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

(18) "Social Equity Council" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(19) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240; and

(20) "Transporter" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420.

(b) (1) For the privilege of making any sales of cannabis in this state, a tax is hereby imposed on each cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator at the following rates:

(A) Cannabis plant material, at the rate of six hundred twenty-five-thousandths of one cent per milligram of total THC, as reflected on the product label;

(B) Cannabis edible products, at the rate of two and seventy-five-hundredths cents per milligram of total THC, as reflected on the product label; and

(C) Cannabis, other than cannabis plant material or cannabis edible products, at the rate of nine-tenths of one cent per milligram of total THC, as reflected on the product label.

(2) The tax under this section:

(A) Shall be collected from the consumer, except as provided under subparagraphs (B) and (D) of this subdivision, by the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator at the time of sale and such tax reimbursement, termed "tax" in this section, shall be paid by the consumer to the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator. Each cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator shall collect from the consumer the full amount of the tax imposed by this section or an amount equal to the average equivalent thereof to the nearest amount

practicable. Such tax shall be a debt from the consumer to the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, when so added to the original sales price, and shall be recoverable at law in the same manner as other debts except as provided in section 12-432a.

(B) Shall not apply to the sale of cannabis for palliative use;

(C) Shall not apply to the transfer of cannabis to a transporter for transport to any other cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, dispensary facility, cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or producer;

(D) Shall not apply to the sale of cannabis by a delivery service to a consumer;

(E) Shall be in addition to the taxes imposed under section 12-330mm and chapter 219; and

(F) When so collected, shall be deemed to be a special fund in trust for the state until remitted to the state.

(c) On or before the last day of each month in which a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator may legally sell cannabis other than cannabis for palliative use, each such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator shall file a return with the Department of Revenue Services. Such return shall be in such form and contain such information as the Commissioner of Revenue Services prescribes as necessary for administration of the tax under this section and shall be accompanied by a payment of the amount of the tax shown to be due thereon. Each cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer and micro-cultivator shall file such return electronically with the department and make such payment by electronic funds transfer in the manner provided by chapter 228g, to the extent possible.

(d) If any cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator fails to

pay the amount of tax reported due on its return within the time specified under this section, there shall be imposed a penalty equal to twenty-five per cent of such amount due and unpaid, or two hundred fifty dollars, whichever is greater. Such amount shall bear interest at the rate of one per cent per month or fraction thereof, from the due date of such tax until the date of payment. Subject to the provisions of section 12-3a, the commissioner may waive all or part of the penalties provided under this section when it is proven to the commissioner's satisfaction that the failure to pay any tax was due to reasonable cause and was not intentional or due to neglect. Any penalty that is waived shall be applied as a credit against tax liabilities owed by the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator.

(e) Each person, other than a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, who is required, on behalf of such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, to collect, truthfully account for and pay over a tax imposed on such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator under this section and who wilfully fails to collect, truthfully account for and pay over such tax or who wilfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the tax or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, be liable for a penalty equal to the total amount of the tax evaded, or not collected, or not accounted for and paid over, including any penalty or interest attributable to such wilful failure to collect or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or such wilful attempt to evade or defeat such tax, provided such penalty shall only be imposed against such person in the event that such tax, penalty or interest cannot otherwise be collected from such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator. The amount of such penalty with respect to which a person may be personally liable under this section shall be collected in accordance with the provisions of section 12-555a and any amount so collected shall be allowed as a credit against the amount of such tax, penalty or interest due and owing from the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator. The dissolution of

the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator shall not discharge any person in relation to any personal liability under this section for wilful failure to collect or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or for a wilful attempt to evade or defeat such tax prior to dissolution, except as otherwise provided in this section. For purposes of this section, "person" includes any individual, corporation, limited liability company or partnership and any officer or employee of any corporation, including a dissolved corporation, and a member of or employee of any partnership or limited liability company who, as such officer, employee or member, is under a duty to file a tax return under this section on behalf of a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator or to collect or truthfully account for and pay over a tax imposed under this section on behalf of such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator.

(f) The provisions of sections 12-548, 12-551 to 12-554, inclusive, and 12-555a shall apply to the provisions of this section in the same manner and with the same force and effect as if the language of said sections had been incorporated in full into this section and had expressly referred to the tax under this section, except to the extent that any provision is inconsistent with a provision in this section.

(g) The commissioner shall not issue a refund of any tax paid by a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator under this section.

(h) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section and sections 12-330mm and 12-330nn. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, prior to adopting any such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures, which shall have the force and effect of law, to implement the taxes imposed under this section and sections 12-330mm and 12-330nn. At least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure issued pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall post such policy or procedure on the

department's Internet web site and submit such policy or procedure to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 or forty-eight months of the effective date of this section, whichever is earlier.

(i) The tax received by the state under this section shall be deposited as follows:

(1) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, in the cannabis regulatory and investment account established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025;

(2) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, **[**and June 30, 2026,**]** sixty per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, and fifteen per cent in the General Fund;

(3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, sixty per cent of such tax received in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund established under section 21a-420f and fifteen per cent in the General Fund;

[(3)**]** (4) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2027, and June 30, 2028, sixty-five per cent of such tax received in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the

Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund established under section 21a-420f and ten per cent in the General Fund; and

[(4)**]** (5) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, and each fiscal year thereafter, seventy-five per cent of such tax received in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f and twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund established under section 21a-420f.

[(j) At the close of each fiscal year in which the tax imposed under the provisions of this section are received by the commissioner, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for such fiscal year the amounts of such tax that are received by the commissioner not later than five business days from the July thirty-first immediately following the end of such fiscal year.**]**

Sec. 129. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) After the accounts for the Social Equity and Innovation Fund, established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, have been closed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall transfer the balance remaining in said fund to the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes.

Sec. 130. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) At the close of each fiscal year in which the tax imposed under the provisions of section 12-330*ll* of the general statutes are received by the commissioner, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for such fiscal year the amounts of such tax that are received by the Commissioner of Revenue Services not later than five business days from the July thirty-first immediately following the end of such fiscal year.

Sec. 131. Subsection (c) of section 21a-420d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

2025):

(c) (1) In making the appointments in subsection (b) of this section, the appointing authority shall use best efforts to make appointments that reflect the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the population of the state.

(2) Members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years from the time of appointment and members appointed by any other appointing authority shall serve a term of three years from the time of appointment. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired term.

(3) (A) The Governor shall appoint an interim executive director to operationalize and support the Social Equity Council until, notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council appoints an executive director. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within available appropriations, the council may thereafter appoint an executive director and such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties of the council.

(B) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall adopt bylaws specifying which duties are retained by the members of the council and which duties are delegated to the executive director.

(C) The council may, by a simple majority vote of the members of the council, take any formal personnel action concerning the executive director for any reason.

(D) In addition to the council's authority under subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, if a final review board consisting of the chairperson and the members of the council appointed under subdivisions (1), (2), (5) and (6) of subsection (b) of this section determines, by a simple majority vote of the members of the final review board, that removing the executive director is in the best interest of serving the council's

mission, such final review board shall issue a letter to the council recommending that the council remove the executive director.

(4) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the council from among the members of the council. The chairperson shall directly supervise, establish annual goals for and conduct an annual performance review of the executive director.

(5) The chairperson and executive director shall jointly develop, and the council shall review and approve, (A) **[**the budgetary information that the council is required to annually submit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 21a-420f, (B)**]** allocations of moneys in the social equity and innovation account **[**,**]** established under section 21a-420f, for the purposes that the council determines **[**,**]** under **[**subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b)**]** subsection (a) of section 21a-420f, further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420, and **[**(C)**]** (B) any plans for expenditures to provide (i) access to capital for businesses, (ii) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business, (iii) funding for workforce education, (iv) funding for community investments, and (v) funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

Sec. 132. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and thereafter, fees collected by the department under this section shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund, except that the fees collected under subdivisions (12) and (13) of subsection (c) of this section shall be deposited in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f.

Sec. 133. Subsection (a) of section 21a-420o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Thirty days after the Social Equity Council posts the criteria for social equity applicants on its Internet web site, the department shall open up a three-month application period for cultivators during which a social equity applicant may apply to the department for a provisional cultivator license and final license for a cultivation facility located in a disproportionately impacted area without participating in a lottery or request for proposals. Such application for a provisional license shall be granted upon: (1) Verification by the Social Equity Council that the applicant meets the criteria for a social equity applicant; (2) the applicant submitting to and passing a criminal background check; and (3) payment of a three-million-dollar fee to be deposited in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established in section 21a-420f. Upon granting such provisional license, the department shall notify the applicant of the project labor agreement requirements of section 21a-421e. The department shall not grant an application for a provisional cultivator license under this subsection after December 31, 2025.

Sec. 134. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) No social equity applicant that receives a micro-cultivator license under this section shall be eligible to apply for a provisional license and a final license to create more than one equity joint venture to be approved by the Social Equity Council under section 21a-420d, and no such social equity applicant shall operate any such equity joint venture unless such social equity applicant has received a micro-cultivator license under this section, commenced cultivation activities under such micro-cultivator license and submitted to the department both the

application fee required under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and a conversion fee in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars. The conversion fee collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established in section 21a-420f.

Sec. 135. Subdivision (9) of subsection (b) of section 19a-754a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(9) Assist local and regional boards of education in enrolling paraeducators for coverage under (A) **[**the qualified health plans for which such paraeducator may be eligible under section 3-123*l*, (B)**]** the Covered Connecticut program, established pursuant to section 19a-754c, or **[**(C)**]** (B) Medicaid.

Sec. 136. Section 3-123*l* of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 137. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, shall establish a project to be known as the social work and law enforcement project to advance the ethical and effective integration of social work services into law enforcement units by preparing social workers, social work students and law enforcement professionals to collaborate in the field of police social work. The project shall be located at Southern Connecticut State University. The objectives of the project shall be to: (1) Educate and train the social work and law enforcement workforce to collaborate by using a model that integrates police and social work, (2) increase community wellness through training, research, education and policy advocacy concerning the integration of police and social work, (3) strengthen the engagement among social workers, law enforcement officers and community members, and (4) promote dialogue concerning diversity,

disparities and systemic racism in criminal and juvenile justice settings. For purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with Southern Connecticut State University for the purpose of establishing the social work and law enforcement project. Such memorandum shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that any use of funding for the project for a purpose other than providing training or education to a police officer shall require the commissioner's written authorization.

Sec. 138. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, shall establish a police training center to train and educate police officers in crime scene processing, the collection and analysis of forensic evidence and criminal investigations. The center shall be located at Central Connecticut State University. For purposes of this section, "police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with Central Connecticut State University for the purpose of establishing the police training center. Such memorandum shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that any use of funding for the center for a purpose other than providing training or education to a police officer shall require the commissioner's written authorization.

Sec. 139. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall, in consultation with the Departments of Developmental Services, Social Services and Education, develop a plan

to provide inclusive educational programs at the state universities within the Connecticut State University System for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are eighteen years of age or older. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the (1) specification of the admission process for such students, which shall not include taking any standardized college entrance aptitude test, graduating from high school or meeting a minimum grade point average, (2) identification of one or more of the following types of academic programs or courses offered by such state university in which such students may enroll based on each student's individualized education program, if any, or other assessment-based educational or career plan for the student, provided each such program or course is offered through an inclusive learning environment open to all students and not limited to students with intellectual or developmental disabilities: (A) A degree or certificate program, (B) a program through which such a student may earn an occupational credential, or (C) a credit-bearing or noncredit course, (3) availability of inclusive academic enrichment experiences, extracurricular activities and employment and socialization opportunities, (4) provision of individualized supports and services for the unique academic, social, housing and life-skills needs, as applicable, of such students, including, but not limited to, peer mentors, assistive technology or an on-campus resource center, (5) provision of information or training for staff, faculty and peers in educating and supporting such students, as applicable, and (6) funding required to provide such inclusive educational programs and related supports and services and whether any funding is available through financial aid, federal programs, nonprofit organizations or any other resources.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall submit, 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 the plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 140. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1) "neuromodulation" means the alteration of nerve activity through targeted delivery of a stimulus, including, but not limited to, electrical stimulation or chemical agents, to specific neurological sites in the body, and (2) "hospital" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490 of the general statutes.

(b) The University of Connecticut Health Center shall establish a Center of Excellence for Neuromodulation Treatments. The health center may collaborate with a hospital in the state to provide neuromodulation treatments to patients at the Center of Excellence for Neuromodulation Treatments.

Sec. 141. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 16a-37x of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Energy-savings measure" means any improvement to facilities or other energy-consuming systems designed to reduce energy or water consumption and operating costs and increase the operating efficiency of facilities or systems for their appointed functions. "Energy-savings measure" includes, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

(A) Replacement or modification of lighting and electrical components, fixtures or systems, including daylighting systems, improvements in street lighting efficiency or computer power management software;

(B) Class I renewable energy or solar thermal systems;

(C) Cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of energy, such as heat or electricity, for use primarily within a building or complex of buildings;

(D) Automated or computerized energy control systems;

(E) Heating, ventilation or air conditioning system modifications or replacements;

(F) Indoor air quality improvements that conform to applicable building code requirements;

(G) Water-conserving fixtures, appliances and equipment or the substitution of non-water-using fixtures, appliances and equipment, or water-conserving landscape irrigation equipment;

(H) Changes in operation and maintenance practices;

(I) Replacement or modification of windows or doors; and

(J) Installation or addition of insulation.

(2) "Cost effective" means the savings resulting from energy-savings measures outweigh the costs of such measures, including, but not limited to, any financing costs, provided the payback period for any financing provided pursuant to this section is less than the functional life of the proposed energy-savings measure and the payback period for the comprehensive package of measures does not exceed twenty years.

(3) "Operation and maintenance cost savings" means a measurable decrease in operation and maintenance costs and future replacement expenditures that is a direct result of the implementation of one or more utility cost savings measures. Such savings shall be calculated in comparison with an established baseline of operation and maintenance costs.

(4) "Qualified energy service provider" means a corporation approved by the Department of Administrative Services with a record of successful energy performance contract projects experienced in the design, implementation and installation of energy efficiency and facility improvement measures, the technical capabilities to ensure such measures generate energy and operational cost savings, and the ability to secure the financing necessary to support energy savings guarantees.

(5) "Utility cost savings" means any utility expenses eliminated or avoided on a long-term basis as a result of equipment installed or modified, or services performed by a qualified energy service provider; "utility cost savings" does not include merely shifting personnel costs or similar short-term cost savings.

(6) "State agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79.

(7) "Municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-230.

(8) "Participating municipality" means a municipality that voluntarily takes part in the standardized energy-savings performance contract process.

(9) "Standardized energy-savings performance contract process" means standard procedures for entering into an energy-savings performance contract and standard energy-savings performance contract documents established by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(10) "Investment-grade energy audit" means a study by the qualified energy services provider selected for a particular energy-savings performance contract project which includes detailed descriptions of the improvements recommended for the project, the estimated costs of the improvements, and the utility and operations and maintenance cost savings projected to result from the recommended improvements.

(11) "Energy-savings performance contract" means a contract between the state agency or municipality and a qualified energy service provider for evaluation, recommendation and implementation of one or more energy-savings measures. An energy-savings performance contract shall be a guaranteed energy-savings performance contract, which shall include, but not be limited to, (A) the design and installation of equipment and, if applicable, operation and maintenance of any of the measures implemented; and (B) guaranteed annual savings that meet or exceed the total annual contract payments made by the state agency or municipality for such contract, including financing charges to be incurred by the state agency or municipality over the life of the contract.

(12) "Constituent unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-1.

(b) On or before July 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in coordination with the Energy Conservation Management Board and in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Administrative Services, shall, within available appropriations, establish a standardized energy-savings performance contract process for state agencies and municipalities. The standardized process shall include standard procedures for entering into an energy-savings performance contract and standard energy-savings performance contract documents, including, but not limited to, requests for qualifications, requests for proposals, investment-grade audit contracts, energy-savings performance contracts, including the form of the project savings guarantee, and project financing agreements. A municipality may use the established state standardized energy-savings performance contract process or establish its own energy-savings performance contract process. A constituent unit may establish its own energy-savings performance contract process pursuant to section 10a-151b and section

142 of this act.

Sec. 142. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Energy-savings measure", "cost effective", "operation and maintenance cost savings", "qualified energy service provider", "utility cost savings", "standardized energy-savings performance contract process", "investment-grade energy audit" and "energy-savings performance contract" each have the same meaning as provided in section 16a-37x of the general statutes.

(2) "Constituent unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-1 of the general statutes.

(3) "Chief executive officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-151b of the general statutes.

(b) A chief executive officer may enter into an energy-savings performance contract pursuant to an energy-savings performance contract process established by such chief executive officer's constituent unit pursuant to section 16a-37x of the general statutes, provided (1) such process includes standard procedures for entering into an energy-savings performance contract and standard energy-savings performance contract documents, including, but not limited to, requests for qualifications, requests for proposals, investment-grade audit contracts, energy-savings performance contracts, including the form of the project savings guarantee, and project financing agreements, and (2) such contract is entered into in accordance with the policies adopted by the governing board of such constituent unit pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10a-151b of the general statutes.

(c) The energy-savings performance contract process established by a constituent unit shall include requests for qualifications or requests for proposals as follows:

(1) The constituent unit shall issue a request for qualifications from companies that can offer energy-savings performance contract services to create a list of qualified energy service providers.

(2) When reviewing requests for qualifications for inclusion on the list of qualified energy service providers, the constituent unit shall consider a company's experience with (A) design, engineering, installation, maintenance and repairs associated with energy-savings performance contracts; (B) conversions to a different energy or fuel source, associated with a comprehensive energy efficiency retrofit; (C) post-installation project monitoring, data collection and reporting of savings; (D) overall project management and qualifications; (E) accessing long-term financing; (F) financial stability; (G) projects of similar size and scope; (H) in-state projects and Connecticut-based subcontractors; (I) United States Department of Energy programs; (J) professional certifications; and (K) other factors determined by the constituent unit to be relevant and appropriate.

(3) Before entering into an energy-savings performance contract pursuant to this section, a constituent unit shall issue a request for proposals from three or more qualified energy service providers. A constituent unit may award the energy-savings performance contract to the qualified energy service provider that best meets the needs of the constituent unit, which need not be the lowest cost provided. A cost effective feasibility analysis shall be prepared in response to the request for proposals.

(4) The cost effective feasibility analysis included in the response to the request for proposals shall serve as the selection document for purposes of selecting a qualified energy service provider to engage in final contract negotiations. Factors to be included in selecting among the qualified energy service providers shall include, but not be limited to, (A) contract terms, (B) comprehensiveness of the proposal, (C) financial stability of the qualified energy service provider, (D)

comprehensiveness of cost savings measures, (E) experience and quality of technical approach, and (F) overall benefits to the constituent unit.

(d) The qualified energy service provider selected as a result of the request for proposals set forth in subsection (c) of this section shall prepare an investment-grade audit, which, upon acceptance, shall be part of the final energy-savings performance contract entered into by the constituent unit. Such investment-grade energy audit shall include estimates of the amounts by which utility cost savings and operation and maintenance cost savings would increase and estimates of all costs of such utility cost savings measures or energy-savings measures, including, but not limited to, (1) itemized costs of design, (2) engineering, (3) equipment, (4) materials, (5) installation, (6) maintenance, (7) repairs, and (8) debt service. The qualified energy service provider and the constituent unit shall agree on the cost of the investment-grade audit before it is conducted.

(e) The policies adopted by the governing board of the constituent unit pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10a-151b of the general statutes may require that the cost savings projected by the qualified provider be reviewed by a professional engineer licensed in this state who has a minimum of three years' experience in energy calculation and review, is not an officer or employee of a qualified provider for the contract under review and is not otherwise associated with the contract. In conducting the review, the engineer shall focus primarily on the proposed improvements from an engineering perspective, the methodology and calculations related to cost savings, increases in revenue and, if applicable, efficiency or accuracy of metering equipment. An engineer who reviews a contract shall maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary information the engineer acquires while reviewing the contract.

(f) A guaranteed energy-savings performance contract may provide for financing, including tax exempt financing, by a third party. The

contract for third-party financing may be separate from the energy-savings performance contract. A constituent unit may use designated funds, bonds, lease purchase agreements or master lease for any energy-savings performance contracts, provided its use is consistent with the purpose of the appropriation.

(g) Each energy-savings performance contract entered into pursuant to this section shall provide that all payments between parties, except obligations on termination of the contract before its expiration, shall be made over time and the objective of such energy-savings performance contracts is implementation of cost savings measures and energy and operational cost savings.

(h) An energy-savings performance contract entered into pursuant to this section, and payments provided thereunder, may extend beyond the fiscal year in which the energy-savings performance contract became effective, subject to appropriation of moneys, if required by law, for costs incurred in future fiscal years. The energy-savings performance contract may extend for a term not to exceed thirty years. The allowable length of the contract may also reflect the useful life of the cost savings measures. An energy-savings performance contract may provide for payments over a period not to exceed deadlines specified in the energy-savings performance contract from the date of the final installation of the cost savings measures.

(i) The energy-savings performance contract entered into pursuant to this section may provide that reconciliation of the amounts owed under the energy-savings performance contract shall occur in a period beyond one year with final reconciliation occurring within the term of the energy-savings performance contract. Such energy-savings performance contract shall include contingency provisions in the event that actual savings do not meet predicted savings.

(j) The energy-savings performance contract entered into pursuant to

this section shall require the qualified energy service provider to provide to the constituent unit an annual reconciliation of the guaranteed energy cost savings. If the reconciliation reveals a shortfall in annual energy cost savings, the qualified energy service provider shall make payment to the constituent unit in the amount of the shortfall. If the reconciliation reveals an excess in annual energy cost savings, the excess savings shall remain with the constituent unit, and shall not be used to cover potential energy cost savings shortages in subsequent years or actual energy cost savings shortages in previous contract years.

(k) During the term of each energy performance contract entered into pursuant to this section, the qualified energy service provider shall monitor the reductions in energy consumption and cost savings attributable to the cost savings measures installed pursuant to the energy-savings performance contract and shall, not less than annually, prepare and provide a report to the constituent unit documenting the performance of the cost savings measures to the constituent unit. The report shall adhere to the most current version of the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol.

(l) The qualified energy service provider and constituent unit may agree to modify savings calculations based on any of the following:

(1) Subsequent material change to the baseline energy consumption identified at the beginning of the energy-savings performance contract;

(2) Changes in the number of days in the utility billing cycle;

(3) Changes in the total square footage of the building;

(4) Changes in the operational schedule of the facility;

(5) Changes in facility temperature;

(6) Material change in the weather;

(7) Material changes in the amount of equipment or lighting used at the facility; or

(8) Any other change which reasonably would be expected to modify energy use or energy costs.

(m) A constituent unit may direct savings realized under the energy-savings performance contract to contract payment and other required expenses and may, when practicable, reinvest savings beyond that required for contract payment and other required expenses into additional energy-savings measures.

(n) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a constituent unit to use the standardized energy-savings performance contract process established pursuant to section 16a-37x of the general statutes to enter into an energy-savings performance contract if such constituent unit establishes its own energy-savings performance contract process.

Sec. 143. Section 20-340 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to: (1) Persons employed by any federal, state or municipal agency; (2) employees of any public service company regulated by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or of any corporate affiliate of any such company when the work performed by such affiliate is on behalf of a public service company, but in either case only if the work performed is in connection with the rendition of public utility service, including the installation or maintenance of wire for community antenna television service, or is in connection with the installation or maintenance of wire or telephone sets for single-line telephone service located inside the premises of a consumer; (3) employees of any municipal corporation specially chartered by this state; (4) employees of any contractor while such

contractor is performing electrical-line or emergency work for any public service company; (5) persons engaged in the installation, maintenance, repair and service of electrical or other appliances of a size customarily used for domestic use where such installation commences at an outlet receptacle or connection previously installed by persons licensed to do the same and maintenance, repair and service is confined to the appliance itself and its internal operation; (6) employees of industrial firms whose main duties concern the maintenance of the electrical work, plumbing and piping work, solar thermal work, heating, piping, cooling work, sheet metal work, elevator installation, repair and maintenance work, automotive glass work or flat glass work of such firm on its own premises or on premises leased by it for its own use; (7) employees of industrial firms when such employees' main duties concern the fabrication of glass products or electrical, plumbing and piping, fire protection sprinkler systems, solar, heating, piping, cooling, chemical piping, sheet metal or elevator installation, repair and maintenance equipment used in the production of goods sold by industrial firms, except for products, electrical, plumbing and piping systems and repair and maintenance equipment used directly in the production of a product for human consumption; (8) persons performing work necessary to the manufacture or repair of any apparatus, appliances, fixtures, equipment or devices produced by it for sale or lease; (9) employees of stage and theatrical companies performing the operation, installation and maintenance of electrical equipment if such installation commences at an outlet receptacle or connection previously installed by persons licensed to make such installation; (10) employees of carnivals, circuses or similar transient amusement shows who install electrical work, provided such installation shall be subject to the approval of the State Fire Marshal prior to use as otherwise provided by law and shall comply with applicable municipal ordinances and regulations; (11) persons engaged in the installation, maintenance, repair and service of glass or electrical, plumbing, fire protection sprinkler systems, solar, heating, piping,

cooling and sheet metal equipment in and about single-family residences owned and occupied or to be occupied by such persons; provided any such installation, maintenance and repair shall be subject to inspection and approval by the building official of the municipality in which such residence is located and shall conform to the requirements of the State Building Code; (12) persons who install, maintain or repair glass in a motor vehicle owned or leased by such persons; (13) persons or entities holding themselves out to be retail sellers of glass products, but not such persons or entities that also engage in automotive glass work or flat glass work; (14) persons who install preglazed or preassembled windows or doors in residential **[**or commercial**]** buildings; (15) persons registered under chapter 400 who install safety-backed mirror products or repair or replace flat glass in sizes not greater than thirty square feet in residential buildings; (16) sheet metal work performed in residential buildings consisting of six units or less by new home construction contractors registered pursuant to chapter 399a, by home improvement contractors registered pursuant to chapter 400 or by persons licensed pursuant to this chapter, when such work is limited to exhaust systems installed for hoods and fans in kitchens and baths, clothes dryer exhaust systems, radon vent systems, fireplaces, fireplace flues, masonry chimneys or prefabricated metal chimneys rated by Underwriters Laboratories or installation of stand-alone appliances including wood, pellet or other stand-alone stoves that are installed in residential buildings by such contractors or persons; (17) employees of or any contractor employed by and under the direction of a properly licensed solar contractor, performing work limited to the hoisting, placement and anchoring of solar collectors, photovoltaic panels, towers or turbines; (18) persons performing swimming pool maintenance and repair work authorized pursuant to section 20-417aa; and (19) any employee of the Connecticut Airport Authority covered by a state collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 144. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 22a-903c of the

general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(7) **[**"Children's product"**]** "Juvenile product" means a product designed or marketed for use by infants and children under twelve years of age, including, but not limited to, a baby or toddler foam pillow, bassinet, bedside sleeper, booster seat, changing pad, child restraint system for use in motor vehicles and aircraft, co-sleeper, crib mattress, highchair, highchair pad, infant bouncer, infant carrier, infant seat, infant sleep positioner, infant swing, infant travel bed, infant walker, nap cot, nursing pad, nursing pillow, play mat, playpen, play yard, polyurethane foam mat, pad or pillow, portable foam nap mat, portable infant sleeper, portable hook-on chair, soft-sided portable crib, stroller or toddler mattress. **[**"Children's product"**]** "Juvenile product" does not include any children's electronic product such as a personal computer, audio and video equipment, calculator, wireless phone, game console, handheld device incorporating a video screen or any associated peripheral such as a mouse, keyboard, power supply unit or power cord or an adult mattress.

Sec. 145. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 22a-903c of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) On and after July 1, 2026, no person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in this state any (A) apparel; (B) carpet or rug; (C) cleaning product; (D) cookware; (E) cosmetic product; (F) dental floss; (G) fabric treatment; (H) **[**children's**]** juvenile product; (I) menstruation product; (J) textile furnishing; (K) ski wax; or (L) upholstered furniture if such product contains intentionally added PFAS, unless the manufacturer of the product provides prior notification in writing to the department in accordance with the requirements of this subsection. Such notification shall at a minimum include: (i) A brief description of the product to be offered for sale, used

or distributed, including the product category and the function of PFAS in the product; (ii) all relevant chemical abstract service registry numbers or, if no such number is applicable, the molecular formulas and weights for all PFAS intentionally added to the product; (iii) for each product category: (I) The amount of each PFAS or subgroups in each category; (II) the range of PFAS in the product category by per cent weight; (III) if no analytical method exists, the amount of total fluorine present in the product category; (IV) the purpose for which the PFAS is used in the product; and (V) the name and address of the manufacturer, and the name, address and phone number of a contact person for the manufacturer.

(2) A manufacturer may supply the information required in this subsection for a category or type of product that contains intentionally added PFAS rather than for each individual product.

(3) The manufacturer shall update and revise information in such notification whenever there is a change in the information or when requested to do so by the department.

(4) No person shall sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in this state any of the products listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection if the product contains intentionally added PFAS, and the manufacturer has failed to submit notification pursuant to this subsection.

(c) (1) On and after January 1, 2026, no person shall distribute, sell or offer for sale in this state any new or not-previously-used outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions that contains PFAS unless such product is accompanied by a legible and easily discernable disclosure with the statement "Made with PFAS chemicals", including for any online listing of such products for sale. On and after January 1, 2026, if a manufacturer or other person sells turnout gear that contains intentionally added PFAS, the manufacturer or person shall provide written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale that indicates that the

turnout gear includes intentionally added PFAS and the reason PFAS is added to the turnout gear. On and after July 1, 2026, no person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in this state any (A) apparel; (B) carpet or rug; (C) cleaning product; (D) cookware; (E) cosmetic product; (F) dental floss; (G) fabric treatment; (H) **[**children's**]** juvenile product; (I) menstruation product; (J) textile furnishing; (K) ski wax; or (L) upholstered furniture if such product contains intentionally added PFAS, unless such product is labeled in accordance with this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require or replace such disclosure, notice or labeling that is otherwise prohibited or prescribed by federal law.

(2) Whenever a product listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection contains intentionally added PFAS and is a component of another product, the product that contains the component shall be labeled.

(3) All labels shall be clearly visible prior to sale and shall inform the purchaser, using words or symbols approved by the department, that PFAS is present in the product.

(4) Labels affixed to any such product shall be constructed of materials that are sufficiently durable to remain legible for the useful life of the product.

(5) The manufacturer shall apply any product and package labels required under this subsection unless the wholesaler or retailer agrees with the manufacturer to accept responsibility for such application.

(d) On and after January 1, 2028, no person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in this state any of the following products if the product contains intentionally added PFAS: (1) Apparel; (2) turnout gear; (3) carpets or rugs; (4) cleaning products; (5) cookware; (6) cosmetic products; (7) dental floss; (8) fabric treatments; (9) **[**children's**]** juvenile products; (10) menstruation products; (11) textile

furnishings; (12) ski wax; (13) upholstered furniture; or (14) outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions.

Sec. 146. Section 31-53c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Business organization" means any sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, firm or other form of business, municipality, regional council of governments, Connecticut brownfield land bank or economic development agency, as defined in section 32-760, or other legal entity, but excludes any organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or that is a chamber of commerce under Section 501(c)(6) of said Internal Revenue Code, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, and that (A) accepts financial assistance for a project as defined in this section, and (B) such project is valued at not more than ten million dollars and is not for the purposes described in subsection (f) of this section;

(2) "Financial assistance" means any and all forms of loans, cash payments, extensions of credit, guarantees, equity investments, tax abatements or any other form of financing totaling one million dollars or more; and

(3) "Project" means any construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of any property owned by a business organization.

(b) On and after July 1, 2018, if the Department of Economic and Community Development provides financial assistance to any business organization for any construction project of such business organization, the Department of Economic and Community Development shall

require, as a condition of providing such financial assistance, that any contract entered into by the business organization for such project shall contain the following provision: "The wages paid on an hourly basis to any person performing the work of any mechanic, laborer or worker on the work herein contracted to be done and the amount of payment or contribution paid or payable on behalf of each such person to any employee welfare fund, as defined in subsection (i) of section 31-53, shall be at a rate equal to the rate customary or prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town in which such construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair project is being undertaken. Any contractor who is not obligated by agreement to make payment or contribution on behalf of such persons to any such employee welfare fund shall pay to each mechanic, laborer or worker as part of such person's wages the amount of payment or contribution for such person's classification on each pay day."

(c) Any contractor or subcontractor who knowingly or wilfully employs any mechanic, laborer or worker in any project receiving financial assistance from the Department of Economic and Community Development for such project, at a rate of wage on an hourly basis that is less than the rate customary or prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town in which such project is located, or who fails to pay the amount of payment or contributions paid or payable on behalf of each such person to any employee welfare fund, as defined in subsection (i) of section 31-53, or in lieu thereof to the person, as provided by subsection (b) of this section, shall be fined not less than two thousand five hundred dollars but not more than five thousand dollars for each offense and (1) for the first violation, shall be disqualified from bidding on contracts for projects for which the Department of Economic and Community Development provides financial assistance until the contractor or subcontractor has made full restitution of the back wages owed to such persons and for an additional

six months thereafter, and (2) for subsequent violations, shall be disqualified from bidding on contracts for projects for which the Department of Economic and Community Development provides financial assistance until the contractor or subcontractor has made full restitution of the back wages owed to such persons and for not less than an additional two years thereafter. In addition, if it is found by the contracting officer representing the business organization that any mechanic, laborer or worker employed by the contractor or any subcontractor directly on the site for the work covered by the contract has been or is being paid a rate of wages less than the rate of wages required by the contract to be paid as required by this section, the business organization may (A) by written or electronic notice to the contractor, terminate such contractor's right to proceed with the work or such part of the work as to which there has been a failure to pay said required wages and to prosecute the work to completion by contract or otherwise, and the contractor and the contractor's sureties shall be liable to the business organization for any excess costs occasioned the business organization thereby, or (B) withhold payment of money to the contractor or subcontractor. The contracting business organization shall, not later than two days after taking such action, notify the Labor Commissioner, in writing or electronically, of the name of the contractor or subcontractor, the project involved, the location of the work, the violations involved, the date the contract was terminated and steps taken to collect the required wages.

(d) The Labor Commissioner may make complaint to the proper prosecuting authorities for the violation of any provision of subsection (c) of this section.

(e) The Labor Commissioner shall predetermine the prevailing rate and the amount of payment or contributions paid or payable on behalf of each person to any employee welfare fund, as defined in subsection (i) of section 31-53, in each town where such contract is to be performed,

in the same manner as provided in subsection (d) of section 31-53.

(f) If the Department of Economic and Community Development provides financial assistance to any business organization, including any nonprofit organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, for the purpose of remediation, demolition or abatement of pollution in buildings, soil or groundwater located at a project site, only the remediation, demolition or abatement of pollution in buildings, soil or groundwater portion of the project described in the financial assistance contract between the business organization and the department shall be covered by this section. Such financial assistance contract executed by the department shall be limited to the purposes described in this subsection and shall be separate from any contract for redevelopment activities on the site.

Sec. 147. Section 31-55a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Each contractor that is awarded a contract on or after October 1, 2002, for (1) the construction of a state highway or bridge that falls under the provisions of section 31-54, or (2) the construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of any public works project that falls under the provisions of section 31-53, any project that falls under the provisions of section 31-53c or any covered project that falls under the provisions of section 31-53d, shall contact the Labor Commissioner on or before July first of each year, for the duration of such contract, to ascertain the prevailing rate of wages on an hourly basis and the amount of payment or contributions paid or payable on behalf of each mechanic, laborer or worker employed upon the work contracted to be done, and shall make any necessary adjustments to such prevailing rate of wages and such payment or contributions paid or payable on behalf of each such employee, effective each July first.

Sec. 148. Subsection (a) of section 31-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Each contract for the construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of any public works project by the state or any of its agents, or by any political subdivision of the state or any of its agents, including, on and after July 1, 2025, each contract for off-site custom fabrication for any such public works project, shall contain the following provision: "The wages paid on an hourly basis to any person performing the work of any mechanic, laborer or worker on the work herein contracted to be done and the amount of payment or contribution paid or payable on behalf of each such person to any employee welfare fund, as defined in subsection (i) of this section, shall be at a rate equal to the rate customary or prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town in which such public works project is being constructed. Any contractor who is not obligated by agreement to make payment or contribution on behalf of such persons to any such employee welfare fund shall pay to each mechanic, laborer or worker as part of such person's wages the amount of payment or contribution for such person's classification on each pay day." For purposes of this subsection, "off-site custom fabrication" means the fabrication of systems that are fabricated at a site located within the state other than the location of a public works project, but are fabricated specifically for such public works project, including plumbing systems, heating systems, cooling systems, pipefitting systems, ventilation systems or exhaust duct systems. "Off-site custom fabrication" does not include components or materials that are stock shelf items or readily available.

Sec. 149. Subsections (a) to (l), inclusive, of section 5-259 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for (1) state employees, (2) members of the General Assembly who elect coverage under such plan or plans, (3) participants in an alternate retirement program who meet the service requirements of section 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, (4) anyone receiving benefits under section 5-144 or from any state-sponsored retirement system, except the teachers' retirement system and the municipal employees retirement system, (5) judges of probate and Probate Court employees, (6) the surviving spouse, and any dependent children of a state police officer, a member of an organized local police department, a firefighter or a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties who dies before, on or after June 26, 2003, as the result of injuries received while acting within the scope of such officer's or firefighter's or constable's employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan. Coverage for a dependent child pursuant to this subdivision shall terminate no earlier than the end of the calendar year during whichever of the following occurs first, the date on which the child: Becomes covered under a group health plan through the dependent's own employment; or attains the age of twenty-six, (7) employees of the Capital Region Development Authority established by section 32-601, **[**and**]** (8) the surviving spouse and dependent children of any employee of a municipality who dies on or after October 1, 2000, as the result of injuries received while acting within the scope of such employee's employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan, and (9) state marshals. For purposes of **[**this**]** subdivision (8) of this subsection, "employee" means any regular employee or elective officer receiving pay from a municipality, "municipality" means any town, city,

borough, school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of health, probate district, housing authority, regional workforce development board established under section 31-3k, flood commission or authority established by special act or regional council of governments. For purposes of subdivision (6) of this subsection, "firefighter" means any person who is regularly employed and paid by any municipality for the purpose of performing firefighting duties for a municipality on average of not less than thirty-five hours per week. The minimum benefits to be provided by such plan or plans shall be substantially equal in value to the benefits that each such employee or member of the General Assembly could secure in such plan or plans on an individual basis on the preceding first day of July. The state shall pay for each such employee and each member of the General Assembly covered by such plan or plans the portion of the premium charged for such member's or employee's individual coverage and seventy per cent of the additional cost of the form of coverage and such amount shall be credited to the total premiums owed by such employee or member of the General Assembly for the form of such member's or employee's coverage under such plan or plans. On and after January 1, 1989, the state shall pay for anyone receiving benefits from any such state-sponsored retirement system one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged for such member's or employee's individual coverage and one hundred per cent of any additional cost for the form of coverage. The balance of any premiums payable by an individual employee or by a member of the General Assembly for the form of coverage shall be deducted from the payroll by the State Comptroller. The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Comptroller to the insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or organizations providing the coverage. The amount of the state's contribution per employee for a health maintenance organization option shall be equal, in terms of dollars and cents, to the largest amount of the contribution per employee paid for any other option that is available to all eligible state employees included in the health benefits plan, but shall

not be required to exceed the amount of the health maintenance organization premium.

(b) The insurance coverage procured under subsection (a) of this section for active state employees, employees of the Connecticut Institute for Municipal Studies, anyone receiving benefits from any such state-sponsored retirement system, **[**and**]** members of the General Assembly and state marshals, who are over sixty-five years of age, may be modified to reflect benefits available to such employees or members pursuant to Social Security and medical benefits programs administered by the federal government, provided any payments required to secure such benefits administered by the federal government shall be paid by the Comptroller either directly to the employee or members or to the agency of the federal government authorized to collect such payments.

(c) On October 1, 1972, the Comptroller shall continue to afford payroll deduction services for employees participating in existing authorized plans covering state employees until such time as the employee elects in writing to be covered by the plan authorized by subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the state shall pay for a member of any such state-sponsored retirement system, or a participant in an alternate retirement program who meets the service requirements of section 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, and who begins receiving benefits from such system or program on or after November 1, 1989, eighty per cent of the portion of the premium charged for his individual coverage and eighty per cent of any additional cost for his form of coverage. Upon the death of any such member, any surviving spouse of such member who begins receiving benefits from such system shall be eligible for coverage under this section and the state shall pay for any such spouse eighty per cent of the portion of the premium charged for his individual coverage and eighty per cent of any additional cost for his form of coverage.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, vending stand operators eligible for membership in the state employees retirement system pursuant to section 5-175a shall be eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plans procured under this section, provided the cost for such operators' insurance coverage shall be paid by the Department of Aging and Disability Services from vending machine income pursuant to section 17a-818.

(f) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for any person who adopts a child from the state foster care system, any person who has been a foster parent for the Department of Children and Families for six months or more, and any dependent of such adoptive parent or foster parent who elects coverage under such plan or plans. The Comptroller may also arrange for inclusion of such person and any such dependent in an existing group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan offered by the state. Any adoptive parent or foster parent and any dependent who elects coverage shall pay one hundred per cent of the premium charged for such coverage directly to the insurer, provided such adoptive parent or foster parent and all such dependents shall be included in such group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan. A person and his dependents electing coverage pursuant to this subsection shall be eligible for such coverage until no longer an adoptive parent or a foster parent. An adoptive parent shall be eligible for such coverage until the coverage anniversary date on or after whichever of the following occurs first, the date on which the child: Becomes covered under a group health plan through the dependent's own employment; or attains the age of twenty-six. As used in this section "dependent" means a spouse or natural or adopted child if such child is wholly or partially dependent for support upon the adoptive parent or foster parent.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Probate Court Administration Fund established in accordance with section 45a-82, shall pay for each probate judge and each probate court employee not more than one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged for the judge's or employee's individual coverage and not more than seventy per cent of any additional cost for the judge's or employee's form of coverage. The remainder of the premium for such coverage shall be paid by the probate judge or probate court employee to the State Treasurer. Payment shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the fund established by section 45a-82. The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Probate Court Administrator directly to the insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or organizations providing the coverage. The Probate Court Administrator shall issue regulations governing group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance pursuant to subsection (b) of section 45a-77.

(h) For the purpose of subsection (g) of this section, "probate judge" or "judge" means a duly elected probate judge who works in such judge's capacity as a probate judge at least twenty hours per week, on average, on a quarterly basis and certifies to that fact on forms provided by and filed with the Probate Court Administrator, on or before the fifteenth day of April, July, October and January, for the preceding calendar quarter; and "probate court employee" or "employee" means a person employed by a probate court for at least twenty hours per week.

(i) The Comptroller may provide for coverage of employees of municipalities, nonprofit corporations, community action agencies and small employers and individuals eligible for a health coverage tax credit, retired members or members of an association for personal care assistants under the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section, provided: (1) Participation by each municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency, small employer, eligible individual, retired member or association for personal care assistants

shall be on a voluntary basis; (2) where an employee organization represents employees of a municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency or small employer, participation in a plan or plans to be procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be by mutual agreement of the municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency or small employer and the employee organization only and neither party may submit the issue of participation to binding arbitration except by mutual agreement if such binding arbitration is available; (3) no group of employees shall be refused entry into the plan by reason of past or future health care costs or claim experience; (4) rates paid by the state for its employees under subsection (a) of this section are not adversely affected by this subsection; (5) administrative costs to the plan or plans provided under this subsection shall not be paid by the state; (6) participation in the plan or plans in an amount determined by the state shall be for the duration of the period of the plan or plans, or for such other period as mutually agreed by the municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency, small employer, retired member or association for personal care assistants and the Comptroller; and (7) nothing in this section or section 12-202a, 38a-551 or 38a-556 shall be construed as requiring a participating insurer or health care center to issue individual policies to individuals eligible for a health coverage tax credit. The coverage provided under this section may be referred to as the "Municipal Employee Health Insurance Plan". The Comptroller may arrange and procure for the employees and eligible individuals under this subsection health benefit plans that vary from the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section. Notwithstanding any provision of part V of chapter 700c, the coverage provided under this subsection may be offered on either a fully underwritten or risk-pooled basis at the discretion of the Comptroller. For the purposes of this subsection, (A) "municipality" means any town, city, borough, school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of health, probate district, housing authority, regional workforce development board established

under section 31-3k, regional emergency telecommunications center, tourism district established under section 32-302, flood commission or authority established by special act, regional council of governments, transit district formed under chapter 103a, or the Children's Center established by number 571 of the public acts of 1969; (B) "nonprofit corporation" means (i) a nonprofit corporation organized under 26 USC 501 that has a contract with the state or receives a portion of its funding from a municipality, the state or the federal government, or (ii) an organization that is tax exempt pursuant to 26 USC 501(c)(5); (C) "community action agency" means a community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885; (D) "small employer" means a small employer, as defined in section 38a-564; (E) "eligible individuals" or "individuals eligible for a health coverage tax credit" means individuals who are eligible for the credit for health insurance costs under Section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, in accordance with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; (F) "association for personal care assistants" means an organization composed of personal care attendants who are employed by recipients of service (i) under the home-care program for the elderly under section 17b-342, (ii) under the personal care assistance program under section 17b-605a, (iii) in an independent living center pursuant to sections 17a-792 to 17a-794, inclusive, or (iv) under the program for individuals with acquired brain injury as described in section 17b-260a; and (G) "retired members" means individuals eligible for a retirement benefit from the Connecticut municipal employees' retirement system.

(j) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the existing rights and obligations of state employee organizations and the state employer under current law and contract shall not be impaired by the provisions of this section. (2) Other conditions of entry for any group into the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be determined by the Comptroller upon the recommendation of a

coalition committee established pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278, except for such conditions referenced in subsection (g) of this section. (3) Additional determinations by the Comptroller on (A) issues generated by any group's actual or contemplated participation in the plan or plans, (B) modifications to the terms and conditions of any group's continued participation, (C) related matters shall be made upon the recommendation of such committee. (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a municipal employer and an employee organization may upon mutual agreement reopen a collective bargaining agreement for the exclusive purpose of negotiating on the participation by such municipal employer or employee organization in the plan or plans offered under the provisions of this section.

(k) The Comptroller shall submit annually to the General Assembly a review of the coverage of employees of municipalities, nonprofit corporations, community action agencies, small employers under subsection (i) of this section and eligible individuals under subsection (i) of this section beginning February 1, 2004.

(l) (1) Effective July 1, 1996, any deputies or special deputies appointed pursuant to section 6-37 of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to 1999, or section 6-43, shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the full cost of the coverage under such plan.

(2) (A) Effective **[**December 1, 2000**]** October 1, 2025, any state marshal who works as a state marshal for fewer than twenty hours per week, on average, shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the full cost of the coverage under such plan.

(B) Effective October 1, 2025, any state marshal who (i) works as a

state marshal at least twenty hours per week, on average, on a quarterly basis, (ii) is actively engaged in either (I) service of process under a waiver of fees issued pursuant to section 52-259b, (II) service of process of orders of protection issued pursuant to section 46b-15 or 46b-16a, or (III) service of capias mittimus orders issued by a family support magistrate pursuant to section 46b-231, (iii) certifies to those facts in clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph on forms provided by and filed with the State Marshal Commission on or before the fifteenth day of April, July, October and January for the preceding calendar quarter, and (iv) does not have access to coverage under a health benefit plan that is available (I) through the employer of such state marshal's spouse, provided such health benefit plan has an actuarial value that is equivalent to or greater than the actuarial value of the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and provides similar access to in-network providers as such plan or plans procured by the Comptroller and is available at an employee premium share, with respect to each class of coverage, that is not greater than the premium shares applicable to active state employees in accordance with the provisions of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition agreement, or (II) through the municipal employees' retirement system established by part II of chapter 113 shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the same amount for the coverage under such plan under the same terms and conditions as active state employees in accordance with the provisions of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition agreement.

(3) Effective December 1, 2000, any judicial marshal shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the full cost of the coverage under such plan unless and until the judicial marshals participate in the plan or

plans procured by the Comptroller under this section through collective bargaining negotiations pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278.

Sec. 150. Section 9-218 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

When there is no election of probate judge in any district by reason of two or more having an equal and the highest number of votes, or when a new probate district is created and no provision made for the election of a judge thereof, or whenever it is shown to the Governor that a vacancy is about to exist in said office by reason of the resignation of the incumbent to take effect at a future time or by reason of constitutional limitation, or when there is a vacancy in said office, the Governor may issue writs of election directed to the town clerk or clerks or assistant town clerk or clerks within such district, ordering an election to be held on a day named therein, other than a Saturday or Sunday, to fill such vacancy or impending vacancy, and **[**transmit the same to a state marshal. Such state marshal shall forthwith transmit them to such clerk or clerks, who, on receiving the same,**]** cause such writs to be conveyed to such clerk or clerks. On receiving such writs, such clerk or clerks shall warn elections to be held on the day appointed in such writs, in the same manner as state elections are warned. Such elections shall be organized and conducted, and the vote shall be declared and returns made, certified, directed, deposited and transmitted, in the same manner as at a state election. The Secretary of the State, Treasurer and Comptroller shall, within thirty days after any such election, count and declare the votes so returned, and notice shall be given to the person declared elected, in the same manner as is provided in the election of probate judges at state elections. The Secretary of the State shall enter the returns in tabular form in books kept by him for that purpose and present a copy of the same, with the name of, and the total number of votes received by, each of the candidates for said office, to the Governor within ten days thereafter. The Probate Court Administrator shall cite a

probate judge to act as a judge in the district during any vacancy in said office in accordance with section 45a-120.

Sec. 151. (*Effective from passage*) All amounts appropriated and remaining for the underground storage tank petroleum clean-up program shall be transferred and credited to the resources of the General Fund.

Sec. 152. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any application pending under the underground storage tank clean-up program, including, but not limited to, any application that was approved by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection but not yet paid, shall be deemed cancelled.

Sec. 153. Section 22a-449m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Any remediation of contaminated soil or groundwater **[**the cost of which is to be paid out of the program established under subsection (a) of section 22a-449c**]** shall be performed by or under the direct onsite supervision of a registered contractor, as defined in sections 22a-449*l* and 22a-449n, and shall be performed in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 22a-133k that establish direct exposure criteria for soil, pollutant mobility criteria for soil and groundwater protection criteria for GA and GAA areas. If the replacement of any such residential underground heating oil storage tank system performed pursuant to the provisions of this section involves installation of an underground petroleum storage tank, such tank shall conform to any standards which apply to new underground petroleum storage tanks.

Sec. 154. Section 22a-449k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

No person shall remove or replace or subcontract for the removal or

replacement of a residential underground heating oil storage tank system if the person finds such removal or replacement will involve remediation of contaminated soil or groundwater, unless the person is a registered contractor. To become a registered contractor, a person shall provide to the commissioner on forms prescribed by said commissioner, (1) evidence of financial assurance in the form of liability insurance coverage or liquid company assets in an amount not less than one million dollars, and (2) a written statement certifying that such person has had any training required by law for such business and that such person has (A) performed no fewer than three residential underground petroleum storage tank system removals, or (B) has contracted for at least three removals of residential underground petroleum storage tank systems. Such person shall pay a registration fee of nine hundred forty dollars to the commissioner. Each contractor holding a valid registration on July first shall, not later than August first of that year, pay a renewal fee to the commissioner of four hundred seventy dollars in order to maintain such registration. Any money collected for registration pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the General Fund. The commissioner may revoke a registration for cause and **[**, on and after the date the requirements for**]** for failure to meet any requirements concerning financial assurance, training and performance standards. **[**are established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 22a-449d, may reject any application for registration that does not meet such requirements.**]**

Sec. 155. Subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 22a-449*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) The registered contractor shall submit documentation, satisfactory to the commissioner, of any costs associated with such remediation. The commissioner may deny remediation costs of the registered contractor that the commissioner determines are unreasonable based on the

guidelines established **[**pursuant to subsection (b) of section 22a-449d on and after the date**]** by the commissioner **[**establishes such guidelines,**]** and may deny remediation costs (A) in excess of five thousand dollars if the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection was not notified in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and (B) in excess of ten thousand dollars if the site was not inspected in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall deny any such costs in excess of fifty thousand dollars unless the commissioner determines such additional costs are warranted to protect public health and the environment. If a registered contractor fails to submit to the commissioner documentation of costs associated with such remediation that may be eligible for payment from the residential underground heating oil storage tank system clean-up program or if the registered contractor submits documentation of such costs but the commissioner denies payment of such costs, the registered contractor shall be liable for such costs and shall have no cause of action against the owner of the underground petroleum storage tank.

Sec. 156. Section 22a-449n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section, "registered contractor" means a person registered with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant to section 22a-449k, "qualifying income" means the owner's adjusted gross income, as defined in section 12-701, for the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which costs eligible for payment were incurred under this section and "costs eligible for payment" means costs that are reasonable for payment, as determined by the guidelines established **[**pursuant to section 22a-449d**]** by the commissioner.

(b) If, in the course of removing or replacing a residential underground heating oil storage tank system, a registered contractor

finds that there has been a spill, as defined in section 22a-452c, attributable to such a system, or if such contractor estimates that the remediation of such spill is likely to cost more than ten thousand dollars then such contractor shall immediately notify the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The commissioner may assess the spill and confirm that the remediation proposed by the contractor is appropriate and necessary, or may authorize an environmental professional licensed under section 22a-133v to assess the spill and make such confirmation. Any such remediation shall be subject to approval by the commissioner. The commissioner may authorize an environmental professional licensed under section 22a-133v to make a recommendation regarding such approval. The costs of an inspection pursuant to this section shall be eligible for payment under the residential underground heating oil storage tank system clean-up program established under subsection (a) of section 22a-449c. The commissioner may revoke a registration pursuant to section 22a-449k for failure of a contractor to notify the department as required by this section.

(c) On or after July 1, 2001, to be eligible for payment pursuant to this section, an owner shall submit the following information to the commissioner, in such form as the commissioner may require, prior to entering into a contract with a registered contractor for remediation of a spill attributable to a residential underground heating oil storage tank system: (1) The name and Social Security number of the property owner; (2) a verification that such tank serves the owner's primary residence; (3) a verification of the owner's qualifying income; and (4) the name of the registered contractor who will perform the remediation. The commissioner shall, not later than thirty days following receipt of such information, send a written notice to the owner that specifies whether the owner is eligible for payment under this section, whether funds are available for the owner under this section and the amount of remediation costs for which the owner is responsible prior to receiving

payment under this section.

(d) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, an owner may be reimbursed for all reasonable costs for work commenced on or after July 1, 2001, in accordance with the following: (1) If an owner's qualifying income is less than or equal to fifty thousand dollars, the owner may be reimbursed for costs eligible for payment in excess of five hundred dollars; (2) if an owner's qualifying income is greater than fifty thousand dollars and less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, the owner may be reimbursed for costs eligible for payment in excess of two thousand dollars; (3) if an owner's qualifying income is greater than one hundred thousand dollars and less than or equal to one hundred fifty thousand dollars, the owner may be reimbursed for costs eligible for payment in excess of four thousand dollars; (4) if an owner's qualifying income is greater than one hundred fifty thousand dollars and less than or equal to two hundred thousand dollars, the owner may be reimbursed for costs eligible for payment in excess of five thousand dollars; (5) if an owner's qualifying income is greater than two hundred thousand dollars and less than or equal to two hundred fifty thousand dollars, the owner may be reimbursed for costs eligible for payment in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars; (6) if an owner's qualifying income is greater than two hundred fifty thousand dollars and less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, the owner may be reimbursed for costs eligible for payment in excess of ten thousand dollars; (7) if an owner's qualifying income is greater than five hundred thousand dollars, the owner is not eligible for payment of costs. No registered contractor or any subcontractor of a registered contractor shall accept payment for any costs eligible for payment from said program until it has provided the owner with the information necessary to apply for a disbursement pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

(e) (1) On or after July 1, 2001, an owner shall submit to the commissioner an application that is postmarked no later than December

31, 2001, for a disbursement from the residential underground heating oil storage tank system clean-up program, within available resources, documentation of all costs eligible for payment for work performed pursuant to a contract with the owner for the remediation of a residential underground heating oil storage tank system for the purpose of providing payment for the costs of such remediation, provided such owner has complied with the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 22a-449j and provided such remediation was completed on or before December 1, 2001. Such payments shall be made in accordance with subsection (d) of this section. Such owner shall provide to the commissioner a statement confirming that the registered contractor has been engaged by such owner to remove or to replace such residential underground heating oil storage tank system, except that a storage tank system and any associated ancillary equipment shall not be subject to such requirement and perform the remediation and shall execute an instrument which provides for payment to the program of any amounts realized by the owner, after any costs of litigation or attorney's fees have been paid, from a judgment or settlement regarding any claim for the costs of such remediation made against an insurance policy or any person.

(2) In any service contract entered into between a registered contractor and an owner for the remediation of a residential underground heating oil storage tank system, the registered contractor shall clearly identify all costs, including markup costs, that are not or may not be eligible for payment from said program.

(3) The owner shall submit documentation, satisfactory to the commissioner, of any costs associated with such remediation. The commissioner may deny payment of remediation costs that the commissioner determines are unreasonable based on the guidelines established **[**pursuant to subsection (b) of section 22a-449d on and after the date the commissioner establishes such guidelines**]** by the

commissioner. The commissioner shall deny any such costs if the owner fails to comply with subsection (c) of this section and any such costs in excess of fifty thousand dollars unless the commissioner determines such additional costs are warranted to protect public health and the environment.

(4) A copy of the commissioner's decision shall be sent to the owner by certified mail, return receipt requested. Any owner aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner may, not more than twenty days after the date the decision was issued, request a hearing before the commissioner in accordance with chapter 54. After such hearing, the commissioner shall consider the information submitted and affirm or modify the decision. A copy of the affirmed or modified decision shall be sent to the owner by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(5) No owner shall be entitled to reimbursement both under this section and section 22a-449*l*.

Sec. 157. Section 51-344b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Whenever the term "judicial district of Hartford" is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the term "judicial district of New Britain" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: Subsection (b) of section 3-70a, sections 3-71a and 4-164, subsection (c) of section 4-183, subdivision (4) of subsection (g) of section 10-153e, subparagraph (C) of subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 10a-109n, sections 12-3a, 12-89, 12-103, 12-208, 12-237, 12-242hh, 12-242ii, 12-242kk, 12-268*l*, 12-307, 12-312, 12-330m, 12-405k, 12-422, 12-448, 12-454, 12-463, 12-489, 12-522, 12-554, 12-586g and 12-597, subsection (b) of section 12-638i, sections 12-730, 14-57, 14-66, 14-195, 14-324, 14-331 and 19a-85, subsection (f) of section 19a-332e, sections 20-156, 20-247, 20-307, 20-373, 20-583 and 21a-55, subsection (e) of section 22-7, sections 22-320d and 22-386, subsection (e) of section 22a-6b, section 22a-30, subsection (a) of

section 22a-34, subsection (b) of section 22a-34, section 22a-182a, subsection (f) of section 22a-225, sections 22a-227, 22a-344, 22a-374, and 22a-408, **[**and 22a-449g,**]** subsection (f) of section 25-32e, section 29-158, subsection (f) of section 29-161z, sections 36b-30 and 36b-76, subsection (f) of section 38a-41, section 38a-52, subsection (c) of section 38a-150, sections 38a-185, 38a-209 and 38a-225, subdivision (3) of section 38a-226b, sections 38a-241, 38a-337 and 38a-657, subsection (c) of section 38a-774, section 38a-776, subsection (c) of section 38a-817 and section 38a-994.

Sec. 158. Sections 22a-449c to 22a-449g, inclusive, and sections 22a-449r and 22a-449t of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 159. Subsection (a) of section 19a-202 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Upon application to the Department of Public Health prior to July 1, 2026, any municipal health department shall annually receive from the state an amount equal to one dollar and ninety-three cents per capita, and upon such application on and after July 1, 2026, any municipal health department shall annually receive from the state an amount equal to two dollars and thirteen cents per capita, provided such municipality (1) employs a full-time director of health, except that if a vacancy exists in the office of director of health or the office is filled by an acting director for more than three months, such municipality shall not be eligible for funding unless the Commissioner of Public Health waives this requirement; (2) submits a public health program and budget which is approved by the Commissioner of Public Health; (3) appropriates not less than one dollar per capita, from the annual tax receipts, for health department services; (4) has a population of fifty thousand or more; and (5) meets the requirements of section 19a-207a, within available appropriations. Such municipal department of health

may use additional funds, which the Department of Public Health may secure from federal agencies or any other source and which it may allot to such municipal department of health. The money so received shall be disbursed upon warrants approved by the chief executive officer of such municipality. The Comptroller shall annually in July and upon a voucher of the Commissioner of Public Health, draw the Comptroller's order on the State Treasurer in favor of such municipal department of health for the amount due in accordance with the provisions of this section and under rules prescribed by the commissioner. Any moneys remaining unexpended at the end of a fiscal year shall be included in the budget of such municipal department of health for the ensuing year. This aid shall be rendered from appropriations made from time to time by the General Assembly to the Department of Public Health for this purpose.

Sec. 160. Subsection (a) of section 19a-245 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Upon application to the Department of Public Health prior to July 1, 2026, each health district that has a total population of fifty thousand or more, or serves three or more municipalities irrespective of the combined total population of such municipalities, shall annually receive from the state an amount equal to two dollars and sixty cents per capita for each town, city and borough of such district, and upon such application on and after July 1, 2026, each such health district shall annually receive from the state an amount equal to three dollars per capita for each town, city and borough of such district, provided (1) the Commissioner of Public Health approves the public health program and budget of such health district, (2) the towns, cities and boroughs of such district appropriate for the maintenance of the health district not less than one dollar per capita from the annual tax receipts, and (3) the health district meets the requirements of section 19a-207a, within available

appropriations. Such district departments of health are authorized to use additional funds, which the Department of Public Health may secure from federal agencies or any other source and which it may allot to such district departments of health. The district treasurer shall disburse the money so received upon warrants approved by a majority of the board and signed by its chairman and secretary. The Comptroller shall quarterly, in July, October, January and April, upon such application and upon the voucher of the Commissioner of Public Health, draw the Comptroller's order on the State Treasurer in favor of such district department of health for the amount due in accordance with the provisions of this section and under rules prescribed by the commissioner. Any moneys remaining unexpended at the end of a fiscal year shall be included in the budget of the district for the ensuing year. This aid shall be rendered from appropriations made from time to time by the General Assembly to the Department of Public Health for this purpose.

Sec. 161. Section 21a-420h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Social Equity Council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to prevent the sale or change in ownership or control of a cannabis establishment license awarded to a social equity applicant to someone other than another qualifying social equity applicant during the period of provisional licensure, and for three years following the issuance of a final license, unless the backer of such licensee has died or has a condition, including, but not limited to, a physical illness or loss of skill or deterioration due to the aging process, emotional disorder or mental illness that would interfere with the backer's ability to operate. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate this section, prior to adopting such regulations and not later than October 1, 2021, the council shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions

of this section that shall have the force and effect of law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its 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 earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or **[**forty-eight**]** sixty-three months from July 1, 2021. **[**, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170.**]** Any violation of such policies and procedures or any violation of such regulations related to the sale or change in ownership may be referred by the Social Equity Council to the department for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the establishment's license.

Sec. 162. Section 21a-420q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the maximum grow space permitted by a cultivator and micro-cultivator. In adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall seek to ensure an adequate supply of cannabis for the market. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate this section, prior to adopting such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions 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 earlier of either the adoption of the policy or

procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or **[**forty-eight**]** sixty-three months from July 1, 2021. **[**, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170.**]**

Sec. 163. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions 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 earlier of either adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or **[**forty-eight**]** sixty-three months from July 1, 2021. **[**, if such final regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170.**]** The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures, and thereafter adopt final regulations, requiring that: (1) The delivery service and transporter meet certain security requirements related to the storage, handling and transport of cannabis, the vehicles employed, the conduct of employees and agents, and the documentation that shall be maintained by the delivery service, transporter and its drivers; (2) a delivery service that delivers cannabis to consumers maintain an online interface that verifies the age of consumers ordering cannabis for delivery and meets certain

specifications and data security standards; and (3) a delivery service that delivers cannabis to consumers, qualifying patients or caregivers, and all employees and agents of such licensee, to verify the identity of the qualifying patient, caregiver or consumer and the age of the consumer upon delivery of cannabis to the end consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver, in a manner acceptable to the commissioner. The individual placing the cannabis order shall be the individual accepting delivery of the cannabis except, in the case of a qualifying patient, the individual accepting the delivery may be the caregiver of such qualifying patient.

Sec. 164. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA 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. The commissioner shall also provide such policies and procedures, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to each licensee. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or **[**forty-eight**]** sixty-three months from June 22, 2021. **[**, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170.**]** The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures and thereafter final regulations that include, but

are not limited to, the following:

(1) Setting appropriate dosage, potency, concentration and serving size limits and delineation requirements for cannabis, provided a standardized serving of edible cannabis product or beverage, other than a medical marijuana product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC.

(2) Requiring that each single standardized serving of cannabis product in a multiple-serving edible product or beverage is physically demarked in a way that enables a reasonable person to determine how much of the product constitutes a single serving and a maximum amount of THC per multiple-serving edible cannabis product or beverage.

(3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the product, other than cannabis concentrate or medical marijuana product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of sale.

(4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers. Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts, signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed health materials.

(5) Imposing labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis sold by a cannabis establishment that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Inclusion of universal symbols to indicate that cannabis, or a cannabis product, contains THC and is not legal or safe for individuals

younger than twenty-one years of age, and prescribe how such product and product packaging shall utilize and exhibit such symbols.

(B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of cannabis take longer to have an effect.

(C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is considered the equivalent to.

(D) A list of ingredients and all additives for cannabis.

(E) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p, child-resistant, tamper-resistant and light-resistant packaging. For the purposes of this subparagraph, packaging shall be deemed to be (i) child-resistant if the packaging satisfies the standard for special packaging established in 16 CFR 1700.1(b)(4), as amended from time to time, (ii) tamper-resistant if the packaging has at least one barrier to, or indicator of, entry that would preclude the contents of such packaging from being accessed or adulterated without indicating to a reasonable person that such packaging has been breached, and (iii) light-resistant if the packaging is entirely and uniformly opaque and protects the entirety of the contents of such packaging from the effects of light.

(F) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p, (i) packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings to be resealable in such a manner so as to render such packaging continuously child-resistant, as described in subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision, and preserve the integrity of the contents of such packaging, and (ii) if packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings contains any edible cannabis product, for each single standardized serving to be easily discernible and (I) individually wrapped, or (II) physically demarked and delineated as required under

this subsection.

(G) Impervious packaging that protects the contents of such packaging from contamination and exposure to any toxic or harmful substance, including, but not limited to, any glue or other adhesive or substance that is incorporated in such packaging.

(H) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where and when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a product recall could be effectuated.

(I) A net weight statement.

(J) A recommended use by or expiration date.

(K) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but not limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that all packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on the packaging or label of any cannabis product sold.

(L) For any cannabis concentrate cannabis product that contains a total THC percentage greater than thirty per cent, a warning that such cannabis product is a high-potency product and may increase the risk of psychosis.

(M) Chemotypes, which shall be displayed as (i) "High THC, Low CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is at least fifteen per cent, (ii) "Moderate THC, Moderate CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is at least one to five but not greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is greater than five per cent but less than fifteen per cent, (iii) "Low THC, High CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is less than one to five and the total THC percentage is not greater than five per cent, or (iv) the chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph that most closely

fits the cannabis or cannabis product, as determined by mathematical analysis of the ratio of THC to CBD, where such cannabis or cannabis product does not fit a chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph.

(N) A requirement that, prior to being sold and transferred to a consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver, cannabis packaging be clearly labeled, whether printed directly on such packaging or affixed by way of a separate label, other than an extended content label, with:

(i) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section; and

(ii) The following information concerning the cannabis contained in such packaging, which shall be in legible English, black lettering, Times New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a capital letter "K", which information shall also be available on the Internet web site of the cannabis establishment that sells and transfers such cannabis:

(I) The name of such cannabis, as registered with the department under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(II) The expiration date, which shall not account for any refrigeration after such cannabis is sold and transferred to the consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver.

(III) The net weight or volume, expressed in metric and imperial units.

(IV) The standardized serving size, expressed in customary units, and

the number of servings included in such packaging, if applicable.

(V) Directions for use and storage.

(VI) Each active ingredient comprising at least one per cent of such cannabis, including cannabinoids, isomers, esters, ethers and salts and salts of isomers, esters and ethers, and all quantities thereof expressed in metric units and as a percentage of volume.

(VII) A list of all known allergens, as identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration, contained in such cannabis, or the denotation "no known FDA identified allergens" if such cannabis does not contain any allergen identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

(VIII) The following warning statement within, and outlined by, a red box:

"This product is not FDA-approved, may be intoxicating, cause long-term physical and mental health problems, and have delayed side effects. It is illegal to operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of cannabis. Keep away from children."

(IX) At least one of the following warning statements, rotated quarterly on an alternating basis:

"Warning: Frequent and prolonged use of cannabis can contribute to mental health problems over time, including anxiety, depression, stunted brain development and impaired memory."

"Warning: Consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding may be harmful."

"Warning: Cannabis has intoxicating effects and may be habit-forming and addictive."

"Warning: Consuming more than the recommended amount may

result in adverse effects requiring medical attention.".

(X) All information necessary to comply with labeling requirements imposed under the laws of this state and federal law, including, but not limited to, sections 21a-91 to 21a-120, inclusive, and 21a-151 to 21a-159, inclusive, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq., as amended from time to time, and the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, 15 USC 1451 et seq., as amended from time to time, for similar products that do not contain cannabis.

(XI) Such additional warning labels for certain cannabis products as the commissioner may require and post on the department's Internet web site.

(6) Establishing laboratory testing standards, consumer disclosures concerning mold and yeast in cannabis and permitted remediation practices.

(7) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health concerns.

(8) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing nicotine.

(9) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children.

(10) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements related to build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis establishments as a requirement for licensure.

(11) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the adult-use

market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the commissioner, in response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying patients.

(12) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts to provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products that have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose, and (B) high-dose CBD products.

(13) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers to register brand names for cannabis, in accordance with the policies and procedures and subject to the fee set forth in, regulations adopted under chapter 420f.

(14) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other than the sale of medical marijuana products between cannabis establishments and the sale of cannabis to **[**qualified**]** qualifying patients and caregivers, (A) cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than sixty per cent on a dry-weight basis, except that the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not apply to the sale of prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section 19a-342a and the department may adjust the percentages set forth in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section for purposes of public health or to address market access or shortage. As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" means material from the cannabis plant, as defined in section 21a-279a.

(15) Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

(16) Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used

for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be younger than twenty-one years of age.

(17) Allowing packaging to include a picture of the cannabis product and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo may be comprised of not more than three colors and provided neither black nor white shall be considered one of such three colors.

(18) Requiring packaging to (A) be entirely and uniformly one color, and (B) not incorporate any information, print, embossing, debossing, graphic or hidden feature, other than any permitted or required label.

(19) Requiring that packaging and labeling for an edible cannabis product, excluding the warning labels required under this subsection and a picture of the cannabis product described in subdivision (17) of this subsection but including, but not limited to, the logo of the cannabis establishment, shall only be comprised of black and white or a combination thereof.

(20) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, requiring that delivery device cartridges be labeled, in a clearly legible manner and in as large a font as the size of the device reasonably allows, with only the following information (i) the name of the cannabis establishment where the cannabis is grown or manufactured, (ii) the cannabis brand, (iii) the total THC and total CBD content contained within the delivery device cartridge, (iv) the expiration date, and (v) the unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(B) A cannabis establishment may emboss, deboss or similarly print the name of the cannabis establishment's business entity, and one logo with not more than three colors, on a delivery device cartridge.

(21) Prescribing signage to be prominently displayed at dispensary facilities, retailers and hybrid retailers disclosing (A) possible health risks related to mold, and (B) the use and possible health risks related to the use of mold remediation techniques.

Sec. 165. Subsection (b) of section 21a-421k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall implement policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all such 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 policies and procedures shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either adoption of such policies and procedures as a final regulation under section 4-172 or **[**forty-eight**]** sixty-three months from June 22, 2021. **[**, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170.**]**

Sec. 166. Section 17a-886 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section, (1) "authorized representative" means a person designated by a home care client, in writing, to act on such client's behalf, including, but not limited to, a health care representative appointed pursuant to section 19a-575a or 19a-577; (2) "home care" means long-term services and supports provided to adults in a home or community-based program administered by the Department of Social

Services; (3) "home care provider" means a person or organization, including, but not limited to, (A) a home health agency or hospice agency, as defined in section 19a-490, **[**or**]** (B) a homemaker-companion agency, as defined in section 20-670, or (C) any individual offering home and community-based long-term services and supports directly, whether formally or informally; and (4) **[**"long-term services and supports" means (A) health, health-related, personal care and social services provided to persons with physical, cognitive or mental health conditions or disabilities to facilitate optimal functioning and quality of life, or (B) hospice care provided to persons who may be nearing the end of their lives**]** "home and community-based long-term services and supports" means a comprehensive array of health, personal care and supportive services, including, but not limited to, services and supports offered through (A) community-based programs administered by the Department of Social Services, and (B) a home care provider to a person with physical, cognitive or mental health conditions to (i) enhance such person's quality of life, (ii) facilitate optimal functioning, and (iii) support independent living in the setting of such person's choice.

(b) There is established a Community Ombudsman program within the independent Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, established pursuant to section 17a-405. Not later than October 1, 2022, the State Ombudsman appointed pursuant to said section shall, within available appropriations, appoint a Community Ombudsman who shall have access to data pertaining to home and community-based long-term services and supports provided **[**by a home care provider**]** to a client, including, but not limited to, medical, social and other data relating to such client, provided (1) such client or such client's authorized representative provides written consent to such access, (2) if such client is incapable of providing such consent due to a physical, cognitive or mental health condition or disability, the client communicates consent orally, visually or through the use of auxiliary aids and services, or (3) if such client is incapable of providing such consent as described in

subdivision (2) of this subsection, and has no authorized representative, the Community Ombudsman determines the data is necessary to investigate a complaint concerning such client's care.

(c) The Community Ombudsman program may:

(1) Identify, investigate, refer and help resolve complaints about home **[**care services**]** and community-based long-term services and supports;

(2) Raise public awareness about home **[**care and the program**]** and community-based long-term services and supports;

(3) Promote access to home **[**care services**]** and community-based long-term services and supports;

(4) Advocate for long-term care options;

(5) Coach individuals in self advocacy; and

(6) Provide referrals to **[**home care**]** clients receiving home and community-based long-term services and supports for legal, housing and social services.

(d) The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman shall oversee the Community Ombudsman program and provide administrative and organizational support by:

(1) Developing and implementing a public awareness strategy about the Community Ombudsman program;

(2) Applying for, or working in collaboration with other state agencies to apply for, available federal funding for Community Ombudsman services;

(3) Collaborating with persons administering other state programs

and services to design and implement an agenda to promote the rights of elderly persons and persons with disabilities;

(4) Providing information to public and private agencies, elected and appointed officials, the media and other persons regarding the problems and concerns of older adults and people with disabilities receiving home care;

(5) Advocating for improvements in the home and community-based long-term services and supports system; and

(6) Recommending changes in federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies and actions pertaining to the health, safety, welfare and rights of people receiving home care.

(e) Not later than December 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the State Ombudsman shall submit a 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 aging, human services and public health on (1) implementation of the public awareness strategy relating to the Community Ombudsman program, (2) the number of persons served in the program, (3) the number of complaints regarding home **[**care**]** and community-based long-term services and supports filed with the program, (4) the disposition of such complaints, and (5) any gaps in services and resources needed to address such gaps.

(f) The State Ombudsman and the Community Ombudsman shall ensure that any health data obtained pursuant to subsection (b) of this section relating to a **[**home care**]** client receiving home and community-based long-term services and supports is protected in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time.

(g) The State Ombudsman may assign a regional community ombudsman the duties and responsibilities of a regional ombudsman

for the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, as deemed necessary by the State Ombudsman.

Sec. 167. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17b-340d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(2) Beginning July 1, 2022, facilities will be required to comply with collection and reporting of quality metrics as specified by the Department of Social Services, after consultation with the nursing home industry, consumers, employees and the Department of Public Health. Rate adjustments based on performance on quality metrics will be phased in, beginning July 1, 2022, with a period of reporting only. Effective July 1, 2023, the Department of Social Services shall issue individualized reports annually to each nursing home facility showing the impact to the Medicaid rate for such home based on the quality metrics program. A nursing home facility receiving an individualized quality metrics report may use such report to evaluate the impact of the quality metrics program on said facility's Medicaid reimbursement. **[**Not later than June 30, 2025, the department shall submit a 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 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services on the quality metrics program. Such report shall include information regarding individualized reports and the anticipated impact on nursing homes if the state were to implement a rate withhold on nursing homes that fail to meet certain quality metrics.**]** On or after October 1, 2026, the Department of Social Services may establish a quality metrics program, within available appropriations designated for such purpose, to provide payments to nursing home facilities (A) for high-quality outcomes based on performance in the quality metrics program, and (B) designed to incentivize the provision of high-quality services to nursing home residents who are Medicaid beneficiaries, as

indicated in the individualized report issued to each nursing home facility pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision. Such quality metrics program shall evaluate nursing home facilities based on national quality measures for nursing home facilities issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and state-administered consumer satisfaction measures. Such quality measures may be weighted higher for desired outcomes, as determined by the department. Not later than February 1, 2027, the department shall submit a 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 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services on the implementation of the quality metrics program.

Sec. 168. Section 63 of public act 25-65 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 169. Section 19a-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

A water company, as defined in section 25-32a, shall add a measured amount of fluoride to the water supply of any water system that it owns and operates and that serves twenty thousand or more persons so as to maintain an average monthly fluoride content that is not more or less than **[**0.15 of a milligram per liter different than the United States Department of Health and Human Services' most recent recommendation for optimal fluoride levels in drinking water to prevent tooth decay**]** 0.7 of a milligram of fluoride per liter of water provided such average monthly fluoride content shall not deviate greater or less than 0.15 of a milligram per liter.

Sec. 170. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may establish an advisory committee to advise the commissioner on matters relating to recommendations by the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention and the federal Food and Drug Administration using evidence-based data from peer-reviewed literature and studies.

(b) The advisory committee may include, but need not be limited to, the following members:

(1) The dean of a school of public health at an independent institution of higher education in the state;

(2) The dean of a school of public health at a public institution of higher education in the state;

(3) A physician specializing in primary care who (A) has not less than ten years of clinical practice experience, and (B) is a professor at a medical school in the state;

(4) An infectious disease specialist who (A) has not less than ten years of clinical practice experience, and (B) is a professor at an institution of higher education in the state;

(5) A pediatrician who (A) has not less than ten years of clinical practice experience and expertise in children's health and vaccinations, and (B) is a professor at an institution of higher education in the state; and

(6) Any other individuals determined to be a beneficial member of the advisory committee by the Commissioner of Public Health.

(c) The advisory committee shall serve in a nonbinding advisory capacity, providing guidance solely at the discretion of the Commissioner of Public Health.

Sec. 171. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) (1) In cases in which there is a serious risk to a patient's life or health, each emergency department of a hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes

shall include as part of the care required of such emergency departments the reproductive health care services related to complications of pregnancy that are legal in this state and necessary to treat the patient, including, but not limited to, services related to miscarriage management and treatment for ectopic pregnancies.

(2) When providing emergency care, no such emergency department or health care provider providing care at such emergency department shall discriminate against a patient based upon the following factors or categories: The person's ethnicity, citizenship, age, preexisting medical condition, insurance status, economic status, ability to pay for medical services, sex, race, color, religion, disability, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, primary language or immigration status. It shall not be discrimination for a health care provider providing care at an emergency department to consider any such factor or category if the health care provider believes that such factor or category is medically significant to the provision of appropriate medical care to the patient.

(b) Each emergency department of a hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes shall meet the requirements of (1) the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, 42 USC 1395dd, as amended from time to time, including, but not limited to, any federal regulations adopted pursuant to said act governing the transfer of patients by emergency departments, the capabilities of emergency departments and on-call professional staff of emergency departments, or (2) any regulations of Connecticut state agencies adopted pursuant to section 172 of this act.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impact accepted medical standards of care.

(d) Each hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes that provides emergency care shall (1) adopt policies and

procedures to implement the provisions of this section, and (2) make such policies and procedures available to the Department of Public Health upon request.

(e) The Commissioner of Public Health may investigate each alleged violation of this section or section 172 of this act unless the commissioner concludes that the allegation does not include facts requiring further investigation or is otherwise unmeritorious.

(f) The Commissioner of Public Health may take any action authorized by sections 19a-494 and 19a-494a of the general statutes against a hospital, or authorized by section 19a-17 of the general statutes against a licensed health provider, for a violation of this section or section 172 of this act.

Sec. 172. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) If the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, 42 USC 1395dd, as it existed as of the effective date of this section, in whole or in part, (1) is revoked, (2) fails to be adequately enforced, or (3) otherwise becomes inapplicable in this state, the Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of said act concerning operational requirements for hospitals that are set forth in Appendix V to the State Operations Manual for hospitals published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as said manual existed on December 31, 2024. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the commissioner to request or otherwise involve the participation by any federal government entity in the oversight or enforcement of any regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection. If the commissioner finds, pursuant to subsection (g) of section 4-168 of the general statutes, that adoption of such regulations upon fewer than thirty days' notice is required due to an imminent peril to the public health, safety or welfare, the commissioner shall adopt such regulations without prior notice, public comment period or hearing, or upon any abbreviated notice,

public comment period and hearing, pursuant to said subsection, if feasible.

(b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall have the sole discretion to determine whether an event described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section has occurred. The commissioner may consult with the office of the Attorney General in making such determination.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the commissioner to adopt the regulations described in subsection (a) of this section based on routine changes to the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, 42 USC 1395dd, as described in subsection (a) of this section, that do not result in a material loss of patient rights.

(d) If the commissioner adopts regulations pursuant to this section, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall annually (1) review such regulations, and (2) make a recommendation to the commissioner as to whether the commissioner should maintain or repeal such regulations.

Sec. 173. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Collateral costs" means any out-of-pocket costs, other than the cost of the procedure itself, necessary to receive reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services in the state, including, but not limited to, costs for travel, lodging and meals;

(2) "Gender-affirming health care services" means all medical care relating to the treatment of gender dysphoria, as set forth in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", and gender incongruence, as defined in the most recent revision of the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems";

(3) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization that is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time;

(4) "Patient-identifiable data" means any information that identifies, or may reasonably be used as a basis to identify, an individual patient; and

(5) "Reproductive health care services" means all medical, surgical, counseling or referral services relating to the human reproductive system, including, but not limited to, services relating to fertility, pregnancy, contraception and abortion.

(b) There is established an account to be known as the "safe harbor account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account of the State Treasurer. The account shall contain any funds received from any private contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or devises to the account and all earnings on such funds. The State Treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited in the account in a manner that is reasonable and appropriate to achieve the objectives of such account while exercising the discretion and care of a prudent person in similar circumstances with similar objectives. The State Treasurer shall give due consideration to the rate of return risk, term or maturity, the diversification of the total portfolio within such account, the liquidity of funds, the projected disbursements and expenditures of funds, and the expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received. The moneys in the account shall be continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent with the objectives of the account until disbursed in accordance with this subsection. Any administrative costs associated with maintenance or disbursement of moneys in the account shall be paid from the account and no taxpayer funds shall pay for such administrative costs, except nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the State Treasurer from utilizing available staff resources to administer the

account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the board of trustees, established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, for the purpose of providing grants to (1) nonprofit organizations that provide funding for reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services or the collateral costs incurred by individuals in receiving such services in the state, or (2) nonprofit organizations that serve LGBTQ+ youth or families in the state for the purpose of reimbursing or paying directly to such youth or family members for the collateral costs incurred by such youth or family members in receiving reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services in the state.

(c) The safe harbor account shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of the following members:

(1) The Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the board of trustees; and

(2) Four members appointed by the Treasurer, (A) one of whom shall be a provider of reproductive health care services in the state, (B) one of whom shall have experience working with members of the LGBTQ+ community, (C) one of whom shall have experience working with providers of reproductive health care services, and (D) one of whom shall have experience working with providers of health care or mental health services to members of the LGBTQ+ community. When making such appointments, the Treasurer shall use the Treasurer's best efforts to ensure that the board of trustees reflects the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the state.

(d) Not later than September 1, 2025, the board of trustees shall adopt policies and procedures concerning the awarding of grants pursuant to the provisions of this section. Such policies and procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) grant application procedures, including procedures regarding subgrants, (2) eligibility criteria for

applicant nonprofit organizations, including, but not limited to, subgrantees, and for individuals served by such grants, (3) eligibility criteria for collateral costs, (4) consideration of need of the individuals served by such grants, including, but not limited to, the urgency or time sensitivity of the circumstances and financial need, and (5) procedures to coordinate with any national network created to perform similar functions to those of the safe harbor account, including, but not limited to, procedures for the acceptance of funding transferred to the safe harbor account for a particular use. Such policies and procedures shall not require the collection or retention of patient-identifiable data in order to receive a grant. Such policies and procedures may be updated as deemed necessary by the board of trustees. In the event that the board of trustees determines that the policies and procedures adopted pursuant to the provisions of this subsection are inadequate with respect to (A) determining the eligibility of a certain health care provider or nonprofit organization for a grant, or (B) whether a certain health care service received by or collateral cost incurred by an individual is eligible to be reimbursed or paid by a health care provider or nonprofit organization using grant moneys received pursuant to this section, the board of trustees may make a fact-based determination as to such eligibility.

Sec. 174. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) It is hereby declared that opioid use disorder constitutes a public health crisis in this state and will continue to constitute a public health crisis until each goal reported by the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council pursuant to subsection (f) of section 17a-667a of the general statutes is attained.

Sec. 175. Section 17a-667a of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (f) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (f) The Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council shall convene a working group to establish one or more goals for the state to achieve in its efforts to combat the prevalence of opioid use disorder in

the state. Not later than July 1, 2026, the council 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 each goal established by the working group.

Sec. 176. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There is established an account to be known as the "public health urgent communication account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Department of Public Health for the purposes of providing timely, effective communication to members of the general public, health care providers and other relevant stakeholders during a public health emergency, as described in section 19a-131a of the general statutes.

Sec. 177. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There is established an account to be known as the "emergency public health financial safeguard account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Department of Public Health for the purposes of addressing unexpected shortfalls in public health funding and ensuring the Department of Public Health's ability to respond to the health care needs of state residents and provide a continuity of essential public health services. Said department shall not expend any moneys in the account for any of the purposes described in subsection (b) of section 173 of this act.

Sec. 178. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes;

(2) "Physician" means an individual licensed as a physician pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes;

(3) "Physician assistant" means an individual licensed as a physician assistant pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes; and

(4) "Sudden unexpected death in epilepsy" means the death of a person with epilepsy that is not caused by injury, drowning or other known causes unrelated to epilepsy.

(b) On and after October 1, 2025, each physician, advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant who regularly treats patients with epilepsy shall provide each such patient with information concerning the risk of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy and methods to mitigate such risk.

Sec. 179. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Automated external defibrillator" means a device that: (A) Is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart; (B) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make medical diagnoses and, if necessary, apply therapy; (C) guides the user through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts; and (D) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment in its use;

(2) "Managed residential community" means a for-profit or not-for-profit facility consisting of private residential units that provides a managed group living environment consisting of housing and services for persons who are primarily fifty-five years of age or older. "Managed residential community" does not include (A) any state-funded congregate housing facility, (B) any elderly housing complex receiving assistance and funding through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Assisted Living Conversion

Program, or (C) any affordable housing unit subsidized under the assisted living demonstration project established pursuant to section 17b-347e of the general statutes; and

(3) "Nursing home" means (A) any chronic and convalescent nursing home or any rest home with nursing supervision that provides nursing supervision under a medical director twenty-four hours per day; or (B) any chronic and convalescent nursing home that provides skilled nursing care under medical supervision and direction to carry out nonsurgical treatment and dietary procedures for chronic diseases, convalescent stages, acute diseases or injuries.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the administrator of each nursing home and each managed residential community shall (1) provide and maintain an automated external defibrillator in a central location on the premises of the nursing home or managed residential community, (2) make such central location known and accessible to staff members and residents of the home or community and family members of such residents who visit the home or community, and (3) maintain and test the automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.

Sec. 180. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Pancreatic cancer screening and referral services" means necessary pancreatic cancer screening services and referral services for a procedure intended to treat cancer of the human pancreas.

(2) "Unserved or underserved populations" means patients who are: (A) At or below two hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level for individuals; (B) without health coverage for pancreatic cancer screening services; and (C) of an age at which pancreatic cancer screening services are deemed appropriate by medical professionals.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Public Health

shall establish, within available appropriations, a pancreatic cancer screening and treatment referral program within the Department of Public Health to (1) promote screening and detection of pancreatic cancer among persons who may be susceptible to the disease due to higher risk factors, (2) educate the public, including unserved and underserved populations, regarding pancreatic cancer and the benefits of early detection, and (3) provide referrals to appropriate pancreatic screening and counseling services and treatment referral services.

(c) The program shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The establishment of a public education and outreach initiative to publicize (A) pancreatic cancer screening services and the extent of health coverage that may be available for such services; (B) the benefits of early detection of pancreatic cancer and the recommended frequency of screening services, including clinical examinations; and (C) the medical assistance program and any other public or private program that patients may use to access such services;

(2) Linkage to and coordination with pancreatic screening and counseling services and treatment referral services offered by health systems, health care entities and providers of such services that are recognized by the Department of Public Health; and

(3) The use and dissemination of professional education programs concerning the benefits of early detection of pancreatic cancer and the recommended frequency of pancreatic cancer screenings.

Sec. 181. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Emergency medical services personnel" means (A) any emergency medical responder certified pursuant to sections 20-206*ll* and 20-206mm of the general statutes, (B) any class of emergency medical technician certified pursuant to sections 20-206*ll* and 20-206mm of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, any advanced

emergency medical technician, and (C) any paramedic licensed pursuant to sections 20-206*ll* and 20-206mm of the general statutes; and

(2) "Glucagon nasal powder" means a class of medications (A) referred to as glycogenolytic agents that cause the liver to reduce stored sugar to the blood and are intended for the treatment of severe hypoglycemia in persons with diabetes who are treated with insulin, and (B) administered intranasally.

(b) Any emergency medical services personnel who has been trained in the administration of injectable glucagon may administer glucagon nasal powder when the use of glucagon is deemed necessary by the emergency medical services personnel for the treatment of a patient. All emergency medical services personnel shall receive such training from an organization designated by the commissioner.

(c) All licensed or certified ambulances may be equipped with glucagon nasal powder to be administered as described in subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 182. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1) "hospital" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490 of the general statutes; and (2) "hospital financial assistance" means any program administered by a hospital that reduces, in whole or in part, a patient's liability for the cost of providing services, as defined in section 19a-673 of the general statutes.

(b) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall contract with a vendor to develop an online hospital financial assistance portal for use by patients and family members. Such portal shall serve as a navigation tool to help patients and family members identify and apply for hospital financial assistance at hospitals in the state. The portal may include, but need not be limited to, (1) technical assistance and tools that streamline the application process for hospital financial assistance, (2) a screening

tool to help determine whether patients may be eligible for hospital financial assistance, and (3) information to assist patients and family members in avoiding future medical debt.

(c) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate may, (1) in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management, publish on the Office of the Healthcare Advocate's Internet web site information regarding the state's medical debt erasure initiative authorized pursuant to section 48 of public act 23-204, as amended by section 1 of public act 24-81, and (2) in consultation with relevant organizations, develop recommendations concerning such initiative that may assist patients and family members in avoiding future medical debt, including, but not limited to, methods to streamline the application process for hospital financial assistance.

(d) On and after July 1, 2026, any hospital maintaining a financial assistance program shall provide the Office of the Healthcare Advocate with the (1) links for each Internet web site for such program, and (2) telephone number and electronic mail address for the hospital's financial assistance referral contact. If a hospital revises its hospital financial assistance application form, changes its financial assistance referral contact or establishes a new hospital financial assistance program, the hospital shall notify the Office of the Healthcare Advocate of such revisions, changes or new program and provide said office with any new links for each Internet web site or the telephone number and electronic mail address of the new referral contact for such program not later than thirty days after making such revisions or changes or establishing a new program.

Sec. 183. Section 19a-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than January 1, 2023, the commissioner shall adopt and administer by reference the United States Food and Drug Administration's Food Code **[**, as amended from time to time,**]** and <u>any</u>

revision thereto issued on or before December 31, 2024. The commissioner may adopt any Food Code Supplement published by said administration as the state's food code for the purpose of regulating food establishments.

(b) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section and sections 19a-36i to 19a-36m, inclusive.

Sec. 184. Section 19a-491f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each home health care agency and home health aide agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b or that operates solely as a hospice agency, a hospice program, as defined in subsection (b) of section 19-13-D72 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, a hospice-based home care program, as described in subsection (o) of section 19a-495-5b of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, or a hospice inpatient facility, as defined in section 19a-495-6a of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, shall, during intake of a prospective client who will be receiving services from the agency, collect and provide to any employee assigned to provide services to such client, to the extent feasible and consistent with state and federal laws, information regarding: (1) The client, including, if applicable, (A) the client's history of violence toward health care workers; (B) the client's history of substance use; (C) the client's history of domestic abuse; (D) a list of the client's diagnoses, including, but not limited to, psychiatric history; (E) whether the client's diagnoses or symptoms thereof have remained stable over time; and (F) any information concerning violent acts involving the client that is contained in judicial records or any sex offender registry information concerning the client; and (2) the location where the employee will provide services, including, if known to the agency, the (A) crime rate

for the municipality in which the employee will provide services, as determined by the most recent annual report concerning crime in the state issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to section 29-1c, (B) presence of any hazardous materials at the location, including, but not limited to, used syringes, (C) presence of firearms or other weapons at the location, (D) status of the location's fire alarm system, and (E) presence of any other safety hazards at the locations.

(b) To facilitate compliance with subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, each such agency shall annually review the annual report issued by the department pursuant to section 29-1c to collect crime-related data regarding the locations in the state where such agency's employees provide services.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, no such agency shall deny the provision of services to a client solely based on (1) the inability or refusal of the client to provide the information described in subsection (a) of this section, or (2) the information collected from the client pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Any health care provider, as defined in section 19a-17b, who refers or transfers a patient to a home health care agency, home health aide agency or hospice agency shall, at the time of such referral and to the extent feasible and consistent with state and federal laws, provide any documentation or information in such health care provider's possession relating to the topics described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 185. Section 19a-491g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each home health care agency**,** **[**and**]** home health aide agency and

hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, **[**except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,**]** shall (1) (A) adopt and implement a health and safety training curriculum for home care workers that is consistent with the health and safety training curriculum for such workers that is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, including, but not limited to, training to recognize hazards commonly encountered in home care workplaces and applying practical solutions to manage risks and improve safety, and (B) provide annual staff training consistent with such health and safety curriculum; and (2) **[**conduct monthly safety assessments with direct care staff at the agency's monthly staff meeting**]** establish a system by which staff may promptly report an incidence of violence or potential threat of violence in conjunction with monthly safety assessments conducted with direct care staff, which assessments may occur through in-person or virtual staff meetings or other communication methods, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, text messages, telephone calls, a hotline or a reporting portal.

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall require any home health care agency, **[**and**]** home health aide agency **[**, except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,**]** and hospice agency that receives reimbursement for services rendered under the Connecticut medical assistance program, as defined in section 17b-245g, to provide evidence of adoption and implementation of such health and safety training curriculum pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, or, at the commissioner's discretion, an alternative workplace safety training program applicable to such agency to obtain reimbursement for services provided under the medical assistance program.

(c) The commissioner may, within available appropriations, provide a rate enhancement under the Connecticut medical assistance program for any home health care agency, **[**or**]** home health aide agency **[**, except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,**]** or hospice agency for timely reporting of any workplace violence incident. For purposes of this section, "timely reporting" means reporting such incident not later than seven calendar days after its occurrence to the Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health.

Sec. 186. Subsection (a) of section 19a-491h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each home health care agency, **[**and**]** home health aide agency and hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, **[**except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,**]** shall report, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, each instance of verbal abuse that is perceived as a threat or danger by a staff member of such agency, physical abuse, sexual abuse or any other abuse by an agency client or any other person against a staff member **[**of**]** relating to such staff member's employment with such agency and the actions taken by the agency to ensure the safety of the staff member.

Sec. 187. Section 18-81qq of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) There is, within the Office of Governmental Accountability established under section 1-300, the Office of the Correction Ombuds for the provision of ombuds services. The Correction Ombuds appointed pursuant to section 18-81jj shall be the head of said office.

(2) For purposes of this section, "ombuds services" includes:

(A) Evaluating the delivery of services to **[**incarcerated**]** persons who are incarcerated by the Department of Correction;

(B) Reviewing periodically the nonemergency procedures established by the department to carry out the provisions of title 18 and evaluating whether such procedures conflict with the rights of **[**incarcerated**]** persons who are incarcerated;

(C) Receiving communications from persons in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction regarding decisions, actions, omissions, policies, procedures, rules or regulations of the department;

(D) Conducting site visits of correctional facilities administered by the department;

(E) Reviewing the operation of correctional facilities and nonemergency procedures employed at such facilities. Nonemergency procedures include, but are not limited to, the department's use of force procedures;

(F) Recommending procedure and policy revisions to the department;

(G) Taking all possible actions, including, but not limited to, conducting programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action in order to secure and ensure the rights of persons in the custody of the commissioner. The Correction Ombuds shall exhaust all other means to reach a resolution before initiating litigation; **[**and**]**

(H) Publishing on an Internet web site operated by the Office of the Correction Ombuds a semiannual summary of all ombuds services and activities during the six-month period before such publication; and

(I) Evaluating the provision of health care services, including, but not limited to, medical care, dental care, mental health care and substance use disorder treatment services, to persons who are incarcerated by the Department of Correction.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Correction Ombuds shall act independently of any department in the performance of the office's duties.

(c) The Correction Ombuds may, within available funds, appoint such staff as may be deemed necessary. The duties of the staff may include the duties and powers of the Correction Ombuds if performed under the direction of the Correction Ombuds.

(d) The General Assembly shall annually appropriate such sums as necessary for the payment of the salaries of the staff and for the payment of office expenses and other actual expenses incurred by the Correction Ombuds in the performance of the Correction Ombuds' duties. Any legal or court fees obtained by the state in actions brought by the Correction Ombuds shall be deposited in the General Fund.

(e) In the course of investigations, the Correction Ombuds shall rely on a variety of sources to corroborate matters raised by **[**incarcerated**]** persons who are incarcerated or others. Where such matters turn on validation of particular incidents, the Correction Ombuds shall endeavor to rely on communications from **[**incarcerated**]** persons who are incarcerated who have reasonably pursued a resolution of the complaint through any existing internal grievance procedures of the Department of Correction. In all events, the Correction Ombuds shall make good faith efforts to provide an opportunity to the Commissioner of Correction to investigate and to respond to such concerns prior to making such matters public.

(f) All oral and written communications, and records relating to such

communications between a person in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and the Correction Ombuds or a member of the Office of the Correction Ombuds staff, including, but not limited to, the identity of a complainant, the details of the communications and the Correction Ombuds' findings shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed without the consent of such person, except that the Correction Ombuds may disclose without the consent of such person general findings or policy recommendations based on such communications, provided no individually identifiable information is disclosed. The Correction Ombuds shall disclose sufficient information to the Commissioner of Correction or the commissioner's designee as is necessary to respond to the Correction Ombuds' inquiries or to carry out recommendations, but such information may not be further disclosed outside of the Department of Correction.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, whenever in the course of carrying out the Correction Ombuds' duties, the Correction Ombuds or a member of the Office of the Correction Ombuds staff becomes aware of the commission or planned commission of a criminal act or threat that the Correction Ombuds reasonably believes is likely to result in death or substantial bodily harm, the Correction Ombuds shall notify the Commissioner of Correction or an administrator of any correctional facility housing the perpetrator or potential perpetrator of such act or threat and the nature and target of the act or threat.

(h) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes concerning the confidentiality of records and information, the Correction Ombuds shall have access to, including the right to inspect and copy, any records necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Correction Ombuds, as provided in this section. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to compel access to any record protected by the attorney-client privilege or attorney-work product doctrine or any record related

to a pending internal investigation, external criminal investigation or emergency procedures. For purposes of this subsection, "emergency procedures" are procedures the Department of Correction uses to manage control of tools, keys and armories and concerning department emergency plans, emergency response units, facility security levels and standards and radio communications.

(i) In the performance of the responsibilities provided for in this section, the Correction Ombuds may communicate privately with any person in the custody of the commissioner. Such communications shall be confidential except as provided in subsections (e) and (f) of this section.

(j) The Correction Ombuds may apply for and accept grants, gifts and bequests of funds from other states, federal and interstate agencies, for the purpose of carrying out the Correction Ombuds' responsibilities. There is established within the General Fund a Correction Ombuds account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. Any funds received under this subsection shall, upon deposit in the General Fund, be credited to said account and may be used by the Correction Ombuds in the performance of the Correction Ombuds' duties.

(k) The name, address and other personally identifiable information of a person who makes a complaint to the Correction Ombuds, information obtained or generated by the Office of the Correction Ombuds in the course of an investigation and all confidential records obtained by the Correction Ombuds or the office shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, or otherwise except as provided in subsections (f) and (g) of this section.

(l) No state or municipal agency shall discharge, or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against, any employee who in good faith makes a complaint to the Correction Ombuds or cooperates with the Office of

the Correction Ombuds in an investigation.

(m) The Correction Ombuds may perform the following functions in the evaluation of the provision of health care services pursuant to subparagraph (I) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section:

(1) Receive, investigate and respond to complaints regarding access to or quality of health care services within the Department of Correction;

(2) Employ or contract with licensed health care professionals to provide independent clinical reviews of such complaints, when necessary;

(3) Collect and analyze health-related data across correctional facilities, including, but not limited to:

(A) Medical appointment wait times;

(B) Mental health care access;

(C) Medication access and continuity; and

(D) Incidences of hospitalizations and mortalities; and

(4) Make recommendations to the Departments of Correction and Public Health and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and the judiciary regarding necessary improvements in the delivery of health care services within correctional facilities.

[(m)**]** (n) Not later than December **[**1, 2023, and**]** first, annually, **[**thereafter,**]** the Correction Ombuds shall submit a 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 the Department of Correction regarding the conditions of confinement in the state's correctional facilities and halfway houses, including, but not

limited to, the delivery of health care services in such facilities and halfway houses. Such report shall detail the Correction Ombuds' findings and recommendations, including, but not limited to, recommendations for any improvements in the delivery of such services.

Sec. 188. (*Effective from passage*) The Probate Court Administrator and the Commissioner of Social Services shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing an expedited process for the appointment of a conservator for patients of hospital emergency departments who lack the capacity to consent to receive health care services from the hospital to ensure such patients receive such services in a timely fashion and help alleviate emergency department boarding and crowding. Not later than January 1, 2026, said administrator and commissioner shall jointly 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 public health regarding such evaluation and any recommendations for legislation necessary to establish an expedited conservator process for emergency department patients. As used in this section, "emergency department boarding" means holding patients who have been admitted to the hospital after presenting to the emergency department in the emergency department while awaiting an inpatient bed.

Sec. 189. Section 19a-490ii of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter until January 1, 2029, each hospital in the state with an emergency department shall, and each hospital operated exclusively by the state may, directly or in consultation with a hospital association in the state, analyze the following data from the previous calendar year concerning its emergency department: (1) The number of patients who received treatment in the emergency department; (2) the number of emergency

department patients who were admitted to the hospital; (3) for patients admitted to the hospital after presenting to the emergency department, the average length of time from the patient's first presentation to the emergency department until the patient's admission to the hospital; and (4) the percentage of patients who were admitted to the hospital after presenting to the emergency department but were transferred to an available bed located in a physical location other than the emergency department more than four hours after an admitting order for the patient was completed. Each such hospital shall utilize such analysis with the goals of (A) developing policies or procedures to reduce wait times for admission to the hospital after a patient presents to the emergency department, (B) informing potential methods to improve admission efficiencies, and (C) examining root causes for delays in admission times.

(b) Not later than March 1, 2025, and annually thereafter until March 1, 2029, each hospital that conducts an analysis pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall submit a 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 and, not later than March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter until March 1, 2029, shall also submit such report to the Commissioners of Public Health and Health Strategy and the Healthcare Advocate, regarding its findings and any recommendations for achieving the goals described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 190. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to evaluate hospital discharge challenges, including, but not limited to, hospital discharge practices, and propose strategies to reduce discharge delays, improve transitions of care and alleviate emergency department boarding.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members, who

shall be appointed by the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health:

(1) Two hospital administrators, who shall be a chief operating officer or vice president of care coordination, one of whom shall be from an urban hospital and one of whom shall be from a rural hospital;

(2) Two emergency department physicians, who shall be nominated by a college of emergency physicians in the state;

(3) One practicing hospitalist with experience in discharge planning;

(4) Two executives of health systems, one of whom shall be from a community hospital;

(5) One representative of a commercial health insurer licensed in the state;

(6) One representative of a care management organization under a Medicaid care management contract with the state;

(7) One representative of a skilled nursing facility;

(8) One representative of a home health or community-based care organization;

(9) One behavioral health provider involved in discharge transitions;

(10) One primary care physician affiliated with a clinically integrated network;

(11) One representative of a patient advocacy organization with expertise in transitions of care;

(12) One representative of an association of hospitals in the state;

(13) One academic or public health policy expert from an institution of higher education in the state;

(14) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(15) The Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the commissioner's designee;

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

(17) The Insurance Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee; and

(18) One member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and one member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, who shall be nonvoting members of the working group.

(c) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall serve as the administrative staff of the working group.

(d) Not later than January 15, 2026, the working group shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, 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 public health and human services.

Sec. 191. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, "reserve fund" means a fund established for the purpose of holding funds not needed for immediate use or disbursement and does not include any special capital reserve fund or other debt service reserve

fund.

(b) There is established a working group to oversee and monitor expenditures from each reserve fund of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the institutions of higher education within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, for the fiscal years ending 2026 to 2030, inclusive. The working group's responsibilities shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) monitoring expenditures from such reserve fund to ensure not less than thirteen per cent of such reserve funds are spent each year on educational and student services; (2) make recommendations to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities on reserve fund expenditures; and (3) inform the General Assembly of the need for increased General Fund contributions for ongoing expenses. The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall regularly report to the working group, in the form and manner prescribed by the working group, the information necessary for the working group to fulfill its responsibilities.

(c) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons, vice chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, or their designees shall serve as nonvoting, ex-officio members of the working group, provided (A) if such member is selected to serve as a chairperson of the working group pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, such member shall be a voting member of the working group, and (B) any designee of a chairperson or ranking member, who is not a member of the General Assembly, shall be a voting member of the working group;

(2) Two appointed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, who shall be representatives from the Office of Policy and Management;

(3) Two appointed by the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, who shall be representatives from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities;

(4) The chairperson of the Board of Regents, or the chairperson's designee;

(5) Seven appointed by the faculty advisory committee, established pursuant to section 10a-3a of the general statutes, who shall be representatives from labor organizations representing employees who work at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

(6) One student representative appointed jointly by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, who shall be enrolled at the Connecticut State Community College or the Charter Oak State College; and

(7) One student representative appointed jointly by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, who shall be enrolled at a Connecticut state university.

(d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement shall select two members of the General Assembly, appointed to the working group pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, to act as the chairpersons of the working group. Such chairpersons of the working group shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The working group shall

meet not less than once every two months and at such other times as may be necessary upon the call of the chairpersons of the working group.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than February 1, 2027, and each year thereafter until and including February 1, 2031, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate after it submits its final report.

Sec. 192. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) As used in this section and sections 193 to 195, inclusive, of this act:

(1) "Lactation consultant" means a person who holds and maintains certification in good standing as an international board certified lactation consultant with the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners and is licensed pursuant to section 194 of this act; and

(2) "Lactation consulting" means clinical application of scientific principles and a multidisciplinary body of evidence for evaluation, problem identification, treatment, education and consultation to families regarding the course of lactation and feeding, including, but not limited to, the following services:

(A) Taking maternal, child and feeding histories;

(B) Performing clinical assessments related to breastfeeding and

human lactation through the systematic collection of subjective and objective information;

(C) Analyzing relevant information and data;

(D) Developing an unbiased lactation management and child feeding plan with demonstration and instruction to parents;

(E) Providing lactation and feeding education, including, but not limited to, recommendations for and training in the use of assistive devices for lactation and breastfeeding;

(F) Communicating to a primary health care practitioner and referring to other health care practitioners, as necessary;

(G) Conducting appropriate follow-up appointments and evaluating outcomes; and

(H) Documenting patient encounters in a patient record.

Sec. 193. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) No person may practice lactation consulting, for compensation, unless licensed pursuant to section 194 of this act.

(b) No person shall (1) hold himself or herself out to the public as being licensed as a lactation consultant, (2) use, in connection with such person's name or business, the title "licensed lactation consultant" or "lactation consultant" or the designation "IBCLC" or "L.C.", or (3) make use of any title, words, letters, abbreviations or insignia that may reasonably be confused with licensure as a lactation consultant, unless such person is licensed pursuant to section 194 of this act.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person who (1) is licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health pursuant to title 20 of the general statutes or by the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to chapter 400j of the general statutes and providing

lactation consulting while acting within the scope of practice of the person's license or certification, provided the person does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (2) is a student enrolled in a lactation consulting educational program or an accredited education program the completion of which is required for licensure or certification by the Department of Public Health pursuant to title 20 of the general statutes or by the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to chapter 400j of the general statutes, lactation consulting is a part of the student's course of study and the student is performing such consulting under appropriate program supervision, provided the student does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (3) provides lactation education and support through the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, administered pursuant to section 19a-59c of the general statutes, or any other federally funded nutrition assistance program administered in the state, to participants in such program while acting within the person's job description and training, provided the person does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (4) is certified as a community health worker, as defined in section 20-195ttt of the general statutes, and providing lactation support to a HUSKY Health program member, provided the community health worker does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (5) provides education, social support, peer support, peer counseling or nonclinical services relating to lactation and feeding, provided the person does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (6) is a doula or midwife and providing services within the doula's or midwife's scope of practice and for which the doula or midwife is trained, provided the doula or midwife does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", or (7) is a public health professional and engaging in outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination or research related to social determinants of health or a basic screening or assessment of any risk associated with social

determinants of health, provided the professional does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant".

Sec. 194. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license as a lactation consultant to any applicant who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has earned a certification as an international board certified lactation consultant from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, or any successor of said board. The commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. The application fee shall be two hundred dollars.

(b) Any license issued under this section shall expire in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88 of the general statutes and may be renewed every two years, for a fee of one hundred dollars. Each licensed lactation consultant applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having a current certification as an international board certified lactation consultant with the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, or any successor of said board, and having obtained continuing education units for such certification as required by said board.

Sec. 195. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Public Health may deny an application of an individual or take any disciplinary action set forth in section 19a-17 of the general statutes against a lactation consultant for any of the following reasons: (1) Failure to conform to the accepted standards of the profession; (2) conviction of a felony, provided any action taken is based upon (A) the nature of the conviction and its relationship to the license holder's ability to safely or competently practice as a lactation consultant, (B) information pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the license holder, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release; (3) fraud or deceit in obtaining or seeking reinstatement of a license to practice lactation consulting; (4) fraud or deceit in the practice of lactation

consulting; (5) negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in professional activities; (6) physical, mental or emotional illness or disorder resulting in an inability to conform to the accepted standards of the profession; (7) alcohol or substance abuse; (8) wilful falsification of entries in any hospital, patient or other record pertaining to lactation consulting; or (9) failure to maintain certification in good standing as an international board certified lactation consultant with the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. The commissioner may order a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his or her physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. The commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17 of the general statutes. The commissioner shall give notice and an opportunity to be heard on any contemplated action under section 19a-17 of the general statutes.

Sec. 196. Subsection (c) of section 19a-14 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) No board shall exist for the following professions that are licensed or otherwise regulated by the Department of Public Health:

(1) Speech and language pathologist and audiologist;

(2) Hearing instrument specialist;

(3) Nursing home administrator;

(4) Environmental health specialist;

(5) Subsurface sewage system installer or cleaner;

(6) Marital and family therapist and marriage and family therapist associate;

(7) Nurse-midwife;

(8) Licensed clinical social worker;

(9) Respiratory care practitioner;

(10) Asbestos contractor, asbestos consultant and asbestos training provider;

(11) Massage therapist;

(12) Registered nurse's aide;

(13) Radiographer;

(14) Dental hygienist;

(15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;

(16) Asbestos abatement worker;

(17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;

(18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;

(19) Professional counselor and professional counselor associate;

(20) Acupuncturist;

(21) Occupational therapist and occupational therapist assistant;

(22) Lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead consultant, lead abatement supervisor, lead abatement worker, lead training provider, lead inspector, lead inspector risk assessor and lead planner-project designer;

(23) Emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder and emergency medical

services instructor;

(24) Paramedic;

(25) Athletic trainer;

(26) Perfusionist;

(27) Master social worker subject to the provisions of section 20-195v;

(28) Radiologist assistant, subject to the provisions of section 20-74tt;

(29) Homeopathic physician;

(30) Certified water treatment plant operator, certified distribution system operator, certified small water system operator, certified backflow prevention device tester and certified cross connection survey inspector, including certified limited operators, certified conditional operators and certified operators in training;

(31) Tattoo technician;

(32) Genetic counselor;

(33) Behavior analyst;

(34) Art therapist;

(35) Esthetician;

(36) Eyelash technician; **[**and**]**

(37) Nail technician; and

(38) Lactation consultant.

The department shall assume all powers and duties normally vested with a board in administering regulatory jurisdiction over such

professions. The uniform provisions of sections 192 to 195, inclusive, of this act, this chapter and chapters 368v, 369 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 388, inclusive, 393a, 395, 398, 399, 400a and 400c, including, but not limited to, standards for entry and renewal; grounds for professional discipline; receiving and processing complaints; and disciplinary sanctions, shall apply, except as otherwise provided by law, to the professions listed in this subsection.

Sec. 197. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(2) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under section 19a-514, sections 192 to 195, inclusive, of this act and chapters 384a, 384c, 384d, 386, 387, 388 and 398 shall apply for renewal of such license or certificate once every two years, during the month of such person's birth, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and business address and such other information as the department requests.

Sec. 198. Section 46a-68b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

As used in this section and sections **[**4a-60, 4a-60a,**]** 46a-56 and 46a-68c to 46a-68k, inclusive: (1) "Public works contract" means any agreement **[**between any individual, firm or corporation and the state or any political subdivision of the state other than a municipality**]** (A) for construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of **[**a public building, highway or other**]** changes or improvements in real property, **[**or which**]** and (B) that is financed in whole or in part by the state, including, but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees**, [**and "municipal public works contract", "quasi-public agency project" and**]** where such funding equals one hundred fifty thousand dollars or more, (2) "awarding agency" **[**have**]**

has the same **[**meanings**]** meaning as provided in section 4a-60g, and (3) "construction manager" means a construction professional with primary responsibility for the day-to-day management of all construction or engineering activities for a project in accordance with a public works contract or other agreement with an awarding agency.

Sec. 199. Section 4a-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Contract" includes any extension or modification of the contract, but does not include a contract where each contractor is (A) a political subdivision of the state, including, but not limited to, a municipality, unless the contract is a public works contract, (B) any other state, as defined in section 1-267, (C) the federal government, (D) a foreign government, or (E) an agency of a subdivision, state or government described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C) or (D) of this subdivision;

(2) "Contractor" includes any successors or assigns of the contractor;

(3) "Public works contract" has the same meaning as provided in section 46a-68b;

(4) "Marital status" means being single, married as recognized by the state of Connecticut, widowed, separated or divorced;

(5) "Mental disability" means one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", or a record of or regarding a person as having one or more such disorders;

(6) "Minority business enterprise" has the same meaning as provided in section 4a-60g;

(7) "Good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations;

(8) "Good faith efforts" includes, but is not limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements; and

(9) "Awarding agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 4a-60g.

[(a)**]** (b) Except as provided in section 10a-151i, every contract to which an awarding agency is a party **[**, every quasi-public agency project contract and every municipal public works contract**]** shall contain the following provisions:

(1) The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut; and the contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical

disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved;

(2) The contractor agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, to state that it is an "affirmative action-equal opportunity employer" in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;

(3) The contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment;

(4) The contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this section and sections 46a-68e and 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said commission pursuant to sections 46a-56, 46a-68e, 46a-68f and 46a-86; and

(5) The contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor as relate to the provisions of this section and section 46a-56.

[(b)**]** (c) If the contract is a public works contract, **[**municipal public works contract or contract for a quasi-public agency project,**]** the contractor agrees and warrants that he or she will make good faith

efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials on such public works **[**or quasi-public agency**]** project.

[(c)**]** (d) Except as provided in section 10a-151i:

(1) Any contractor who has one or more contracts with an awarding agency or who is a party to a **[**municipal public works contract or a contract for a quasi-public agency project**]** public works contract shall include a nondiscrimination affirmation provision certifying that the contractor understands the obligations of this section and will maintain a policy for the duration of the contract to assure that the contract will be performed in compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of subsection **[**(a)**]** (b) of this section. The authorized signatory of the contract shall demonstrate his or her understanding of this obligation by (A) initialing the nondiscrimination affirmation provision in the body of the contract, (B) providing an affirmative response in the required online bid or response to a proposal question which asks if the contractor understands its obligations, or (C) signing the contract.

(2) No awarding agency **[**, or in the case of a municipal public works contract, no municipality, or in the case of a quasi-public agency project contract, no entity,**]** shall award a contract to a contractor that has not included the nondiscrimination affirmation provision in the contract and demonstrated its understanding of such provision as required under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

[(d) For the purposes of this section, "contract" includes any extension or modification of the contract, "contractor" includes any successors or assigns of the contractor, "marital status" means being single, married as recognized by the state of Connecticut, widowed, separated or divorced, and "mental disability" means one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders",

or a record of or regarding a person as having one or more such disorders. For the purposes of this section, "contract" does not include a contract where each contractor is (1) a political subdivision of the state, including, but not limited to, a municipality, unless the contract is a municipal public works contract or quasi-public agency project contract, (2) any other state, as defined in section 1-267, (3) the federal government, (4) a foreign government, or (5) an agency of a subdivision, state or government described in subdivision (1), (2), (3) or (4) of this subsection.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "minority business enterprise" means any small contractor or supplier of materials fifty-one per cent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which is owned by a person or persons: (1) Who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise, (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise, and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of section 32-9n; and "good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations. "Good faith efforts" shall include, but not be limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements.**]**

[(f)**]** (e) Determination of the contractor's good faith efforts shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following factors: The contractor's employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; the timing and value of bids; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.

[(g)**]** (f) The contractor shall develop and maintain adequate

documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, of its good faith efforts.

[(h)**]** (g) The contractor shall include the provisions of subsections **[**(a)**]** (b) and **[**(b)**]** (c) of this section in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the state, and in every subcontract entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a **[**municipal**]** public works contract**,** **[**or contract for a quasi-public agency project,**]** and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer, unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. The contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with section 46a-56; provided, if such contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the commission regarding a state contract, the contractor may request the state of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the state and the state may so enter.

(h) The commission may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 200. Section 4a-60g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section and sections 4a-60h to 4a-60j, inclusive, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Small contractor" means (A) any contractor, subcontractor, manufacturer, service company or corporation that (i) maintains its principal place of business in the state, and (ii) is registered as a small business in the federal database maintained by the United States

General Services Administration, as required to do business with the federal government, or (B) any nonprofit corporation that (i) maintains its principal place of business in the state, (ii) had gross revenues not exceeding twenty million dollars in the most recently completed fiscal year prior to such application, and (iii) is independent.

(2) "Independent" means the viability of the enterprise of the small contractor does not depend upon another person, as determined by an analysis of the small contractor's relationship with any other person in regards to the provision of personnel, facilities, equipment, other resources and financial support, including bonding.

(3) "State agency" means each state board, commission, department, office, institution, council or other agency with the power to contract for goods or services itself or through its head.

(4) "Minority business enterprise" means any small contractor (A) fifty-one per cent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which are owned by a person or persons who (i) exercise operational authority over the daily affairs of the enterprise, (ii) have the power to direct the management and policies and receive the beneficial interest of the enterprise, (iii) possess managerial and technical competence and experience directly related to the principal business activities of the enterprise, and (iv) are members of a minority, as **[**such term is**]** defined in subsection (a) of section 32-9n, or are individuals with a disability, or (B) which is a nonprofit corporation in which fifty-one per cent or more of the persons who **[**(i)**]** exercise operational authority over the enterprise, **[**(ii)**]** (i) possess managerial and technical competence and experience directly related to the principal business activities of the enterprise, **[**(iii)**]** (ii) have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise, and **[**(iv)**]** (iii) are members of a minority, as defined in this subsection, or are individuals with a disability.

(5) "Affiliated" means the relationship in which a person directly, or

indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by or is under common control with, another person.

(6) "Control" means the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of any person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or through any other direct or indirect means. Control **[**shall be**]** is presumed to exist if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing, twenty per cent or more of any voting securities of another person.

(7) "Person" means any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, joint stock company, business trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(8) "Individual with a disability" means an individual (A) having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, which mental impairment may include, but is not limited to, having one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", or (B) having a record of such an impairment.

(9) "Nonprofit corporation" means a nonstock corporation incorporated pursuant to chapter 602 or any predecessor statutes thereto, which is exempt from taxation under any provision of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time.

(10) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough.

(11) "Quasi-public agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-120.

(12) "Awarding agency" means a state agency or political subdivision of the state, **[**other than**]** including a municipality or quasi-public agency.

(13) "Public works contract" has the same meaning as provided in section 46a-68b.

[(14) "Municipal public works contract" means that portion of an agreement entered into on or after October 1, 2015, between any individual, firm or corporation and a municipality for the construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a public building, highway or other changes or improvements in real property, which is financed in whole or in part by the state, including, but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees but excluding any project of an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, financed by state funding in an amount equal to fifty thousand dollars or less.

(15) "Quasi-public agency project" means the construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a building or other changes or improvements in real property pursuant to a contract entered into on or after October 1, 2015, which is financed in whole or in part by a quasi-public agency using state funds, including, but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees.**]**

(b) (1) (A) It is found and determined, based on the findings of a state-wide disparity study, that there is a serious need to help small contractors, minority business enterprises, nonprofit organizations and individuals with disabilities to be considered for and awarded state contracts for the purchase of goods and services **[**,**]** and public works contracts. **[**, municipal public works contracts and contracts for quasi-public agency projects.**]** Accordingly, the necessity of awarding such contracts in compliance with the provisions of this section, sections 4a-

60h to 4a-60j, inclusive, and sections 32-9i to 32-9p, inclusive, for advancement of the public benefit and good, is declared as a matter of legislative determination and with regard to the remedial measures set forth in this chapter that are necessary to address the effects of discrimination on the participation of minority business enterprises in state-funded contracting, such measures shall continue until such time as a subsequent state-validated disparity study finds that such measures are no longer necessary to correct the effects of discrimination that were found in the previous disparity study.

(B) Not later than January 1, 2030, and every five years thereafter, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, in collaboration with the Office of Policy and Management, the Department of Administrative Services and office of the Attorney General, shall develop and issue a request for proposals to conduct a disparity study to make determinations, including, but not limited to: (i) Whether a statistically significant level of disparity exists in state-funded contracts between the percentage of minority business enterprises certified pursuant to subsection (j) of this section that are available in each industry category and the percentage of total dollars spent that goes to such minority business enterprises as contractors or subcontractors on such contracts, (ii) if the study finds strong evidence that such a statistically significant disparity does exist, whether factors other than race and gender can be ruled out as the cause of that disparity, (iii) whether such disparity can be adequately remedied with race and gender neutral measures, (iv) if it is determined that such disparity cannot be remedied solely using race and gender neutral measures, what narrowly tailored remedies might address any statistically significant disparities identified, and (v) whether there are any changes needed to provisions of the general statutes, regulations of Connecticut state agencies, policies or procedures to implement narrowly tailored remedies that would address any statistically significant disparities identified or bring the state into conformance with federal law.

(2) **[**Notwithstanding any provisions of the general statutes, and except as set forth in this section, the head of each awarding agency shall set aside in each fiscal year, for award to small contractors, on the basis of competitive bidding procedures, contracts or portions of contracts for the construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation of public buildings, the construction and maintenance of highways and the purchase of goods and services. The total value of such contracts or portions thereof to be set aside by each such agency shall be at least twenty-five per cent of the total value of all contracts let by the head of such agency in each fiscal year, provided a contract for any goods or services which have been determined by the Commissioner of Administrative Services to be not customarily available from or supplied by small contractors shall not be included. Contracts or portions thereof having a value of not less than twenty-five per cent of the total value of all contracts or portions thereof to be set aside shall be reserved for awards to minority business enterprises.**]** (A) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Chief Data Officer or a designee of the Chief Data Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Administrative Services and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall create a database of available contractors in each industry category. Such database shall indicate (i) which contractors are certified as small contractors and minority business enterprises pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, (ii) the industry and geographic location of each contractor, and (iii) any other information concerning the availability of such contractors. The Chief Data Officer shall post such database on the Internet web site of the Office of Policy and Management and shall update such database, in consultation with the commissioner and commission, not less than annually thereafter.

(B) Prior to July 1, 2026, awarding agencies shall make good faith efforts toward the annual goals established during the prior fiscal year, for purposes of the spending allocation program.

(C) On and after July 1, 2026, (i) state agencies shall establish annual spending allocation goals for goods and services by industry category pursuant to subsection (k) of this section, and (ii) awarding agencies shall establish contract-specific spending allocation goals for public works contracts that reflect and are consistent with the percentage of available businesses in the relevant industry and geographic market area that are identified as small contractors and minority business enterprises in the database established pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. Awarding agencies setting spending allocation goals and contractors awarded public works contracts shall make good faith efforts, as defined in section 4a-60, and consistent with state and federal law, to achieve the spending allocation goals established pursuant to this subparagraph.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, and except as provided in this section, on and after **[**October 1, 2015**]** July 1, 2026, each **[**municipality when**]** awarding agency awarding a **[**municipal**]** public works contract shall state in its notice of solicitation for competitive bids or request for proposals or qualifications for such contract the agency spending allocation goals relevant to the contract and that the general or trade contractor shall be required to comply with the provisions of this section and the requirements concerning nondiscrimination and affirmative action under **[**sections**]** section 4a-60. **[**and 4a-60a. Any such contractor awarded a municipal public works contract shall, on the basis of competitive bidding procedures, (A) set aside at least twenty-five per cent of the total value of the state's financial assistance for such contract for award to subcontractors who are small contractors, and (B) of that portion to be set aside in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, reserve a portion equivalent to twenty-five per cent of the total value of the contract or portion thereof to be set aside for awards to subcontractors who are minority business enterprises. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any municipality that has established a set-aside program pursuant to

section 7-148u where the percentage of contracts set aside for minority business enterprises is equivalent to or exceeds the percentage set forth in this subsection.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, and except as provided in this section, on and after October 1, 2015, any individual, firm or corporation that enters into a contract for a quasi-public agency project shall, prior to awarding such contract, notify the contractor to be awarded such project of the requirements of this section and the requirements concerning nondiscrimination and affirmative action under sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a. Any such contractor awarded a contract for a quasi-public agency project shall, on the basis of competitive bidding procedures, (A) set aside at least twenty-five per cent of the total value of the state's financial assistance for such contract for award to subcontractors who are small contractors, and (B) of that portion to be set aside in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, reserve a portion equivalent to twenty-five per cent of the total value of the contract or portions thereof to be set aside for awards to subcontractors who are minority business enterprises.

(5) Eligibility of nonprofit corporations under the provisions of this section shall be limited to predevelopment contracts awarded by the Commissioner of Housing for housing projects.

(6) In calculating the percentage of contracts to be set aside under subdivisions (2) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, the awarding agency or contractor**]** Awarding agencies and contractors shall exclude any contract from the requirements of this subdivision and subdivision (2) of this subsection that may not be **[**set aside**]** subject to spending allocation goals due to a conflict with a federal law or regulation.

[(c) The head of any awarding agency may, in lieu of setting aside any contract or portions thereof, require any general or trade contractor or any other entity authorized by such agency to award contracts, to set

aside a portion of any contract for subcontractors who are eligible for set-aside contracts under this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to diminish the total value of contracts which are required to be set aside by any awarding agency pursuant to this section.**]**

[(d)**]** (c) The head of each awarding agency shall notify the **[**Commissioner of Administrative Services of all contracts to be set aside pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) or subsection (c) of this section**]** Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities of its spending allocation goals for public works contracts established pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section at the time that bid documents for such contracts are made available to potential contractors.

[(e)**]** (d) Prior to the award of a public works contract, a contractor shall submit to the awarding agency a signed statement from each subcontractor listed on the bid form stating that such contractor has communicated directly with each subcontractor about the work to be performed on such contract. The awarding **[**authority shall**]** agency may require that a contractor or subcontractor awarded a public works contract or a portion of such a contract **[**under this section**]** perform not less than thirty per cent of the work with the workforces of such contractor or subcontractor, **[**and shall require that not less than fifty per cent of the work be performed by contractors or subcontractors eligible for awards under this section**]** except such requirements shall not apply to construction managers, as described in section 46a-68d. A contractor awarded a contract or a portion of a contract under this section shall not subcontract with any person with whom the contractor is affiliated. No person who is affiliated with another person shall be **[**eligible for awards**]** counted towards an agency's spending allocation goal under this section if both affiliated persons considered together would not qualify as a small contractor or a minority business enterprise under subsection (a) of this section. **[**The awarding authority shall require that

a contractor awarded a contract pursuant to this section submit, in writing, an explanation of any subcontract to such contract that is entered into with any person that is not eligible for the award of a contract pursuant to this section, prior to the performance of any work pursuant to such subcontract.**]**

[(f)**]** (e) The awarding **[**authority**]** agency may require that a contractor or subcontractor awarded a public works contract or a portion of such a contract under this section furnish the following documentation: (1) A copy of the certificate of incorporation, certificate of limited partnership, partnership agreement or other organizational documents of the contractor or subcontractor; (2) a copy of federal income tax returns filed by the contractor or subcontractor for the previous year; (3) evidence of payment of fair market value for the purchase or lease by the contractor or subcontractor of property or equipment from another contractor who is not eligible **[**for set-aside contracts**]** to be counted towards an agency's spending allocation goals under this section; (4) evidence that the principal place of business of the contractor or subcontractor is located in the state; and (5) for any contractor or subcontractor certified under subsection **[**(k)**]** (j) of this section on or after October 1, 2021, evidence of registration as a small business in the federal database maintained by the United States General Services Administration, as required to do business with the federal government.

[(g)**]** (f) The **[**awarding authority or the Commissioner of Administrative Services or the**]** Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities may conduct an audit of the financial, corporate and business records and conduct an investigation of any **[**small contractor or minority business enterprise which applies for or is awarded a set-aside**]** contractor that is awarded a public works contract for the purpose of determining **[**eligibility for awards or**]** compliance with the requirements established under this section and section 4a-60. The

commission shall publish the results of any such audit on the commission's Internet web site.

[(h)**]** (g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to **[**(1)**]** any awarding agency for which the total value of all contracts **[**or portions of contracts of the types enumerated in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section**]** is anticipated to be equal to ten thousand dollars or less, or **[**(2)**]** any **[**municipal**]** public works contract **[**or contract for**]** of a municipality or a quasi-public agency **[**project**]** for which the total value of the contract is anticipated to be equal to fifty thousand dollars or less.

[(i)**]** (h) In lieu of a performance, bid, labor and materials or other required bond, a **[**contractor or subcontractor awarded a**]** small contractor or minority business enterprise awarded a public works contract under this section may provide to the awarding **[**authority**]** agency, and the awarding **[**authority**]** agency shall accept, a letter of credit. Any such letter of credit shall be in an amount equal to ten per cent of the contract for any contract that is less than one hundred thousand dollars and in an amount equal to twenty-five per cent of the contract for any contract that exceeds one hundred thousand dollars.

[(j)**]** (i) (1) Whenever the awarding agency has reason to believe that any contractor or subcontractor awarded a state **[**set-aside**]** contract has wilfully violated any provision of this section or section 4a-60, the awarding agency shall send a notice to such contractor or subcontractor. **[**by certified mail, return receipt requested.**]** Such notice shall include: (A) A reference to the provision alleged to be violated; (B) a short and plain statement of the matter asserted; (C) the maximum civil penalty that may be imposed for such violation; and (D) the time and place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be fixed for a date not earlier than fourteen days after the notice is mailed. The awarding agency shall send a copy of such notice to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

(2) The awarding agency shall hold a hearing on the violation asserted unless such contractor or subcontractor fails to appear. The hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. If, after the hearing, the awarding agency finds that the contractor or subcontractor has wilfully violated any provision of this section or section 4a-60, the awarding agency shall suspend all **[**set-aside**]** contract payments to the contractor or subcontractor and may, in its discretion, order that a civil penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars per violation be imposed on the contractor or subcontractor. If such contractor or subcontractor fails to appear for the hearing, the awarding agency may, as the facts require, order that a civil penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars per violation be imposed on the contractor or subcontractor. The awarding agency shall send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the contractor or subcontractor named in such order. The awarding agency may cause proceedings to be instituted by the Attorney General for the enforcement of any order imposing a civil penalty issued under this subsection.

[(k)**]** (j) (1) **[**On or before January 1, 2000, the**]** The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall establish a process for certification of small contractors and minority business enterprises as eligible **[**for set-aside contracts**]** for contracts under the spending allocation program in accordance with the requirements of this section and available for state contracts. Each certification shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years, unless the Commissioner of Administrative Services determines that an extension of such certification is warranted, provided any such extension shall not exceed a period of six months from such certification's original expiration date. Any certification issued prior to October 1, 2021, shall remain valid for the term listed on such certification unless revoked pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. The Department of Administrative Services shall maintain on its Internet web site an updated directory of small contractors and

minority business enterprises certified under this section.

(2) The Commissioner of Administrative Services may deny an application for the initial issuance or renewal of such certification after issuing a written decision to the applicant setting forth the basis for such denial. The commissioner may revoke such certification for cause after notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. Any person aggrieved by the commissioner's decision to deny the issuance or renewal of or to revoke such certification may appeal such decision to the Superior Court, in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

(3) Whenever the Commissioner of Administrative Services has reason to believe that a small contractor or minority business enterprise who has applied for or received certification under this section has included a materially false statement in his or her application, the commissioner may impose a penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars after notice and a hearing held in accordance with chapter 54. Such notice shall include (A) a reference to the statement or statements contained in the application alleged to be false, (B) the maximum civil penalty that may be imposed for such misrepresentation, and (C) the time and place of the hearing. Such hearing shall be fixed for a date not later than fourteen days from the date such notice is sent. The commissioner shall send a copy of such notice to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

(4) The commissioner shall hold a hearing prior to such revocation or denial or the imposition of a penalty, unless such contractor or subcontractor fails to appear. If, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the contractor or subcontractor has wilfully included a materially false statement in his or her application for certification under this subsection, the commissioner shall revoke or deny the certification and may order that a civil penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars be imposed on the contractor or subcontractor. If such contractor or

subcontractor fails to appear for the hearing, the commissioner may, as the facts require, revoke or deny the certification and order that a civil penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars be imposed on the contractor or subcontractor. The commissioner shall send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection to the contractor or subcontractor named in such order. The commissioner may cause proceedings to be instituted by the Attorney General for the enforcement of any order imposing a civil penalty issued under this subsection.

[(l)**]** (k) On or before June thirtieth of each year, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall provide each **[**awarding**]** state agency **[**setting aside contracts or portions of contracts**]** establishing annual spending allocation goals for goods and services under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section a preliminary report establishing small contractor and minority business **[**state set-aside program goals**]** enterprise goals by industry based on the database established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section for the twelve-month period beginning July first in the same year. On or before September thirtieth of each year, each such **[**awarding**]** state agency shall submit a final version of such report to the Commissioner of Administrative Services, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the cochairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development and government administration.

[(m)**]** (l) On or before November first of each year and on a quarterly basis thereafter, each **[**awarding**]** state agency setting **[**aside contracts or portions of contracts**]** annual and contract-specific spending allocation goals under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall prepare a status report on the **[**implementation and results of**]** progress made towards achieving its small **[**business**]** contractor and minority business enterprise **[**state set-aside program**]** goals during the three-month

period ending one month before the due date for the report. Each report shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Any **[**awarding**]** state agency that achieves less than fifty per cent of its small contractor and minority business enterprise **[**state set-aside program**]** goals by the end of the second reporting period in any twelve-month period beginning on July first shall provide a written explanation to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities **[**detailing how the awarding agency will achieve**]** reporting the good faith efforts it will employ towards achieving its goals in the final reporting period. The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities shall: (1) Monitor the achievement of the annual and contract-specific goals established by each **[**awarding**]** state agency; and (2) prepare a quarterly report concerning such goal achievement. The report shall be submitted to each **[**awarding**]** state agency that submitted a report, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of Administrative Services and the cochairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development and government administration. Failure by any awarding agency to submit any reports required by this section shall be a violation of section 46a-77.

[(n)**]** (m) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the janitorial or service contracts awarded pursuant to subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 4a-82.

[(o)**]** (n) The Commissioner of Administrative Services may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 201. Section 4a-60h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall **[**be responsible for the administration of the set-aside program for public works contracts and state contracts for goods and services, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 4a-60g. The commissioner shall**]** conduct regular training sessions, as often as the commissioner deems necessary, for state agencies to explain the state **[**set-aside**]** spending allocation program and to specify the factors that **[**must**]** shall be addressed in calculating awarding agency goals under the program. The commissioner shall conduct informational workshops to inform businesses of **[**state set-aside**]** related opportunities and responsibilities.

(b) The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities shall be responsible for the administration of the **[**set-aside**]** spending allocation program for **[**municipal**]** public works contracts. **[**and contracts for quasi-public agency projects, as described in subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (b) of section 4a-60g.**]** The commission shall conduct regular training sessions, as often as the commission deems necessary, for **[**municipalities, quasi-public agencies and**]** contractors to explain the **[**municipal and quasi-public agency project set-aside program. The commission may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of sections 4a-60g to 4a-60j, inclusive, in regard to the municipal and quasi-public agency project set-aside program**]** spending allocation program.

[(c) In any case where an individual contract is both a public works contract of an awarding agency and a quasi-public agency project contract, the provisions of this chapter governing awarding agency public works contracts shall apply to such contract.**]**

[(d)**]** (c) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of sections 4a-60g to 4a-60j, inclusive. **[**, in regard to the state set-aside program.**]** Such regulations shall include (1) provisions concerning the application of the spending allocation program to

individuals with a disability; (2) guidelines for a legally acceptable format for, and content of, letters of credit authorized under subsection **[**(j)**]** (h) of section 4a-60g; (3) procedures for random site visits to the place of business of an applicant for certification at the time of application and at subsequent times, as necessary, to ensure the integrity of the application process; and (4) time limits for approval or disapproval of applications.

[(e) On or before January 1, 1994, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall, by regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54, establish a process to ensure that small contractors, small businesses and minority business enterprises have fair access to all competitive state contracts outside of the state set-aside program.**]**

Sec. 202. Section 46a-68c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

[(a) In addition to the provisions of section 4a-60, each contractor with fifty or more employees awarded a public works contract, municipal public works contract or contract for a quasi-public agency project in excess of fifty thousand dollars in any fiscal year, but not subject to the provisions of section 46a-68d, shall develop and file an affirmative action plan with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities which shall comply with regulations adopted by the commission. The executive director or the executive director's designee shall review and formally approve, conditionally approve or disapprove the content of the affirmative action plan not later than one hundred twenty days following the date of the submission of the plan to the commission. If the executive director or the executive director's designee fails to approve, conditionally approve or disapprove a plan within such one-hundred-twenty-day period, the plan shall be deemed to be either approved or deficient without consequence. The executive director or the executive director's designee shall, not later than fifteen days after the date of deeming an affirmative action plan approved or deficient

without consequence, provide the contractor with written notification of the action taken with respect to such plan. Failure to develop an affirmative action plan that is either approved or deficient without consequence shall act as a bar to bidding on or the award of future contracts until such requirement has been met.

(b) When the executive director or the executive director's designee approves an affirmative action plan pursuant to this section, the executive director or the executive director's designee shall issue a certificate of compliance to the contractor. Such certificate shall be prima facie proof of the contractor's eligibility to bid or be awarded contracts for a period of two years from the date of the certificate. Such certificate shall not excuse the contractor from monitoring by the commission or from the reporting and record-keeping requirements of sections 46a-68e and 46a-68f. The executive director or the executive director's designee may revoke the certificate of a contractor if the contractor does not implement its affirmative action plan in compliance with this section and sections 4a-60, 4a-60g, 46a-56, 46a-68b, 46a-68d, and 46a-68e to 46a-68k, inclusive.**]**

(a) In addition to the provisions of section 4a-60, each contractor awarded a public works contract of more than one hundred fifty thousand dollars, but not subject to the provisions of section 46a-68d, or a first-tier contractor who has entered into an agreement with a construction manager subject to the provisions of section 46a-68d, that is valued at one hundred fifty thousand dollars or more, shall develop and file a good faith efforts plan with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, which shall comply with the regulations adopted by the commission. Any plan filed pursuant to this section shall be filed not later than forty-five days from the date the contract or agreement is awarded. The commission may grant one fifteen-day extension for such filing to a contractor upon the request of the contractor.

(b) The executive director or the executive director's designee shall

review and formally approve, conditionally approve or disapprove the content of the good faith efforts plan not later than one hundred twenty days following the date of the submission of the plan to the commission. If the executive director or the executive director's designee fails to approve, conditionally approve or disapprove a plan within such one-hundred-twenty-day period, the plan shall be deemed to be either approved or deficient without consequence. If a plan is disapproved, the contractor shall have forty-five days from the notice of disapproval to resubmit an amended plan in order to remedy the reasons for disapproval. The executive director or the executive director's designee shall have thirty days to approve or disapprove the resubmitted plan. If the executive director or the executive director's designee fails to review the resubmitted plan within such thirty-day period, the plan shall be deemed deficient without consequence. If the contractor fails to resubmit a plan or to remedy the reasons for disapproval, the plan shall receive a final disapproval from the executive director or the executive director's designee.

(c) Any failure to submit a plan as required by this section or receipt of a final disapproval of a plan shall constitute a discriminatory practice, as defined in section 46a-51. Any contractor who has received a final disapproval may request reconsideration of the disapproval according to the procedures for reconsideration set forth in subsection (h) of section 46a-83.

Sec. 203. Section 46a-68d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

[In addition to the provisions of section 4a-60, every public works contract, municipal public works contract or contract for a quasi-public agency project subject to the provisions of part II of chapter 60 shall also be subject to the provisions of this section. After a bid has been accepted but before a contract is awarded, the successful bidder shall file with and have obtained the approval of the executive director or the

executive director's designee for an affirmative action plan. The executive director or the executive director's designee may provide for conditional acceptance of an affirmative action plan provided written assurances are given by the contractor that it will amend its plan to conform to affirmative action requirements. In the case of a public works contract, the state shall withhold two per cent of the total contract price per month from any payment made to such contractor until such time as the contractor has developed an affirmative action plan, and received the approval of the executive director or the executive director's designee. In the case of a municipal public works contract or contract for a quasi-public agency project, the municipality or entity, as applicable, shall withhold two per cent of the total contract price per month from any payment made to such contractor until such time as the contractor has developed an affirmative action plan and received the approval of the commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a contractor subject to the provisions of this section may file a plan in advance of or at the same time as its bid. The executive director or the executive director's designee shall review plans submitted pursuant to this section within sixty days of receipt and either approve, approve with conditions or reject such plan. When the executive director or the executive director's designee approves an affirmative action plan pursuant to this section, the executive director or the executive director's designee shall issue a certificate of compliance to the contractor as provided in section 46a-68c.**]**

(a) In addition to the provisions of section 4a-60, a contractor awarded a public works contract valued at one million dollars or more or a construction manager which has entered into a contract providing for a guaranteed maximum price and has been awarded a public works contract valued at one hundred fifty thousand dollars or more, shall develop and file a good faith efforts action plan with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities which shall comply with regulations adopted by the commission. Any such plan shall be filed not

later than forty-five days from the date the contract is awarded or, in the case of a construction manager, the date the guaranteed maximum price agreement is executed. The commission may grant one fifteen-day extension for such filing to a contractor upon written request of the contractor.

(b) The executive director or the executive director's designee shall review and formally approve, conditionally approve or disapprove the content of the good faith efforts plan not later than one hundred twenty days following the date of the submission of the plan to the commission. If the executive director or the executive director's designee fails to approve, conditionally approve or disapprove a plan within such one-hundred-twenty-day period, the plan shall be deemed to be either approved or deficient without consequence. If a plan is disapproved, the contractor shall have thirty days from the notice of disapproval to resubmit an amended plan in order to remedy the reasons for disapproval. If the contractor fails to resubmit a plan or to remedy the reasons for disapproval, the plan shall receive a final disapproval from the executive director or the executive director's designee.

(c) Any failure to submit a plan as required by this section or receipt of a final disapproval of a plan shall constitute a discriminatory practice, as defined in section 46a-51. Any contractor who has received a final disapproval may request reconsideration of the disapproval according to the procedures for reconsideration set forth in subsection (h) of section 46a-83.

Sec. 204. Section 46a-68e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each contractor shall file, and shall cause each of **[**his**]** such contractor's subcontractors to file, with the commission such compliance reports at such times as the commission may direct. Compliance reports shall contain such information as to the practices,

policies, programs and employment policies, employment programs, and employment statistics of the contractor and each subcontractor and be in such form as the commission may prescribe.

(b) All compliance reports shall be submitted not later than forty-five days after the substantial completion of the contract. The executive director or the executive director's designee shall have thirty days from the date of submission of a compliance report to review and formally approve or disapprove the compliance report. If the executive director or the executive director's designee fails to approve, conditionally approve or disapprove a plan within such thirty-day period, the plan shall be deemed to be either approved or deficient without consequence.

(c) In the case of a public works contract subject to the provisions of section 46a-68d, the awarding agency shall withhold two per cent of the total contract price per month from any payment made to such contractor until such time as the contractor has submitted all compliance reports required by the commission and the reports have been approved by the executive director or the executive director's designee or deemed deficient without consequence.

Sec. 205. Section 46a-68g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

No awarding agency **[**, or in the case of a municipal public works contract, no municipality, or in the case of a quasi-public agency project contract, no entity,**]** shall enter into a contract with any bidder or prospective contractor unless the bidder or prospective contractor has satisfactorily complied with the provisions of sections 4a-60, 4a-60g, 46a-56 and 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, or submits a program for compliance acceptable to the commission.

Sec. 206. Section 46a-68k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) If the commission determines an awarding agency **[**or in the case of a municipal public works contract, a municipality,**]** has a contract compliance program which is at least equivalent to the requirements and responsibilities of sections 4a-60 and 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, such agency, **[**or municipality,**]** subject to the approval of the commission, may use its own compliance program. Any contractor who is a party to a public works contract with such agency **[**or municipality**]** may be relieved of the requirements and responsibilities of said sections, provided such contractor complies with the requirements of such agency's **[**or municipality's**]** contract compliance program.

(b) The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing a procedure for such determination and approval.

Sec. 207. Subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 4-68cc of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(2) Before awarding a contract for a Neighborhood Security project, the state or the municipality shall state in its notice of solicitation for competitive bids or request for proposals or qualifications for such contract that the bidder is required to comply with the provisions of section 4a-60g, the requirements concerning nondiscrimination and affirmative action under **[**sections**]** section 4a-60 **[**and 4a-60a**]** and the provisions under subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding the hiring of a subcontractor. The state or the municipality may inquire whether a bidder is a business enterprise that participates in the Neighborhood Security Fellowship Program and may award preference points to such bidder.

Sec. 208. Section 10a-151i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

For any qualified contract described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10a-151f, and any revenue contract or nonmonetary contract that is not a qualified contract, as such terms are defined in section 10a-151f, that is entered into or amended on or after July 1, **[**2017**]** 2026, by the chief executive officer of the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the chief executive officer of an institution within the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents for Higher Education or by the chief executive officer of The University of Connecticut, the chief executive officer shall require such contract to either (1) comply with the provisions of subsection **[**(c)**]** (d) of section 4a-60, **[**and subsection (b) of section 4a-60a,**]** and set forth the full text of subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of subsection **[**(a)**]** (b) of section 4a-60, **[**and subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (a) of section 4a-60a,**]** or (2) set forth the following affirmation: "Each party agrees, as required by **[**sections**]** section 4a-60 **[**and 4a-60a**]** of the Connecticut General Statutes, not to discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such party that such disability prevents performance of the work involved. Each party agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state of Connecticut nondiscrimination and affirmative action laws, including, but not limited to, **[**sections**]** section 4a-60 **[**and 4a-60a**]** of the Connecticut General Statutes.".

Sec. 209. Subsection (d) of section 31-51q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society that is exempt from the requirements of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

pursuant to 42 USC 2000e-1(a) or is exempt from **[**sections 4a-60a,**]** the provisions of section 4a-60, concerning sexual orientation, sections 46a-81b to 46a-81o, inclusive, pursuant to section 46a-81p, with respect to speech on religious matters to employees who perform work connected with the activities undertaken by such religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society.

Sec. 210. Subsection (b) of section 32-235 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(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 Department of Economic and Community Development:

(1) **[**for**]** For the purposes of sections 32-220 to 32-234, inclusive, including economic cluster-related programs and activities, and for the Connecticut job training finance demonstration program pursuant to sections 32-23uu and 32-23vv, provided (A) three million dollars shall be used by said department solely for the purposes of section 32-23uu, (B) not less than one million dollars shall be used for an educational technology grant to the deployment center program and the nonprofit business consortium deployment center approved pursuant to section 32-41*l*, (C) not less than two million dollars shall be used by said department for the establishment of a pilot program to make grants to businesses in designated areas of the state for construction, renovation or improvement of small manufacturing facilities, provided such grants are matched by the business, a municipality or another financing entity. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall designate areas of the state where manufacturing is a substantial part of the local economy and shall make grants under such pilot program which are likely to produce a significant economic development benefit for the designated area, (D) five million dollars may be used by said department for the manufacturing competitiveness grants program, (E)

one million dollars shall be used by said department for the purpose of a grant to the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, for the purposes of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 32-7f, (F) fifty million dollars shall be used by said department for the purpose of grants to the United States Department of the Navy, the United States Department of Defense or eligible applicants for projects related to the enhancement of infrastructure for long-term, on-going naval operations at the United States Naval Submarine Base-New London, located in Groton, which will increase the military value of said base. Such projects shall not be subject to the provisions of **[**sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a**]** section 4a-60, (G) two million dollars shall be used by said department for the purpose of a grant to the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc., for manufacturing initiatives, including aerospace and defense, and (H) four million dollars shall be used by said department for the purpose of a grant to companies adversely impacted by the construction at the Quinnipiac Bridge, where such grant may be used to offset the increase in costs of commercial overland transportation of goods or materials brought to the port of New Haven by ship or vessel; **[**,**]**

(2) **[**for**]** For the purposes of the small business assistance program established pursuant to section 32-9yy, provided fifteen million dollars shall be deposited in the small business assistance account established pursuant to said section 32-9yy; **[**,**]**

(3) **[**to**]** To deposit twenty million dollars in the small business express assistance account established pursuant to section 32-7h; **[**,**]**

(4) **[**to**]** To deposit four million nine hundred thousand dollars per year in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, and June 30, 2021, and nine million nine hundred thousand dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, in the CTNext Fund established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide

grants-in-aid to designated innovation places, as defined in section 32-39f, planning grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39*l*, and grants-in-aid for projects that network innovation places pursuant to subsection (b) of section 32-39m, provided not more than three million dollars be used for grants-in-aid for such projects, and further provided any portion of any such deposit that remains unexpended in a fiscal year subsequent to the date of such deposit may be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development for any purpose described in subsection (e) of section 32-39i; **[**,**]**

(5) **[**to**]** To deposit two million dollars per year in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, in the CTNext Fund established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of providing higher education entrepreneurship grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39g, provided any portion of any such deposit that remains unexpended in a fiscal year subsequent to the date of such deposit may be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development for any purpose described in subsection (e) of section 32-39i; **[**,**]**

(6) **[**for**]** For the purpose of funding the costs of the Technology Talent Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 32-7p, provided not more than ten million dollars may be used on or after July 1, 2023, for such purpose; **[**,**]**

(7) **[**to**]** To provide (A) a grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Supplier Connection in an amount equal to two hundred fifty thousand dollars in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, and (B) a grant-in-aid to the Connecticut Procurement Technical Assistance Program in an amount equal to three hundred thousand dollars in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive; **[**,**]**

(8) **[**to**]** To deposit four hundred fifty thousand dollars per year, in

each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021, inclusive, in the CTNext Fund established pursuant to section 32-39i, which shall be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide growth grants-in-aid pursuant to section 32-39g, provided any portion of any such deposit that remains unexpended in a fiscal year subsequent to the date of such deposit may be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development for any purpose described in subsection (e) of section 32-39i; **[**,**]**

(9) **[**to**]** To transfer fifty million dollars to the Labor Department which shall be used by said department for the purpose of funding workforce pipeline programs selected pursuant to section 31-11rr, provided, notwithstanding the provisions of section 31-11rr, (A) not less than five million dollars shall be provided to the workforce development board in Bridgeport serving the southwest region, for purposes of such program, and the board shall distribute such money in proportion to population and need, and (B) not less than five million dollars shall be provided to the workforce development board in Hartford serving the north central region, for purposes of such program; **[**,**]**

(10) **[**to**]** To transfer twenty million dollars to Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, provided ten million dollars shall be used by Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated for the purpose of the proof of concept fund established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 32-39x and ten million dollars shall be used by Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated for the purpose of the venture capital fund program established pursuant to section 32-41oo; **[**,**]**

(11) **[**to**]** To provide a grant to The University of Connecticut of eight million dollars for the establishment, development and operation of a center for sustainable aviation pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10a-110o; **[**,**]** and

(12) **[**for**]** For up to twenty million dollars in investments in federally designated opportunity zones through an impact investment firm including, subject to the approval of the Governor, funding from the Economic Assistance Revolving Fund, established pursuant to section 32-231.

Sec. 211. Section 46a-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

As used in **[**section 4a-60a and**]** this chapter:

(1) "Blind" refers to an individual whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees;

(2) "Commission" means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities created by section 46a-52;

(3) "Commission legal counsel" means a member of the legal staff employed by the commission pursuant to section 46a-54;

(4) "Commissioner" means a member of the commission;

(5) "Court" means the Superior Court or any judge of said court;

(6) "Discrimination" includes segregation and separation;

(7) "Discriminatory employment practice" means any discriminatory practice specified in subsection (b), (d), (e) or (f) of section 31-51i or section 46a-60 or 46a-81c;

(8) "Discriminatory practice" means a violation of section 4a-60, **[**4a-60a,**]** 4a-60g, 19a-498c, 31-40y, subsection (b), (d), (e) or (f) of section 31-51i, subparagraph (C) of subdivision (15) of section 46a-54, subdivisions

(16) and (17) of section 46a-54, section 46a-58, 46a-59, 46a-60, 46a-64, 46a-64c, 46a-66 or 46a-68, sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, sections 46a-70 to 46a-78, inclusive, subsection (a) of section 46a-80, sections 46a-81b to 46a-81o, inclusive, sections 46a-80b to 46a-80e, inclusive, or sections 46a-80k to 46a-80m, inclusive, or section **[**19a-498c**]** 49-41c;

(9) "Employee" means any person employed by an employer but shall not include any individual employed by such individual's parents, spouse or child. "Employee" includes any elected or appointed official of a municipality, board, commission, counsel or other governmental body;

(10) "Employer" includes the state and all political subdivisions thereof and means any person or employer with one or more persons in such person's or employer's employ;

(11) "Employment agency" means any person undertaking with or without compensation to procure employees or opportunities to work;

(12) "Labor organization" means any organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid or protection in connection with employment;

(13) "Intellectual disability" means intellectual disability as defined in section 1-1g;

(14) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, legal representatives, trustees, trustees in bankruptcy, receivers and the state and all political subdivisions and agencies thereof;

(15) "Physically disabled" refers to any individual who has any chronic physical handicap, infirmity or impairment, whether congenital or resulting from bodily injury, organic processes or changes or from

illness, including, but not limited to, epilepsy, deafness or being hard of hearing or reliance on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;

(16) "Respondent" means any person alleged in a complaint filed pursuant to section 46a-82 to have committed a discriminatory practice;

(17) "Discrimination on the basis of sex" includes, but is not limited to, discrimination related to pregnancy, child-bearing capacity, sterilization, fertility or related medical conditions;

(18) "Discrimination on the basis of religious creed" includes, but is not limited to, discrimination related to all aspects of religious observances and practice as well as belief, unless an employer demonstrates that the employer is unable to reasonably accommodate to an employee's or prospective employee's religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business;

(19) "Learning disability" refers to an individual who exhibits a severe discrepancy between educational performance and measured intellectual ability and who exhibits a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in a diminished ability to listen, speak, read, write, spell or to do mathematical calculations;

(20) "Mental disability" refers to an individual who has a record of, or is regarded as having one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders";

(21) "Gender identity or expression" means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally

associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose;

(22) "Veteran" **[**means veteran as defined**]** has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 27-103;

(23) "Race" is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles;

(24) "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs;

(25) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 46b-1; and

(26) "Sexual orientation" means a person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are romantically, emotionally or sexually attracted, inclusive of any identity that a person (A) may have previously expressed, or (B) is perceived by another person to hold.

Sec. 212. Section 46a-56 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The commission shall:

(1) Investigate the possibilities of affording equal opportunity of profitable employment to all persons, with particular reference to job training and placement;

(2) Compile facts concerning discrimination in employment,

violations of civil liberties and other related matters;

(3) Investigate and proceed in all cases of discriminatory practices under this chapter and noncompliance with the provisions of section 4a-60, **[**or 4a-60a**]** or sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, provided, the commission, whenever it has reason to believe that a person who is a party to a discriminatory practice case has engaged or is engaged in conduct that constitutes a violation of part VI, of chapter 952, may refer such matter to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and said office shall conduct a further investigation as deemed necessary;

(4) From time to time, but not less than once a year, report to the Governor as provided in section 4-60, making recommendations for the removal of such injustices as it may find to exist and such other recommendations as it deems advisable and describing the investigations, proceedings and hearings it has conducted and their outcome, the decisions it has rendered and the other work it has performed;

(5) Monitor state contracts to determine whether they are in compliance with **[**sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a**]** section 4a-60, and those provisions of the general statutes which prohibit discrimination;

(6) Compile data concerning state contracts with female and minority business enterprises and submit a report annually to the General Assembly concerning the employment of such business enterprises as contractors and subcontractors;

(7) Develop and include on the commission's Internet web site a link concerning the illegality of sexual harassment, as defined in section 46a-60, and the remedies available to victims of sexual harassment;

(8) Develop and make available at no cost to employers an online training and education video or other interactive method of training and education that fulfills the requirements prescribed in subdivision (15) of

section 46a-54;

(9) Develop, in conjunction with organizations that advocate on behalf of victims of domestic violence, and include on the commission's Internet web site a link concerning domestic violence and the resources available to victims of domestic violence; and

(10) Develop, in conjunction with organizations that advocate on behalf of victims of domestic violence, and make available at no cost to each state agency an online training and education video or other interactive method of training and education that fulfills the requirements prescribed in subdivision (19) of section 46a-54.

(b) The commission may, when it is deemed in the best interests of the state, exempt a contractor from the requirements of complying with any or all of the provisions of section 4a-60, **[**4a-60a,**]** 46a-68c, 46a-68d or 46a-68e in any specific contract. Exemptions under the provisions of this section may include, but not be limited to, the following instances: (1) If the work is to be or has been performed outside the state and no recruitment of workers within the limits of the state is involved; (2) those involving less than specified amounts of money or specified numbers of workers; (3) to the extent that they involve subcontracts below a specified tier. The commission may also exempt facilities of a contractor which are in all respects separate and distinct from activities of the contractor related to the performance of the contract, provided such an exemption shall not interfere with or impede the effectuation of the purposes of this section and sections 4a-60, **[**4a-60a,**]** 4a-60g and 46a-68b to 46a-68k, inclusive.

(c) (1) If the commission determines through its monitoring and compliance procedures that a contractor or subcontractor is not complying with antidiscrimination statutes or contract provisions required under section 4a-60, **[**or 4a-60a**]** or sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, the commission may issue a complaint pursuant to subsection

(c) of section 46a-82. Such complaint shall be scheduled for a hearing before a human rights referee appointed by the chief referee to act as a presiding officer. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with chapter 54 and section 46a-84. If, after such hearing, the presiding officer makes a finding of noncompliance with antidiscrimination statutes or contract provisions required under section 4a-60 **[**or 4a-60a**]** or sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, the presiding officer shall order such relief as is necessary to achieve full compliance with any antidiscrimination statute and required contract provisions.

(2) The presiding officer may:

[(1) (A) In the case of a state contract, order the state**]** (A) Order the awarding agency to retain two per cent of the total contract price per month on any existing contract with such contractor that the **[**state**]** agency withheld pursuant to section **[**46a-68d and**]** 46a-68e and in the case of a state contract, transfer the funds to the State Treasurer for deposit in the special fund described in subsection (e) of this section; **[**, or (B) in the case of a municipal public works or quasi-public agency contract, order the municipality or entity to retain two per cent of the total contract price per month on any existing contract with such contractor; (2) prohibit**]**

(B) Prohibit the contractor from participation in any further **[**contracts with state agencies or any further municipal public works contracts or quasi-public agency project contracts, as applicable**]** public works contracts until: **[**(A)**]** (i) The expiration of a period of two years from the date of the finding of noncompliance, or **[**(B)**]** (ii) the presiding officer determines that the contractor has adopted policies consistent with such statutes, provided the presiding officer shall make such determination not later than forty-five days after such finding of noncompliance; **[**(3) publish**]**

(C) Publish, or cause to be published, the names of contractors or

unions that the presiding officer has found to be in noncompliance with such provisions; **[**(4) notify**]**

(D) Notify the Attorney General that, in cases in which there is substantial violation or the threat of substantial violation of section 4a-60, **[**or 4a-60a,**]** appropriate proceedings should be brought to enforce such provisions, including the enjoining of organizations, individuals or groups that prevent, or seek to prevent, compliance with section 4a-60; **[**or 4a-60a; (5) recommend**]**

(E) Recommend to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Department of Justice that appropriate proceedings be instituted under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or related laws when necessary; **[**(6) recommend**]**

(F) Recommend to the appropriate prosecuting authority that criminal proceedings be brought for the furnishing of false information to any awarding agency or to the commission; **[**(7) order**]**

(G) Order the contractor to bring itself into compliance with antidiscrimination statutes or contract provisions required under section 4a-60 **[**or 4a-60a**]** or sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, not later than a period of thirty days after the issuance of such order or, for good cause shown, within an additional period of thirty days, and, if such contractor fails to bring itself into such compliance within such time period and such noncompliance is substantial or there is a pattern of noncompliance, recommend to the awarding agency that such agency declare the contractor to be in breach of the contract and that such agency pursue all available remedies; **[**or, in the case of a municipal public works or quasi-public agency project contract, recommend the municipality or entity to make such a declaration and pursue all available remedies; (8) order**]**

(H) Order the awarding agency **[**or, in the case of a municipal public

works or quasi-public agency project contract, the municipality or entity,**]** to refrain from entering into further contracts, or extensions or other modifications of existing contracts, with any noncomplying contractor, until such contractor has satisfied the commission that such contractor has established and will carry out personnel and employment policies in compliance with antidiscrimination statutes and section 4a-60 **[**or 4a-60a**]** and sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive; or **[**(9) order**]**

(I) Order two or more remedies or other relief designed to achieve full compliance with antidiscrimination statutes and required contract provisions.

(3) The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

(d) If the commission determines, through its monitoring and compliance procedures, that, with respect to a **[**state contract, municipal public works contract or quasi-public agency project**]** public works contract, a contractor, subcontractor, service provider or supplier of materials has (1) fraudulently qualified as a minority business enterprise, or (2) performed services or supplied materials on behalf of another contractor, subcontractor, service provider or supplier of materials knowing (A) that such other contractor, subcontractor, service provider or supplier has fraudulently qualified as a minority business enterprise in order to appear to comply with antidiscrimination statutes or contract provisions required under section 4a-60, **[**or 4a-60a,**]** and (B) that such services or materials are to be used in connection with a contract entered into pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4a-60g, the commission may issue a complaint pursuant to subsection (c) of section 46a-82. Such complaint shall be scheduled for a hearing before a referee assigned by the chief referee to act as a presiding officer. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 and section 46a-84. If, after such hearing, the presiding officer makes a finding that

a contractor, subcontractor, service provider or supplier of materials has violated this subsection, the presiding officer shall assess a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars upon such contractor, subcontractor, service provider or supplier of materials.

(e) The Attorney General, upon complaint of the commission, shall institute a civil action in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to recover any penalty assessed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. Any penalties recovered pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in a special fund and shall be held by the State Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. The resources in such fund shall, pursuant to regulations adopted by the commission, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, be used to assist minority business enterprises. As used in this section, "minority business enterprise" means any contractor, subcontractor or supplier of materials fifty-one per cent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which is owned by a person or persons: (1) Who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise; (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise; and (3) who are members of a minority, as defined in subsection (a) of section 32-9n.

Sec. 213. Section 4b-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The awarding authority shall furnish to every person applying therefor a form for general bid.

(b) Every general bid submitted for a contract subject to this chapter shall be submitted on a form furnished by the awarding authority. The form provided by the awarding authority shall provide a place for listing the names and prices of subcontractors for the four classes of work specified in subsection (a) of section 4b-93, and for each other class of work included by the awarding authority pursuant to said subsection and state that: (1) The undersigned agrees that if selected as general

contractor, he shall, within five days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after presentation thereof by the awarding authority, execute a contract in accordance with the terms of the general bid; (2) the undersigned agrees and warrants that he has made good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials under such contract and shall provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information as is requested by the commission concerning his employment practices and procedures as they relate to the provisions of the general statutes governing contract requirements; and (3) the undersigned agrees that each of the subcontractors listed on the bid form will be used for the work indicated at the amount stated, unless a substitution is permitted by the awarding authority. General bids shall also include a signed statement from each subcontractor listed on the bid form that such subcontractor has communicated directly with the general bidder about the work to be performed on the specific contract prior to the submittal of the general bid. The awarding authority may require in the bid form that the general contractor agree to perform a stated, minimum percentage of work with his own forces.

(c) General bids shall be for the complete work as specified and shall include the names of any subcontractors for the four classes of work specified in subsection (a) of section 4b-93, and for each other class of work for which the awarding authority has required a separate section pursuant to said subsection and the dollar amounts of their subcontracts, and the general contractor shall be selected on the basis of such general bids. It shall be presumed that the general bidder intends to perform with its own employees all work in such four classes and such other classes, for which no subcontractor is named. The general bidder's qualifications for performing such work shall be subject to review under section 4b-92. Every general bid which is conditional or obscure, or which contains any addition not called for, shall be invalid; and the awarding authority shall reject every such general bid. The

awarding authority shall be authorized to waive minor irregularities which **[**he**]** the awarding authority considers in the best interest of the state, provided the reasons for any such waiver are stated in writing by the awarding authority and made a part of the contract file. No such general bid shall be rejected because of the failure to submit prices for, or information relating to, any item or items for which no specific space is provided in the general bid form furnished by the awarding authority, but this sentence shall not be applicable to any failure to furnish prices or information required by this section to be furnished in the form provided by the awarding authority. General bids shall be publicly opened and read by the awarding authority forthwith. The awarding authority shall not permit substitution of a subcontractor for one named in accordance with the provisions of this section or substitution of a subcontractor for any designated subtrade work bid to be performed by the general contractor's own forces, except for good cause. The term "good cause" includes, but is not limited to, a subcontractor's or, where appropriate, a general contractor's: (1) Death or physical disability, if the listed subcontractor is an individual; (2) dissolution, if a corporation or partnership; (3) bankruptcy; (4) inability to furnish any performance and payment bond shown on the bid form; (5) inability to obtain, or loss of, a license necessary for the performance of the particular category of work; (6) failure or inability to comply with a requirement of law applicable to contractors, subcontractors, or construction, alteration, or repair projects; (7) failure to perform his agreement to execute a subcontract under section 4b-96.

(d) The general bid price shall be the price set forth in the space provided on the general bid form. No general bid shall be rejected (1) because of error in setting forth the name of a subcontractor as long as the subcontractor or subcontractors designated are clearly identifiable, or (2) because the plans and specifications do not accompany the bid or are not submitted with the bid. Failure to correctly state a subcontractor's price shall be cause for rejection of the general bidder's

bid.

(e) Any general contractor who violates any provision of this section shall be disqualified from bidding on other contracts that are subject to the provisions of this chapter for a period not to exceed twenty-four months, commencing from the date on which the violation is discovered, for each violation. The awarding authority shall periodically review the general contractor's subcontracts to insure compliance with such provisions, and shall after each such review prepare a written report setting forth its findings and conclusions.

Sec. 214. Section 49-41c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person contracting with the state shall make payment to any subcontractor employed by such contractor within **[**thirty**]** fifteen days of payment by the state to the contractor for any work performed or, in the case of any contract entered into on or after October 1, 1986, for materials furnished by such subcontractor, provided such contractor may withhold such payment if such contractor has a bona fide reason for such withholding and if such contractor notifies the affected subcontractor, in writing, of his reasons for withholding such payment and provides the state board, commission, department, office, institution, council or other agency through which such contractor had made the contract, with a copy of the notice, within such **[**thirty-day**]** fifteen-day period.

Sec. 215. Subsection (a) of section 46a-68 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each state agency, department, board and commission with twenty-five **[**,**]** or more **[**,**]** full-time employees shall develop and implement, in cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and

Opportunities, an affirmative action plan that commits the agency, department, board or commission to a program of affirmative action in all aspects of personnel and administration. Such plan shall be developed pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities in accordance with chapter 54 to ensure that affirmative action is undertaken as required by state and federal law to provide equal employment opportunities and to comply with all responsibilities under the provisions of sections 4-61u to 4-61w, inclusive, sections 46a-54 to 46a-64, inclusive, section 46a-64c and sections 46a-70 to 46a-78, inclusive. The executive head of each such agency, department, board or commission shall be directly responsible for the development, filing and implementation of such affirmative action plan. The Metropolitan District of Hartford County shall be deemed to be a state agency for purposes of this section and sections 4a-60 **[**, 4a-60a**]** and 4a-60g.

Sec. 216. Subsection (d) of section 46a-81i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(d) Every state contract or subcontract for construction on public buildings or for other public work or for goods and services shall conform to the intent of section **[**4a-60a**]** 4a-60.

Sec. 217. Section 46a-81p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The provisions of **[**sections 4a-60a and**]** section 4a-60 concerning sexual orientation and sections 46a-81b to 46a-81o, inclusive, shall not apply to a religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society with respect to the employment of individuals to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society of its activities, or with respect to matters of discipline, faith, internal organization or

ecclesiastical rule, custom or law which are established by such corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society.

Sec. 218. Section 46a-81q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The provisions of **[**sections 4a-60a and**]** section 4a-60 concerning sexual orientation and sections 46a-81b to 46a-81o, inclusive, shall not apply to the conduct and administration of a ROTC program established and maintained pursuant to 10 USC Sections 2101 to 2111, inclusive, as amended from time to time, and the regulations thereunder, at an institution of higher education. For purposes of this section, "ROTC" means the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Sec. 219. Subsection (c) of section 46a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(c) The commission, whenever it has reason to believe that any contractor or subcontractor is not complying with antidiscrimination statutes or contract provisions required under section 4a-60, **[**4a-60a**]** or 4a-60g or the provisions of sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, may issue a complaint.

Sec. 220. Subsection (e) of section 46a-86 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(e) In addition to any other action taken under this section, upon a finding of noncompliance with antidiscrimination statutes or contract provisions required under section 4a-60 **[**or 4a-60a**]** or the provisions of sections 46a-68c to 46a-68f, inclusive, the presiding officer shall file with the commission and serve on the respondent an order with respect to any remedial action imposed pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of section 46a-56.

Sec. 221. Section 46a-81aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The provisions of subsection **[**(a)**]** (b) of section 4a-60, subsection (c) of section 8-169s, section 8-265c, subsection (c) of section 8-294, section 8-315, subsection (a) of section 10-15c, section 10-153, subsection (b) of section 10a-6, subsection (a) of section 11-24b, sections 16-245r and 16-247r, subsection (b) of section 28-15, section 31-22p, subsection (e) of section 31-57e, sections 32-277, 38a-358 and 42-125a, subsection (c) of section 42-125b, subsection (a) of section 46a-58, subsection (a) of section 46a-59, subsection (b) of section 46a-60, subsection (a) of section 46a-64, subsections (a) and (e) of section 46a-64c, subsection (a) of section 46a-66, subsection (a) of section 46a-70, subsection (a) of section 46a-71, subsection (b) of section 46a-72, subsection (a) of section 46a-73, subsection (a) of section 46a-75, subsection (a) of section 46a-76, subsections (b) and (c) of section 52-571d and section 53-37a that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression shall not apply to a religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society with respect to the employment of individuals to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society of its activities, or with respect to matters of discipline, faith, internal organization or ecclesiastical rule, custom or law which are established by such corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society.

Sec. 222. Subsection (b) of section 4-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) Each project shall comply with: (1) The state's environmental policy requirements as set forth in sections 22a-1 and 22a-1a, (2) the requirements of the **[**set-aside**]** spending allocation program for small contractors as set forth in section 4a-60g, and (3) any applicable

permitting or inspection requirements for projects of a similar type, scope and size as set forth in the general statutes or the local ordinances of the municipality where the project is to be located.

Sec. 223. Subsection (e) of section 4a-52a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4a-51 and 4a-52, the Commissioner of Administrative Services may delegate authority to any state agency to purchase supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services, consistent with section 4a-67c, if the commissioner determines, in writing, that (1) such delegation would reduce state purchasing costs or result in more efficient state purchasing, and (2) the agency has employees with experience and expertise in state purchasing statutes, regulations and procedures. In determining which agencies to delegate such purchasing authority to, the commissioner shall give preference to agencies which have exceeded the **[**set-aside**]** spending allocation requirements of section 4a-60g. An agency to whom such authority is delegated shall comply with all such statutes, regulations and procedures. The Commissioner of Administrative Services or his or her designee shall periodically review each such delegation of purchasing authority and may revoke or modify a delegation upon determining that the agency has violated any provision of the delegation or that there is evidence of insufficient competition in the competitive bidding or competitive negotiation process.

Sec. 224. Subsection (d) of section 8-169mm of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(d) The authority shall designate a contract compliance officer from its staff to monitor compliance of the operations of facilities and parking facilities associated with authority development projects that are under

the management or control of the authority, with (1) the provisions of state law applicable to such operations, and (2) applicable requirements of contracts entered into by the authority relating to **[**set-asides**]** spending allocation goals for small contractors and minority business enterprises and required efforts to hire available and qualified members of minorities, as defined in section 32-9n. Each year during the period of operations of facilities associated with authority development projects, such officer shall file a written report with the authority as to findings and recommendations regarding such compliance.

Sec. 225. Section 13b-20o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Department of Transportation may set aside any contract or portions thereof, or require any general or trade contractor or any other entity authorized by the department to award contracts to set aside a portion of any contract for contractors or subcontractors that had gross revenues not exceeding three million dollars in the most recently completed fiscal year prior to the contract award. Nothing in this section shall be construed to diminish the total value of contracts that are required to **[**be set aside by**]** comply with spending allocation goals of the department pursuant to section 4a-60g.

Sec. 226. Section 4e-15 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Nothing in sections 4e-1 to 4e-14, inclusive, and 4e-16 shall be construed to affect the requirements of subsection (g) of section 4a-57, subsection **[**(p)**]** (m) of section 4a-60g, sections 4a-82 and 17a-796 and subsection (c) of section 31-57g.

Sec. 227. Section 4a-60a of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2025*)

Sec. 228. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Comptroller shall conduct a study on the compensation of transportation network company drivers and third-party delivery company drivers in the state. In conducting such study, the Comptroller shall obtain and analyze data and information related to income earned by transportation network company drivers and third-party delivery company drivers for services provided by such drivers in the state and costs directly attributable to providing such services. Such data and information shall be aggregated in a manner that does not report personally identifiable information and shall exclude any proprietary, trade secret, competitively sensitive or otherwise confidential commercial information that is not publicly available. The Comptroller may enter into a contract with a consultant in order to conduct such study. Not later than July 1, 2026, the Comptroller shall file a report on such data and information, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees.

(b) The Comptroller shall, within available appropriations, spend not more than one hundred thousand dollars on conducting such study.

Sec. 229. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to study the working conditions and compensation of transportation network company and third-party delivery company drivers. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, a review of the report submitted pursuant to section 228 of this act. The working group shall provide recommendations relating to (1) minimum pay for transportation network company drivers and third-party delivery company drivers, and (2) the fair treatment of transportation network company and third-party delivery company drivers.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General

Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees, or their designees;

(2) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have experience working with transportation network company drivers, and one of whom shall be a representative of a third-party delivery company;

(3) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a transportation network company driver, and one of whom shall be a representative of third-party delivery company drivers;

(4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom has experience working with transportation network company drivers and one of whom shall be a transportation network company driver;

(5) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom has experience working with transportation network company drivers and one of whom shall be a transportation network company driver;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a representative of a transportation network company and one of whom is a representative of a third party delivery company;

(7) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of a transportation network company and one of whom is a representative from an association representing business and industry in the state;

(8) The Labor Commissioner, or the Labor Commissioner's designee;

(9) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee; and

(10) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee.

(c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employee's shall be the chairpersons of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The working group shall meet not less than once per month and such other times as the chairpersons deem necessary.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

Sec. 230. Section 2 of number 70 of the special acts of 1899 is amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Said corporation may receive, purchase **[**,**]** and hold or lease any real

or personal estate. **[**, provided that it shall not hold any property the value of which shall exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars.**]**

Sec. 231. Section 12-195h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any municipality, by resolution of its legislative body, as defined in section 1-1, may assign, for consideration, any and all liens filed by the tax collector to secure unpaid taxes on real property as provided under the provisions of this chapter. The consideration received by the municipality shall be negotiated between the municipality and the assignee.

(b) The assignee or assignees of such liens shall have and possess the same powers and rights at law or in equity that such municipality and municipality's tax collector would have had if the lien had not been assigned with regard to the precedence and priority of such lien, the accrual of interest and the fees and expenses of collection and of preparing and recording the assignment, except that: (1) For assignments executed on or after July 1, 2026, commencing on the date of the assignment, interest shall accrue on the delinquent portion of the principal of the assigned tax obligation at the rate of twelve per cent per annum; and (2) any such assignee **[**(1)**]** (A) shall not be insulated from liability for its conduct by virtue of the provisions of section 42-110c, and **[**(2)**]** (B) shall be obligated to provide a payoff statement, as defined in section 49-8a, in the same manner as a mortgagee in accordance with the requirements of section 49-10a. The assignee shall have the same rights to enforce such liens as any private party holding a lien on real property including, but not limited to, foreclosure and a suit on the debt.

(c) (1) No such assignment executed on or after July 1, 2022, shall be valid or enforceable unless memorialized in a contract executed by the municipality and the assignee that is in writing and provides: **[**(1)**]** (A) The manner in which the assignee will provide to the owner of the real

property that is the subject of the assignment one or more addresses and telephone numbers that may be used for correspondence with the assignee about the debt and payment thereof; **[**(2)**]** (B) the earliest and latest dates by which the assignee shall commence any foreclosure or suit on the debt or the manner for determining such dates, except as may be impacted by any payment arrangement, bankruptcy petition or other circumstance, provided in no event shall the assignee commence a foreclosure suit before one year has elapsed since the assignee's purchase of the lien; **[**(3)**]** (C) the structure and rates of attorney's fees that the assignee may claim against the owner or owners of such real property in any foreclosure, suit on the debt or otherwise, and a prohibition from using as foreclosure counsel any attorney or law office that is owned by, employs or contracts with any person having an interest in such assignee; **[**(4)**]** (D) confirmation that the owner of the real property for which the lien has been filed shall be a third-party beneficiary entitled to enforce the covenants and responsibilities of the assignee as contained in the contract; **[**(5)**]** (E) a prohibition on the assignee assigning the lien without the municipality's prior written consent; **[**(6)**]** (F) the detail and frequency of reports provided to the municipality's tax collector regarding the status of the assigned liens; **[**(7)**]** (G) confirmation that the assignee is not ineligible, pursuant to section 31-57b, to be assigned the lien because of occupational safety and health law violations; **[**(8)**]** (H) disclosure of **[**(A)**]** (i) all resolved and pending arbitrations and litigation matters in which the assignee or any of its principals have been involved within the last ten years, except foreclosure actions involving liens purchased from or assigned by governmental entities, **[**(B)**]** (ii) all criminal proceedings that the assignee or any of its principals has ever been the subject, **[**(C)**]** (iii) any interest in the subject property held by the assignee or any of its principals, officers or agents, and **[**(D)**]** (iv) each instance in which the assignee or any of its principals was found to have violated any state or local ethics law, regulation, ordinance, code, policy or standard, or to have committed any other offense arising out of the submission of

proposals or bids or the performance of work on public contract; and **[**(9)**]** (I) such additional terms to which the municipality and the assignee mutually agree, consistent with applicable law.

(2) No such assignment executed on or after July 1, 2026, shall be valid or enforceable unless such assignment is memorialized in a written contract that: (A) Is executed by the municipality and the assignee; (B) includes a requirement that no attorney's fees shall be received, claimed or collected until the commencement of a foreclosure or suit on the debt; and (C) includes the provisions set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(d) The assignee, or any subsequent assignee, shall provide written notice of an assignment, not later than sixty days after the date of such assignment, to the owner and any holder of a mortgage, on the real property that is the subject of the assignment, provided such owner or holder is of record as of the date of such assignment. Such notice shall include information sufficient to identify: (1) **[**the**]** The property that is subject to the lien and in which the holder has an interest; **[**,**]** (2) the name and addresses of the assignee; **[**,**]** and (3) the amount of unpaid taxes, interest and fees being assigned relative to the subject property as of the date of the assignment.

(e) Not less than sixty days prior to commencing an action to foreclose a lien under this section, the assignee shall provide a written notice, by first-class mail, to the holders of all first or second security interests on the property subject to the lien that were recorded before the date the assessment the lien sought to be enforced became delinquent. Such notice shall set forth: (1) The amount of unpaid debt owed to the assignee as of the date of the notice; (2) the amount of any attorney's fees and costs incurred by the assignee in the enforcement of the lien as of the date of the notice; (3) a statement of the assignee's intention to foreclose the lien if the amounts set forth pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection are not paid to the assignee on or before sixty

days after the date the notice is provided; (4) the assignee's contact information, including, but not limited to, the assignee's name, mailing address, telephone number and electronic mail address, if any; and (5) instructions concerning the acceptable means of making a payment on the amounts owed to the assignee as set forth pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection. Any notice required under this subsection shall be effective upon the date such notice is provided.

(f) When providing the written notice required under subsection (e) of this section, the assignee may rely on the last recorded security interest of record in identifying the name and mailing address of the holder of such interest, unless the holder of such interest is the plaintiff in an action pending in Superior Court to enforce such interest, in which case the assignee shall provide the written notice to the attorney appearing on behalf of the plaintiff.

(g) Each aspect of a foreclosure, sale or other disposition under this section, including, but not limited to, the costs, **[**attorney**]** attorney's fees, method, advertising, time, date, place and terms, shall be commercially reasonable, and, for actions commenced on or after July 1, 2026, such attorney's fees shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the amount of any judgment that is entered.

Sec. 232. Section 7-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any assessment of benefits or any installment thereof, not paid within thirty days after the due date, shall be delinquent and shall be subject to interest from such due date at the interest rate and in the manner provided by the general statutes for delinquent property taxes. Each addition of interest shall be collectible as a part of such assessment.

(b) Whenever any installment of an assessment becomes delinquent, the interest on such delinquent installment shall be as provided in

subsection (a) of this section or five dollars, whichever is greater. Any unpaid assessment and any interest due thereon shall constitute a lien upon the real estate against which the assessment was levied from the date of such levy. Each such lien may be continued, recorded and released in the manner provided by the general statutes for continuing, recording and releasing property tax liens. Each such lien shall take precedence over all other liens and encumbrances except taxes and may be enforced in the same manner as property tax liens. The tax collector of the municipality may collect such assessments in accordance with any mandatory provision of the general statutes for the collection of property taxes and the municipality may recover any such assessment in a civil action against any person liable therefor.

(c) Any municipality, by resolution of its legislative body, may assign, for consideration, any and all liens filed by the tax collector to secure unpaid sewer assessments as provided under the provisions of this chapter. The consideration received by the municipality shall be negotiated between the municipality and the assignee.

(d) The assignee or assignees of such liens shall have and possess the same powers and rights at law or in equity as such municipality and municipality's tax collector would have had if the lien had not been assigned with regard to the precedence and priority of such lien, the accrual of interest and the fees and expenses of collection, except that any such assignee: (1) **[**shall**]** Shall not be insulated from liability by virtue of the provisions of section 42-110c; **[**,**]** and (2) shall be obligated to provide a payoff statement, as defined in section 49-8a, in the same manner as a mortgagee in accordance with the requirements of section 49-10a. The assignee shall have the same rights to enforce such liens as any private party holding a lien on real property, including, but not limited to, foreclosure and a suit on the debt.

(e) (1) No such assignment executed on or after July 1, 2022, shall be valid or enforceable unless memorialized in a contract executed by the

authority and the assignee that is in writing and provides: **[**(1)**]** (A) The manner in which the assignee will provide to the owner of the real property that is the subject of the assignment one or more addresses and telephone numbers that may be used for correspondence with the assignee about the debt and payment thereof; **[**(2)**]** (B) the earliest and latest dates by which the assignee shall commence any foreclosure or suit on the debt or the manner for determining such dates, except as may be impacted by any payment arrangement, bankruptcy petition or other circumstance, provided in no event shall the assignee commence a foreclosure suit before one year has elapsed since the assignee's purchase of the lien; **[**(3)**]** (C) the structure and rates of attorney's fees that the assignee may claim against the owner or owners of such real property in any foreclosure, suit on the debt or otherwise, and a prohibition from using as foreclosure counsel any attorney or law office that is owned by, employs or contracts with any person having an interest in such assignee; **[**(4)**]** (D) confirmation that the owner of the real property for which the lien has been filed shall be a third-party beneficiary entitled to enforce the covenants and responsibilities of the assignee as contained in the contract; **[**(5)**]** (E) a prohibition on the assignee assigning the lien without the municipality's prior written consent; **[**(6)**]** (F) the detail and frequency of reports provided to the municipality's tax collector regarding the status of the assigned liens; **[**(7)**]** (G) confirmation that the assignee is not ineligible, pursuant to section 31-57b, to be assigned the lien because of occupational safety and health law violations; **[**(8)**]** (H) disclosure of **[**(A)**]** (i) all resolved and pending arbitrations and litigation matters in which the assignee or any of its principals have been involved within the last ten years, except foreclosure actions involving liens purchased from or assigned by governmental entities, **[**(B)**]** (ii) all criminal proceedings that the assignee or any of its principals has ever been the subject, **[**(C)**]** (iii) any interest in the subject property held by the assignee or any of its principals, officers or agents, and **[**(D)**]** (iv) each instance in which the assignee or any of its principals was found to have violated any state or

local ethics law, regulation, ordinance, code, policy or standard, or to have committed any other offense arising out of the submission of proposals or bids or the performance of work on public contract; and **[**(9)**]** (I) such additional terms to which the municipality and the assignee mutually agree, consistent with applicable law.

(2) No such assignment executed on or after July 1, 2026, shall be valid or enforceable unless such assignment is memorialized in a written contract that: (A) Is executed by the authority and the assignee; (B) includes a requirement that no attorney's fees shall be received, claimed or collected until the commencement of a foreclosure or suit on the debt; and (C) includes the provisions set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(f) The assignee, or any subsequent assignee, shall provide written notice of an assignment, not later than sixty days after the date of such assignment, to the owner and any holder of a mortgage on the real property that is the subject of the assignment, provided such owner or holder is of record as of the date of such assignment. Such notice shall include information sufficient to identify: (1) **[**the**]** The property that is subject to the lien and in which the holder has an interest; **[**,**]** (2) the name and addresses of the assignee; **[**,**]** and (3) the amount of unpaid taxes, interest and fees being assigned relative to the subject property as of the date of the assignment.

(g) Not less than sixty days prior to commencing an action to foreclose a lien under this section, the assignee shall provide a written notice, by first-class mail, to the holders of all first or second security interests on the property subject to the lien that were recorded before the date the assessment of the lien sought to be enforced became delinquent. Such notice shall set forth: (1) The amount of unpaid debt owed to the assignee as of the date of the notice; (2) the amount of any attorney's fees and costs incurred by the assignee in the enforcement of the lien as of the date of the notice; (3) a statement of the assignee's

intention to foreclose the lien if the amounts set forth pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection are not paid to the assignee on or before sixty days after the date on which the notice is provided; (4) the assignee's contact information, including, but not limited to, the assignee's name, mailing address, telephone number and electronic mail address, if any; and (5) instructions concerning the acceptable means of making a payment on the amounts owed to the assignee as set forth pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection. Any notice required under this subsection shall be effective upon the date such notice is provided.

(h) When providing the written notice required under subsection (g) of this section, the assignee may rely on the last recorded security interest of record in identifying the name and mailing address of the holder of such interest, unless the holder of such interest is the plaintiff in an action pending in Superior Court to enforce such interest, in which case the assignee shall provide the written notice to the attorney appearing on behalf of the plaintiff.

(i) Each aspect of a foreclosure, sale or other disposition under this section, including, but not limited to, the costs, **[**attorney**]** attorney's fees, method, advertising, time, date, place and terms, shall be commercially reasonable, and, for actions commenced on or after July 1, 2026, such attorney's fees shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the amount of any judgment that is entered.

Sec. 233. Subdivision (83) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, as amended by section 4 of public act 25-2, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

(83) (A) (i) **[**A**]** That fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium, as defined in section 47-68a, **[**and**]** a unit in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202, **[**that is (I) owned by**]**

and a mobile manufactured home, as defined in section 12-63a, (I) that belongs to or is held in trust for any resident of this state who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent, or that is possessed by such a resident as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48, and (II) that is occupied by such resident as the resident's primary residence, or (ii) lacking such residence, one motor vehicle **[**owned by**]** that belongs to or is held in trust for such resident and is garaged in this state. As used in this subdivision, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such resident for commercial purposes or from which such resident derives any rental income.

(B) If such resident lacks such dwelling or motor vehicle in such resident's name, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such resident's spouse, or possessed by such resident's spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48, who is domiciled with such resident, shall be so exempt. When any resident entitled to an exemption under the provisions of this subdivision has died, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to **[**,**]** or held in trust for **[**,**]** such deceased resident's surviving spouse, or possessed by such deceased resident's spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's minor children during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this state, shall be so exempt as that to which such resident was or would have been entitled at the time of such resident's death.

(C) No individual entitled to the exemption under this subdivision and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23), (25) and (26) of

this section or sections 240 and 241 of this act shall receive more than one exemption.

(D) (i) No individual shall receive any exemption to which such individual is entitled under this subdivision until such individual has complied with section 12-95, and has submitted proof of such individual's determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the assessor of the town in which the exemption is sought. If there is no change to an individual's determination, such proof shall not be required for any assessment year following that for which the exemption under this subdivision is granted initially. If the United States Department of Veterans Affairs modifies an individual's determination to other than permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent, such modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to the exemption under this subdivision. Any such individual whose determination was modified to other than permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent may seek the exemption under subdivision (20) of this section.

(ii) Any individual who has been unable to submit evidence of such determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in the manner required by this subdivision, or who has failed to submit such evidence as provided in section 12-95, may, when such individual obtains such evidence, make application to the tax collector not later than one year after such individual obtains such proof or not later than one year after the expiration of the time limited in section 12-95, as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid. Such abatement or refund may be granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such individual was entitled to such determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or refund be made

for a period greater than three years.

(iii) The tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen of a town or to the corresponding authority of any other municipality, and shall certify to the amount of abatement or refund to which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the selectmen or other duly constituted authority shall, in case the tax has not been paid, issue a certificate of abatement or, in case the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid, draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for such amount, without interest. Any action so taken by such selectmen or other authority shall be a matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action.

(E) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2025, any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, by vote of the board of selectmen, provide that, for any individual receiving the exemption under this subdivision for a dwelling described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision, not more than two acres of the lot upon which such dwelling sits shall be exempt from taxation.

(F) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2025, any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, by vote of the board of selectmen, provide that the surviving spouse of any resident of this state who (i) had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States, (ii) had been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent, and (iii) died prior to October 1, 2024, but after a date to be determined by such legislative body or board of selectmen, as applicable, shall, while such spouse

remains a widow or widower, be entitled to the exemption or exemptions under this subdivision.

(G) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2025, any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, by vote of the board of selectmen, limit the total amount of the exemption or exemptions granted under this subdivision to the median assessed valuation of residential real property in such municipality.

Sec. 234. Subdivision (20) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, as amended by section 5 of public act 25-2, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

(20) (A) Subject to the provisions hereinafter stated, property not exceeding three thousand five hundred dollars in amount shall be exempt from taxation, which property belongs to, or is held in trust for, any resident of this state who has served, or is serving, in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and (i) has a disability rating as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs amounting to ten per cent or more of total disability, other than a determination of (I) being permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent, or (II) in any municipality providing the exemption under section 240 of this act, having a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, provided such exemption shall be two thousand dollars in any case in which such rating is between ten per cent and twenty-five per cent; two thousand five hundred dollars in any case in which such rating is more than twenty-five per cent but not more than fifty per cent; three thousand dollars in any case in which such rating is more than fifty per cent but not more than seventy-five per cent; and three thousand five

hundred dollars in any case in which such resident has attained sixty-five years of age or such rating is more than seventy-five per cent; or (ii) is receiving a pension, annuity or compensation from the United States because of the loss in service of a leg or arm or that which is considered by the rules of the United States Pension Office or the Bureau of War Risk Insurance the equivalent of such loss.

(B) If such veteran lacks such amount of property in such veteran's name, so much of the property belonging to, or held in trust for, such veteran's spouse, who is domiciled with such veteran, as is necessary to equal such amount shall also be so exempt. When any veteran entitled to an exemption under the provisions of this subdivision has died, property belonging to, or held in trust for, such deceased veteran's surviving spouse, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for such deceased veteran's minor children during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this state, shall be exempt in the same aggregate amount as that to which the disabled veteran was or would have been entitled at the time of such veteran's death.

(C) No individual entitled to the exemption under this subdivision and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23), (25) and (26) of this section or sections 240 and 241 of this act shall receive more than one exemption.

(D) (i) No individual shall receive any exemption to which such individual is entitled under this subdivision until such individual has complied with section 12-95 and has submitted proof of such individual's disability rating, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the assessor of the town in which the exemption is sought. If there is no change to an individual's disability rating, such proof shall not be required for any assessment year following that for which the exemption under this subdivision is granted initially. If the United States Department of Veterans Affairs

modifies a veteran's disability rating, such modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to the exemption under this subdivision until proof of disability rating is submitted to the assessor and the right to such exemption is established as required initially, except that (I) if such disability rating is modified to a determination that such veteran is permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent, such veteran may seek the exemption under subdivision (83) of this section, or (II) if such disability rating is modified to a determination that such veteran has a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability and if such veteran resides in a municipality that provides the exemption under section 240 of this act, such veteran may seek the exemption under section 240 of this act.

(ii) Any individual who has been unable to submit evidence of disability rating in the manner required by this subdivision, or who has failed to submit such evidence as provided in section 12-95, may, when such individual obtains such evidence, make application to the tax collector not later than one year after such individual obtains such proof or not later than one year after the expiration of the time limited in section 12-95, as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case the whole tax has been paid, of such part or the whole of such tax as represents the service exemption. Such abatement or refund may be granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such person was entitled to such disability rating as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or refund be made for a period greater than three years.

(iii) The tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen of a town or to the corresponding authority of any other municipality, and shall certify to the amount of abatement or refund to

which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the selectmen or other duly constituted authority shall, in case the tax has not been paid, issue a certificate of abatement or, in case the whole tax has been paid, draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for the amount, without interest, that represents the service exemption. Any action so taken by such selectmen or other authority shall be a matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action;

Sec. 235. Section 12-93 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

Any person who claims an exemption from taxation under the provisions of section 12-81 or 12-82 by reason of service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States shall give notice to the town clerk of the town in which he resides that he is entitled to such exemption. Any person who has performed such service may establish his right to such exemption by exhibiting to the town clerk an honorable discharge, or a certified copy thereof, from such service or, in the absence of such discharge or copy, by appearing before the assessors for an examination under oath, supported by two affidavits of disinterested persons, showing that the claimant is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or is serving or, if he is unable to appear by reason of such service, he may establish such right, until such time as he appears personally and exhibits his discharge or copy, by forwarding to the town clerk annually a written statement, signed by the commanding officer of his unit, ship or station or by some other appropriate officer, or where such claimant is currently serving in an active theater of war or hostilities, by the presentation of a notarized statement of a parent, guardian, spouse or legal representative of such claimant, stating that he is personally serving and is unable to appear in person by reason of such service, which statement shall be received

before the assessment day of the town wherein the exemption is claimed. In the case of any person claiming exemption under subdivision (83) of section 12-81, such claimant shall annually, not later than January first, submit such claim to the assessors for approval, on an application form prepared for such purpose by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and to be used for assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2025, which submission shall include (1) all documentation necessary to demonstrate that the resident described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (83) of section 12-81 has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent, and (2) an attestation that such claimant has not submitted, and will not submit, a claim for the exemption under subdivision (83) of section 12-81 in another town. The assessors shall report to the town clerk all claims so established. Any person claiming exemption by reason of the service of a relative as a soldier, sailor, marine or member of the Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force may establish his right thereto by at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing the service of such relative, his honorable discharge or death in service, and the relationship of the claimant to him; and the assessors may further require such person to be examined by them under oath concerning such facts. The town clerk of the town where the honorable discharge or certified copy thereof and each affidavit is originally presented for record shall record such discharge or certified copy or affidavits thereof in full and shall list the names of such claimants and such service shall be performed by the town clerk without remuneration therefor. Thereafter if any person entitled to such exemption changes his legal residence, the town clerk in the town of former residence and in which such honorable discharge or certified copy thereof or any such affidavit in respect to such person was originally presented for record shall, upon request and payment of a fee by such person to said town of former residence in an amount determined by the town treasurer as necessary to cover the cost of such

procedure, prepare and mail to the town in which such person resides, a copy of the record of such discharge or certified copy thereof or affidavits, or he may establish his right to such exemption in the town in which he resides by exhibiting to the town clerk thereof the original discharge or a certified copy thereof or such affidavits. Said clerk shall take therefrom sufficient data to satisfy the exemption requirements of the general statutes and shall record the same and shall note the town where the original complete recording of discharge papers was made. No board of assessors or board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of the town clerk, provided, if any claim for exemption has been allowed by any board of assessors or board of assessment appeals prior to July 1, 1923, the provisions of this section shall not apply to such claim. Each claim granted prior to July 1, 1923, shall be recorded with those presented subsequent thereto, and a list of such names, alphabetically arranged, shall be furnished the assessors by the town clerk.

Sec. 236. Section 12-94 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

The exemptions granted in sections 12-81 and 12-82 to soldiers, sailors, marines and members of the Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force, and their spouses, widows, widowers, fathers and mothers, and to blind or totally disabled persons and their spouses shall first be made in the town in which the person entitled thereto resides, and any person asking such exemption in any other town shall annually make oath before, or forward his or her affidavit to, the assessors of such town, deposing that such exemptions, except the exemption provided in subdivision (55) of section 12-81, if allowed, will not, together with any other exemptions granted under sections 12-81 and 12-82, exceed the amount of exemption thereby allowed to such person. Such affidavit

shall be filed with the assessors within the period the assessors have to complete their duties in the town where the exemption is claimed. The assessors of each town shall annually make a certified list of all persons who are found to be entitled to exemption under the provisions of said sections, which list shall be filed in the town clerk's office, and shall be prima facie evidence that the persons whose names appear thereon and who are not required by law to give annual proof, except as provided in section 12-93, for persons claiming exemption under subdivision (83) of section 12-81, are entitled to such exemption as long as they continue to reside in such town; but such assessors may, at any time, require any such person to appear before them for the purpose of furnishing **[**additional**]** evidence that demonstrates such person's entitlement to such exemption, provided **[**,**]** (1) any person who by reason of such person's disability is unable to so appear may furnish such assessors a statement from such person's attending physician, physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse certifying that such person is totally disabled and is unable to make a personal appearance and such other evidence of total disability as such assessors may deem appropriate, and (2) any person claiming exemption under subdivision (83) of section 12-81 may furnish documentation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs certifying that such person is permanently and totally disabled based on a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent and is unable to make a personal appearance.

Sec. 237. Section 12-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

No individual shall receive any exemption to which such individual is entitled by any one of subdivisions (19), (20), (22), (23), (25), (26), (28) and (83) of section 12-81, **[**or**]** section 12-82 or sections 240 and 241 of this act until such individual has proved such individual's right to such

exemption in accordance with the provisions of sections 12-93 and 12-94, together with such further proof as is necessary under the provisions of any of said sections, including any modification by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of (1) a veteran's disability rating as described in subdivision (20) of section 12-81, (2) a resident's determination as permanently and totally disabled based on a one hundred per cent disability rating as described in subdivision (83) of section 12-81, or (3) a resident's determination of having a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability as described in section 240 of this act. Exemptions so proved by residents shall take effect on the next succeeding assessment day, provided individuals entitled to an exemption under the provisions of subdivision (20) or (83) of section 12-81 or section 240 of this act may prove such right at any time before the expiration of the time limited by law for the board of assessment appeals of the town wherein the exemption is claimed to complete its duties and such exemption shall take effect on the assessment day next preceding the date of the proof thereof. For purposes of any tax payable in accordance with the provisions of section 12-71b, any such exemption referred to in this section shall take effect on the first day of January next following the date on which the right to such exemption has been proved.

Sec. 238. Section 12-93a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with any provision of subdivisions (19) to (26), inclusive, and (83) of section 12-81 who is the owner of a residential dwelling on leased land, including any such person who is a sublessee under terms of the lease, shall be entitled to claim such exemption in respect to the assessment of the dwelling for purposes of the property tax, provided (1) the dwelling is such person's principal place of residence, (2) such

lease or sublease requires that such person as the lessee or sublessee, whichever is applicable, pay all property taxes related to the dwelling and (3) such lease or sublease is recorded in the land records of the town.

(b) Any person entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (19) to (26), inclusive, and (83) of section 12-81 shall be entitled to claim such exemption with respect to the assessment of a motor vehicle that is leased by such person. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, any person claiming the exemption under this section for a leased motor vehicle shall be entitled to a refund of tax paid with respect to such vehicle whether such tax was paid by the lessee or by the lessor pursuant to the terms of the lease. Such refund shall equal the amount of such person's exemption multiplied by the applicable mill rate. Any such person claiming the exemption for a leased vehicle under this subdivision for any assessment year shall, not later than the thirty-first day of December next following the assessment year during which the tax for such leased vehicle has been paid, file with the assessor or board of assessors, in the town in which such motor vehicle tax has been paid, written application claiming such exemption on a form approved for such purpose by such assessor or board. Upon approving such person's exemption claim, the assessor shall certify the amount of refund to which the applicant is entitled and shall notify the tax collector of such amount. The tax collector shall refer such certification to the board of selectmen in a town or to the corresponding authority in any other municipality. Upon receipt of such certification, the selectmen or such other authority shall draw an order on the Treasurer in favor of such person for the amount of refund so certified. Failure to file such application as prescribed in this subsection with respect to any assessment year shall constitute a waiver of the right to such exemption for such assessment year.

Sec. 239. Section 12-81cc of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and*

applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025):

Any person who has established his or her entitlement to a property tax exemption under subdivision (19), (20), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26), (28), **[**or**]** (53) or (83) of section 12-81 or section 12-81g for a particular assessment year shall be issued a certificate as to such entitlement by the tax assessor of the relevant municipality. Such person shall be entitled to such exemption in any municipality in this state for such assessment year provided a copy of such certificate is provided to the tax assessor of any municipality in which such exemption is claimed and further provided such person would otherwise have been eligible for such exemption in such municipality if he or she had filed for such exemption as provided under the general statutes.

Sec. 240. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide that, in lieu of the exemption prescribed under subdivision (20) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any resident of this state who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on (1) that fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium, as defined in section 47-68a of the general statutes, a unit in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202 of the general statutes, and a mobile manufactured home, as defined in section 12-63a of the general statutes, (A) that belongs to or is held in trust for such resident, or that is possessed by such a resident as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, and (B) that is occupied by such resident as the resident's primary residence, or (2) lacking such residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such resident and is garaged in this state. As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any

portion of the unit or structure used by such resident for commercial purposes or from which such resident derives any rental income.

(b) If such resident lacks such dwelling or motor vehicle in such resident's name, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such resident's spouse, or possessed by such resident's spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, who is domiciled with such resident, shall be so exempt. When any resident entitled to an exemption under the provisions of this section has died, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's surviving spouse, or possessed by such deceased resident's surviving spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's minor children during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this state, shall be so exempt as that to which such resident was or would have been entitled at the time of such resident's death.

(c) No individual entitled to the exemption under this section and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23), (25) and (26) of section 12-81 of the general statutes or section 241 of this act shall receive more than one exemption.

(d) (1) No individual shall receive any exemption to which such individual is entitled under this section until such individual has complied with section 12-95 of the general statutes and has submitted proof of such individual's determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the assessor of the town in which the exemption is sought. If there is no change to an individual's determination, such proof shall not be required for any assessment year following that for which the exemption under this section is granted initially. If the United States Department of Veterans Affairs modifies

an individual's determination to other than a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, such modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to the exemption under this section. Any such individual whose determination was modified to other than a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability may seek the exemption under subdivision (20) or (83) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, as applicable.

(2) Any individual who has been unable to submit evidence of such determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in the manner required by this section, or who has failed to submit such evidence as provided in section 12-95 of the general statutes, may, when such individual obtains such evidence, make application to the tax collector not later than one year after such individual obtains such proof or not later than one year after the expiration of the time limited in section 12-95 of the general statutes, as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid. Such abatement or refund may be granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such individual was entitled to such determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or refund be made for a period greater than three years.

(3) The tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen of a town or to the corresponding authority of any other municipality, and shall certify to the amount of abatement or refund to which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the selectmen or other duly constituted authority shall, in case the tax has not been paid, issue a certificate of abatement or, in case the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid, draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for such amount, without interest. Any action so taken by such selectmen or other authority shall be a

matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action.

(e) (1) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, such municipality may, upon approval by its legislative body, further provide that, for any individual receiving the exemption under said subsections for a dwelling described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, not more than two acres of the lot upon which such dwelling sits shall be exempt from taxation.

(2) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, further provide that the surviving spouse of any resident of this state who (A) had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States, (B) had been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, and (C) died prior to October 1, 2025, but after a date to be determined by such legislative body, shall, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, be entitled to the exemption under this section.

(3) In any municipality that provides the exemption or exemptions under this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, limit the total amount of the exemption or exemptions granted under this section to the median assessed valuation of residential real property in such municipality.

Sec. 241. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide that the surviving spouse, while such person remains a widow or widower, of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general

statutes, which surviving spouse is a resident of such municipality, shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on (1) that fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium, as defined in section 47-68a of the general statutes, a unit in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202 of the general statutes, and a mobile manufactured home, as defined in section 12-63a of the general statutes, (A) that belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse, or that is possessed by such a surviving spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, and (B) that is occupied by such surviving spouse as the surviving spouse's primary residence, or (2) lacking such residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse and is garaged in this state. As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such surviving spouse for commercial purposes or from which such surviving spouse derives any rental income.

(b) No surviving spouse entitled to the exemption under this section and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (20), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, section 12-81ii of the general statutes or section 240 of this act shall receive more than one exemption.

(c) (1) A surviving spouse described in subsection (a) of this section who claims an exemption from taxation under this section shall give notice to the town clerk of such municipality that he or she is entitled to such exemption.

(2) Any such surviving spouse submitting a claim for such exemption shall be required to file an application, on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed, which application shall include at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the deceased person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased person was killed in action while performing such active military duty

and the relationship of such deceased person to such surviving spouse, provided the assessor may further require such surviving spouse to be examined by such assessor under oath concerning such facts. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such surviving spouse claimant, and such service shall be performed by such town clerk without remuneration. No assessor, board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of such town clerk. When any such surviving spouse has filed for such exemption and received approval for the first time, such surviving spouse shall be required to file for such exemption biennially thereafter.

(3) The assessor of such municipality shall annually make a certified list of all such surviving spouses who are found to be entitled to exemption under the provisions of this section, which list shall be filed in the town clerk's office, and shall be prima facie evidence that such surviving spouses whose names appear thereon are entitled to such exemption as long as they continue to reside in such municipality and as long as the legislative body of such municipality continues to provide for such exemption. Such assessor may, at any time, require any such surviving spouse to appear before such assessor for the purpose of furnishing additional evidence, provided, any such surviving spouse who by reason of disability is unable to so appear may furnish such assessor a statement from such surviving spouse's attending physician or an advanced practice registered nurse certifying that such surviving spouse is totally disabled and is unable to make a personal appearance and such other evidence of total disability as such assessor may deem appropriate.

(4) No such surviving spouse may receive such exemption until such surviving spouse has proven his or her right to such exemption in accordance with the provisions of this section, together with such further proof as may be necessary under said provisions. Exemptions so

proven shall take effect on the next succeeding assessment day.

(d) Any such surviving spouse who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the exemption provided in this section shall, in the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the assessor shall notify, in writing, each surviving spouse presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection.

(e) (1) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d) of this section, such municipality may, upon approval by its legislative body, further provide that, for any individual receiving the exemption under said subsections for a dwelling described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, not more than two acres of the lot upon which such dwelling sits shall be exempt from taxation.

(2) In any municipality that provides the exemption or exemptions under this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, limit the total amount of the exemption or exemptions granted under this section to the median assessed valuation of residential real property in such municipality.

Sec. 242. Section 12-81ii of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide that any parent whose child was killed in action, or the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action, while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, which parent or surviving spouse is a resident of such municipality, shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax, provided such parent's or surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed (A) the

maximum amount applicable to an unmarried person as provided under section 12-81*l*, or (B) an amount established by the municipality, not exceeding the maximum amount under section 12-81*l* by more than twenty-five thousand dollars. The exemption provided for under this section shall be applied to the assessed value of an eligible parent's or surviving spouse's property and, at the municipality's option, may be in an amount up to twenty thousand dollars or in an amount up to ten per cent of such assessed value.

(2) (A) If both parents of any such child killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces are domiciled together, only one such parent shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax provided for under this section.

(B) The exemption provided for under this section shall be in addition to any exemption to which an eligible parent or surviving spouse may be entitled under section 12-81. No such eligible parent or surviving spouse entitled to the exemption under this section and under one or more of section 12-81f or 12-81g **[**and this section**]** or section 241 of this act shall receive more than one such exemption.

(b) (1) Any parent whose child was killed in action, or the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action, while performing active military duty with the armed forces and who claims an exemption from taxation under this section shall give notice to the town clerk of such municipality that he or she is entitled to such exemption.

(2) Any such parent or surviving spouse submitting a claim for such exemption shall be required to file an application, on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed, which application shall include at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the deceased child or person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased child or person was killed in action while performing

such active military duty and the relationship of such deceased child to such parent, or such deceased person to such surviving spouse, provided the assessor may further require such parent or surviving spouse to be examined by such assessor under oath concerning such facts. Each such application shall include a copy of such parent's or surviving spouse's federal income tax return, or in the event such a return is not filed such evidence related to income as may be required by the assessor, for the tax year of such parent or surviving spouse ending immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such parent or surviving spouse claimant, and such service shall be performed by such town clerk without remuneration. No assessor, board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of such town clerk. When any such parent or surviving spouse has filed for such exemption and received approval for the first time, such parent or surviving spouse shall be required to file for such exemption biennially thereafter, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

(3) The assessor of such municipality shall annually make a certified list of all such parents or surviving spouses who are found to be entitled to exemption under the provisions of this section, which list shall be filed in the town clerk's office, and shall be prima facie evidence that such parents or surviving spouses whose names appear thereon are entitled to such exemption as long as they continue to reside in such municipality and as long as the legislative body of such municipality continues to provide for such exemption, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. Such assessor may, at any time, require any such parent or surviving spouse to appear before such assessor for the purpose of furnishing additional evidence, provided, any such parent or surviving spouse who by reason of disability is unable to so appear may furnish such assessor a statement from such parent's or surviving

spouse's attending physician or an advanced practice registered nurse certifying that such parent or surviving spouse is totally disabled and is unable to make a personal appearance and such other evidence of total disability as such assessor may deem appropriate.

(4) No such parent or surviving spouse may receive such exemption until such parent or surviving spouse has proven his or her right to such exemption in accordance with the provisions of this section, together with such further proof as may be necessary under said provisions. Exemptions so proven shall take effect on the next succeeding assessment day.

(c) Any such parent or surviving spouse who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the exemption provided in this section shall, in the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the assessor shall notify, in writing, each parent or surviving spouse presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection. If any such parent or surviving spouse has qualifying income in excess of the maximum allowed under subsection (a) of this section, such parent or surviving spouse shall notify the assessor on or before the next filing date for such exemption and shall be denied such exemption for the assessment year immediately following and for any subsequent year until such parent or surviving spouse has reapplied and again qualified for such exemption. Any such parent or surviving spouse who fails to notify the assessor of such disqualification shall make payment to the municipality in the amount of property tax loss related to such exemption improperly taken.

Sec. 243. Section 17a-114 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section, (1) "approval" or "approved" means that a person has been approved to adopt or provide foster care by a child-

placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149, (2) "licensed" means a person holds a license to provide foster care issued by the Department of Children and Families, **[**and**]** (3) "fictive kin caregiver" means a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and who is unrelated to a child by birth, adoption or marriage but who has an emotionally significant relationship with such child or such child's family amounting to a familial relationship, and (4) "emergency placement" means the placement of a child by the Department of Children and Families in the home of a relative or fictive kin caregiver as a result of the sudden unavailability of such child's primary caretaker.

(b) (1) No child in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families shall be placed in foster care with any person, unless (A) (i) such person is licensed for **[**that**]** such purpose by the department or the Department of Developmental Services pursuant to the provisions of section 17a-227, (ii) such person's home is approved by a child-placing agency licensed by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-149, or (iii) such person has received approval as provided in this section, and (B) on and after January 1, 2017, for a child twelve years of age or older, such child has received a foster family profile in accordance with the provisions of section 17a-114e. **[**Any person licensed by the department may be a prospective adoptive parent.**]** For the purposes of this section, any prospective adoptive parent shall be licensed by the department. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the licensing procedures and standards.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the commissioner shall require each applicant for licensure or approval pursuant to this section and any person eighteen years of age or older living in the household of such applicant to submit to state and national criminal history records checks prior to issuing a license or approval to such applicant to accept placement of a child for purposes of foster care

or adoption. Such criminal history records checks shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall check the (i) state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such applicant and for the name of any person eighteen years of age or older living in the household of such applicant, and (ii) child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which such applicant or person resided in the preceding five years for the name of such applicant or person.

(B) If an applicant for licensure or approval or any person eighteen years of age or older living in the household of such applicant has submitted to the state and national criminal history records checks described in subsection (c) of this section within the previous twelve-month period, the commissioner shall not require such applicant or person to submit to the state and national criminal history records checks described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision in connection with the issuance of a license or approval.

(3) The commissioner shall require each individual licensed or approved pursuant to this section and any person eighteen years of age or older living in the household of such individual to submit to state and national criminal history records checks prior to renewing a license or approval for any individual providing foster care or adopting. Such criminal history records checks shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. Prior to such renewal, the commissioner shall check the (A) state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such applicant and for the name of any person eighteen years of age or older living in the household of such applicant, and (B) child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which such applicant or person resided in the preceding five years for the name of such applicant or person.

(4) The commissioner shall comply with any request to check the child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-

101k made by the child welfare agency of another state.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the commissioner may **[**place**]** make an emergency placement of a child with a relative or fictive kin caregiver who has not been issued a license or approval, when such emergency placement is in the best interests of the child, provided a satisfactory home visit is conducted and a basic assessment of the family is completed. When the commissioner makes such **[**a**]** an emergency placement, the commissioner shall (A) request a criminal justice agency to perform a federal name-based criminal history search of such relative or fictive kin caregiver and each person eighteen years of age or older residing in the home, and (B) check the state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such relative or fictive kin caregiver and each person eighteen years of age or older residing in the home. The results of such name-based search shall be provided to the commissioner.

(2) Not later than ten calendar days after a name-based search is performed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall request the State Police Bureau of Identification to perform a state and national criminal history records checks of such relative or fictive kin caregiver and each person eighteen years of age or older residing in the home, in accordance with section 29-17a. Such criminal history records checks shall be deemed as required by this section for the purposes of section 29-17a and the commissioner may request that such criminal history records checks be performed in accordance with subsection (c) of said section. The results of such criminal history records checks shall be provided to the commissioner. If any person refuses to provide fingerprints or other positive identifying information for the purposes of such criminal history records checks when requested, the commissioner shall immediately remove the child from the home.

(3) If the commissioner denies **[**a**]** an emergency placement with a relative or fictive kin caregiver or removes a child from such home based on the results of a federal name-based criminal history search performed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the person whose name-based search was the basis for such denial or removal may contest such denial or removal by requesting that state and national criminal history records checks be performed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(4) Any such relative or fictive kin caregiver who accepts placement of a child shall be subject to licensure by the commissioner, pursuant to regulations adopted by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section or approval by a child-placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149. The commissioner may grant a waiver from such regulations, including any standard regarding separate bedrooms or room-sharing arrangements, for a child placed with a relative or fictive kin caregiver, on a case-by-case basis, if such placement is otherwise in the best interests of such child, provided no procedure or standard that is safety-related may be so waived. The commissioner shall document, in writing, the reason for granting any waiver from such regulations.

(d) Any individual who has been licensed or approved to adopt or provide foster care and any relative or fictive kin caregiver with whom a child has been placed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall apply a reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined in subsection (a) of section 17a-114d, on behalf of the child.

Sec. 244. Subsection (d) of section 9-7a of the general statutes, as amended by section 9 of public act 25-26, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commission shall, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, employ such

employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, section 9-7b, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 25-26, and section 9-623, including an executive director, and may apply to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection or to the Chief State's Attorney for necessary investigatory personnel, which the same are hereby authorized to provide.

(2) (A) (i) On or before March 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the commission shall, with the advice and consent of both houses of the General Assembly, appoint an executive director in the manner prescribed in this subdivision, **[**to**]** except as provided in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision. An executive director so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the commission but not longer than four years after such appointment. **[**, unless reappointed under the provisions of this subdivision**]**

(ii) The commission may reappoint an executive director to serve at the pleasure thereof but not longer than an additional four years after the conclusion of the initial appointment. Any such reappointment shall not be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. An executive director who has been reappointed shall not be reappointed again.

(B) On or before February 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the commission shall submit a nomination for executive director to both houses of the General Assembly, except in the case of a reappointment under subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision. Both houses shall immediately refer the nomination to the committee on executive nominations, which shall report thereon by resolution within fifteen calendar days from the date of reference. The General Assembly, by resolution, shall confirm or reject the nomination. If confirmed, the nominee shall take office on the first day of March in the year in which the appointment is submitted. If either house of the General Assembly rejects the nomination before the first day of March in the year in which it is submitted, the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (C) of this

subdivision shall be followed.

(C) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the General Assembly is in regular session, the commission shall, not later than thirty days after the occurrence of the vacancy, submit its nomination to fill the vacancy to both houses of the General Assembly. Both houses shall immediately refer the nomination to the committee on executive nominations, which shall report thereon by resolution within fifteen legislative days from the date of reference. The General Assembly, by resolution, shall confirm or reject such nomination. If the General Assembly confirms the nomination within thirty calendar days after it is submitted, the nominee shall forthwith take office to serve at the pleasure of the commission but not longer than the original appointee could have served under his or her appointment. If either house of the General Assembly rejects the nomination within thirty calendar days after it is submitted, the commission shall, within thirty calendar days, submit another nomination to the General Assembly, provided, if any nomination is submitted less than thirty calendar days before the date established by the Constitution for adjournment of the General Assembly, and the General Assembly fails to confirm or reject the nomination before such adjournment on said date, the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (D) of this subdivision shall be followed.

(D) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the General Assembly is not in regular session, it shall be filled by the commission until the sixth Wednesday of the next session of the General Assembly. At the beginning of the next regular session of the General Assembly, the commission shall submit the name of the vacancy appointee to the General Assembly and the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision shall be followed.

(E) No person whose name has been submitted by the commission and whose nomination has been rejected by resolution of the General Assembly shall serve in the office of executive director during the term

of the General Assembly which rejected him or her.

Sec. 245. Subsection (b) of section 46b-121n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

(1) Two members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, children, human services and appropriations, or their designees;

(3) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee;

(4) A judge of the superior court for juvenile matters, appointed by the Chief Justice;

(5) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department, or the executive director's designee;

(6) The executive director of the Superior Court Operations Division, or the executive director's designee;

(7) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee;

(8) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's designee;

(9) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the

commissioner's designee;

(10) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee;

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

(12) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(13) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

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

(15) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(16) The president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or the president's designee;

(17) The chief of police of a municipality with a population in excess of one hundred thousand, appointed by the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association;

(18) Two child or youth advocates, one of whom shall be appointed by one chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, and one of whom shall be appointed by the other chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee;

(19) Two parents or parent advocates, at least one of whom is the parent of a child who has been involved with the juvenile justice system, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(20) The Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's designee;

(21) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

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

(23) Two children, youths or young adults under twenty-six years of age with lived experience in the juvenile justice system, **[**one of whom**]** who shall be appointed by the **[**house chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and one of whom shall be appointed by the house ranking member of such joint committee**]** community expertise subcommittee;

(24) One community member who may be a family member of a child who has been involved with the juvenile justice system or a credible messenger with lived experience in the juvenile justice system and who works with youth in the juvenile justice system, nominated by the community expertise subcommittee and appointed by the chairpersons of this committee;

(25) One member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, appointed by the tribe; **[**and**]**

(26) One member of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, appointed by the tribe;

(27) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee; and

(28) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee.

Sec. 246. Section 46b-121n of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (v) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (v) (1) There is established within the committee a state advisory council to fulfill tasks assigned to the state and required by the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, 42 USC 5601 et seq., as amended from time to time. Such tasks shall include, but need not be limited to, participating in the development of and annual revisions to a juvenile justice plan for the state and advising state agencies on administering the plan and the allocation of certain grant funds. The state advisory council shall have the opportunity to review and comment on all applications for a formula grant under Title II of said act submitted to the state.

(2) The council shall consist of at least fifteen members, but not more than thirty-three members as follows:

(A) The undersecretary for the Office of Policy and Management, who directs the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division established pursuant to section 4-68m of the general statutes, or the undersecretary's designee; and

(B) The remaining fourteen to thirty-two members, each appointed by the Governor in a manner consistent with said act, as follows:

(i) At least one-fifth of whom shall be under the age of twenty-four years at the time of the member's initial appointment; and

(ii) At least three of the members shall have been or are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system, or if not feasible and in appropriate circumstances, a parent or guardian of such a person.

(3) The term for each member of the council appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be three years beginning on June thirtieth, and ending on June thirtieth or until a successor is appointed.

(4) Any member may serve two full terms, which may be consecutive.

(5) Any member appointed to fulfill a term left vacant by a member shall serve for the remaining period of such term and may be reappointed subject to limitations provided in the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection.

Sec. 247. Subsection (b) of section 10-198c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) Each local and regional board of education that (A) has a district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district, (B) has a school under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team at such school, (C) has more than one school under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at each such school, or (D) has a district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher and one or more schools under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at each such school. Such attendance review teams shall be established to address chronic absenteeism in the school district or at the school or schools.

(2) Any attendance review team established under this subsection may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school counselors, school social workers, teachers and representatives from community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants, as defined in section 10-198a, and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such

truants and chronically absent children and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall meet at least monthly.

(3) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n on each district with an attendance review team, including specific efforts and outcomes of such teams that are for alliance districts, as defined in section 10-262u, as reported in the alliance district plan, and any effective practice implemented by an attendance review team to reduce chronic absenteeism rates.

Sec. 248. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, each municipality or agent of a municipality operating a juvenile review board or another diversion program for youth shall annually 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 the judiciary and children and to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney on data related to children diverted by the use of such board or program and the outcomes of such diversions, and as otherwise directed by the Department of Children and Families.

Sec. 249. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2026, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b of the general statutes, the chairpersons of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes and representatives of the community expertise subcommittee of said committee shall develop (1) a state-wide uniform youth diversion policy for proposed adoption by said council, and (2) a youth diversion training curriculum for proposed

inclusion in minimum basic training programs requiring satisfactory completion for purposes of obtaining certification as a police officer.

Sec. 250. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Department of Children and Families shall report on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan released by the department in March 2024, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes. Such initial report shall use metrics in use at the time of such reporting. Not later than September 30, 2025, the department shall consider and may develop additional metrics for use in successive annual reports.

Sec. 251. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes an evaluation of the reentry success plan developed pursuant to section 3 of public act 23-188, as amended by section 2 of public act 24-139, and provide policy development coordination at the Office of Policy and Management and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch. Such evaluations shall be conducted using a secure data enclave.

Sec. 252. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) As used in this section and sections 253 to 259, inclusive, of this act:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

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

(3) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-311 of the general statutes;

(4) "Prospective seller" means any person who communicates with a real estate wholesaler in contemplation of entering into a real estate wholesale contract;

(5) "Real estate broker" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-311 of the general statutes;

(6) "Real estate salesperson" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-311 of the general statutes;

(7) "Real estate wholesaler" means a person who enters into a real estate wholesale contract for the purpose of facilitating or orchestrating the sale of a seller's residential real property to a third party without assuming title to such property;

(8) "Real estate wholesale contract" means an agreement between a real estate wholesaler and the seller of residential real property in which the real estate wholesaler agrees, or reasonably expects or intends, to, for compensation and without assuming title to such property, facilitate or orchestrate the sale of such property to a third party; and

(9) "Residential real property" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-311 of the general statutes.

Sec. 253. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) (1) No person shall act as a real estate wholesaler in this state unless the Department of Consumer Protection has issued a real estate wholesaler registration to such person pursuant to this section.

(2) A person may simultaneously hold a real estate broker license or real estate salesperson license under chapter 392 of the general statutes and a real estate wholesaler registration issued pursuant to this section.

(b) (1) A person seeking an initial real estate wholesaler registration under this section shall submit a completed application to the

Department of Consumer Protection in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Each completed application submitted to the department under this subdivision shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee in the amount of two hundred eighty-five dollars. Each initial real estate wholesaler registration issued pursuant to this subdivision shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years.

(2) Each initial real estate wholesaler registration issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection may be renewed for successive two-year periods by submitting a completed registration renewal application to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. Each completed registration renewal application submitted to the department under this subdivision shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable renewal fee in the amount of two hundred eighty-five dollars.

Sec. 254. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Each real estate wholesale contract shall, at a minimum, include a provision providing (1) the seller with a three-business-day period within which the seller may, in the seller's discretion and at the seller's expense, review the terms of such contract with an attorney or other advisor, and (2) that the seller may cancel such contract during such three-business-day period without providing any reason for such cancellation or incurring any penalty or obligation, except to return any deposit the real estate wholesaler paid to the seller.

(b) No real estate wholesale contract shall provide for a closing date that is more than ninety days after the date on which all parties to such contract executed such contract. The parties to the real estate wholesale contract may agree to extend such ninety-day period, provided such extension is made in writing and signed by all parties to such contract. In the absence of any such extension, the real estate wholesale contract shall automatically terminate upon expiration of such ninety-day

period.

(c) Any real estate wholesaler seeking to sell or assign a real estate wholesale contract to a third party shall, prior to such sale or assignment, provide to the third party:

(1) A written notice (A) disclosing all of such third party's rights, as set forth in the real estate wholesale contract with the seller, and (B) identifying such real estate wholesaler as a real estate wholesaler who holds a future interest in the purchase of the residential real property but does not hold title to such property; and

(2) The written residential condition report that the seller of the residential real property provided to such real estate wholesaler pursuant to subdivision (1) of section 255 of this act.

Sec. 255. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) A seller of residential real property shall, prior to entering into a real estate wholesale contract with a real estate wholesaler concerning such property:

(1) Provide to the real estate wholesaler a written residential condition report concerning such property that satisfies the requirements established in section 20-327b of the general statutes; and

(2) Satisfy all relevant reporting requirements required by federal law.

Sec. 256. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) On and after October 1, 2026, a real estate wholesaler shall, prior to executing a real estate wholesale contract with a prospective seller of residential real property, provide to the prospective seller the written wholesale disclosure report developed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The real estate wholesaler may deliver such written wholesale disclosure report to the prospective seller by electronic means.

(b) Not later than September 30, 2026, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, within available appropriations, develop and post on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site a written wholesale disclosure report. Such report shall:

(1) Be in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(2) Be published (A) on one or more pages, each of which shall be numbered and not larger than eight and one-half inches in width and eleven inches in height, and (B) in at least nine-point type, except checkboxes and section headings may be published in a smaller point type;

(3) Include (A) the address of the residential real property that is the subject of such report on each page of such report, (B) section headings in bold type, and (C) space for the purchaser's and the seller's initials on each page of such report, except the signature page of such report; and

(4) Include the following, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, in the order indicated:

(A) The following language:

"Notice to Sellers: What to Know About Wholesale Transactions

If you are considering selling your property through a wholesale transaction, please be aware of the following:

1. The real estate wholesaler may not be the person or entity purchasing your property, and you may be granting them the right to sell your property to another person or entity.

2. During the contract period, the real estate wholesaler may market your property for sale.

3. A real estate wholesaler may reasonably expect or intend to make a profit, or receive compensation through an assignment fee, from selling, assigning or transferring their interest in the real estate wholesale contract.

4. As the seller, the terms of your agreement with a real estate wholesaler may provide the real estate wholesaler with the ability to make decisions to reject or accept an offer to purchase your property without your knowledge or consent during the term of the real estate wholesale contract.

5. The assessed value of a property, as assessed by a town, is not the same as the fair market value of the property, and may be significantly less than the fair market value of the property.

6. You are advised and have the right to investigate the fair market value of your property before signing a real estate wholesale contract. The sale price of your property is negotiable.

7. You may, in your discretion and at your expense, have an attorney or other advisor review the terms of a real estate wholesale contract, or have an appraiser assess the value of your property.

8. You may cancel a real estate wholesale contract during the three-business-day period beginning when you enter into the contract without providing any reason or incurring any penalty or obligation, except to return any deposit the real estate wholesaler paid to you.

9. If the real estate wholesaler is a real estate broker or a real estate salesperson, the real estate wholesaler must disclose to you who he or she represents and what fiduciary duties, if any, are owed to you in the wholesale transaction.

10. As the seller, you are required to provide certain property condition and lead paint disclosures under state and federal law. These

disclosures must be completed as part of the transaction.

11. A real estate wholesale contract may not have a closing date that is more than ninety days after all parties sign the contract. However, you may agree to extend the ninety-day period, provided the extension is in writing and signed by you and the real estate wholesaler. If you do not extend the contract, the contract will automatically terminate at the end of the ninety-day period.

Please read the terms in the real estate wholesale contract to understand all of your rights and obligations thereunder, including:

(A) How prospective purchasers of your property may have access to your property for showings, inspections or for other transactional details;

(B) What additional costs you may be charged at the time of closing, such as a seller's conveyance tax or other closing-related fees; and

(C) If you have any right to cancel the contract prior to closing in addition to your right to cancel the contract during the three-business-day period beginning when you enter into the contract.

All sellers in real estate transactions should consult with appropriate professionals to understand their rights and obligations and the various implications of a real estate transaction.".

(B) An acknowledgment in the following form:

"I acknowledge that I have received and understand this disclosure notice.

Signature of Seller

Seller's street address, municipality, zip code

Date:

Signature of Wholesaler

Date:".

Sec. 257. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) No person shall record, or cause to be recorded, on the land records of any town any real estate wholesale contract, any notice or record thereof or any documentation that purports to create any lien or encumbrance upon, or other security interest in, the residential real property that is the subject of such real estate wholesale contract. A real estate wholesaler shall not file a purchaser's lien, as set forth in section 49-92a of the general statutes, related to a real estate wholesale contract. If any such contract, notice, record, documentation or lien is recorded on the land records of any town related to the residential real property that is the subject of such contract, such contract, notice, record, documentation or lien shall not be deemed to provide actual or constructive notice to an otherwise bona fide purchaser or creditor of such property.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-24 of the general statutes, a town clerk may refuse to receive for recording any real estate wholesale contract, notice, record or documentation described in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) If a real estate wholesale contract, or any notice or record thereof, is recorded with respect to any residential real property, the owner of such property, or any person having knowledge of facts affecting such property, may effectuate a release of any rights purported to be created by the recordation of such contract, notice or record by recording an affidavit of facts in accordance with section 47-12a of the general statutes setting forth the facts related to the recordation of such contract, notice or record. Upon the recordation of said affidavit, any filing providing notice of the real estate wholesale contract shall be void and

unenforceable.

Sec. 258. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of sections 253 to 257, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 259. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any violation of the provisions of sections 253 to 257, inclusive, of this act shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

Sec. 260. Subsection (c) of section 2 of public act 25-81 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) Not later than March first of each year, the holder shall obtain from the funeral service establishment a list of all properties held by such holder pursuant to a funeral service contract (1) that was entered into seventy-five years or more ago, (2) for which **[**(1)**]** the funeral service establishment has received affirmative notification of the death of the beneficiary, or **[**(2)**]** (3) for which the beneficiary has reached the age of one hundred ten years.

Sec. 261. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of unlawful dissemination of an intimate synthetically created image when (1) such person intentionally disseminates by electronic or other means such image of (A) the genitals, pubic area or buttocks of another person with less than a fully opaque covering of such body part, or the breast of such other person who is female with less than a fully opaque covering of any portion of such breast below the top of the nipple, or (B) another person engaged in sexual intercourse, as defined in section 53a-193 of the general statutes, (2) such person disseminates such image without the consent of such other person, (3) knowing such image is a synthetically created image, disseminates the image intending for

another person who views such image to be deceived into believing the image is an actual depiction of such other person, and (4) such other person suffers harm as a result of such dissemination, or (5) such person violates subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, and such person acquired, created or had created such synthetically created image with intention to harm such other person.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Disseminate" means to sell, give, provide, lend, trade, mail, deliver, transfer, publish, distribute, circulate, present, exhibit, advertise or otherwise offer;

(2) "Harm" includes, but is not limited to, subjecting such other person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, physical injury, financial injury, psychological harm or serious emotional distress; and

(3) "Synthetically created image" means any photograph, film, videotape or other image of a person that (A) is (i) not wholly recorded by a camera, or (ii) either partially or wholly generated by a computer system, and (B) depicts, and is virtually indistinguishable from what a reasonable person would believe is the actual depiction of, an identifiable person.

(c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to:

(1) Any image described in subsection (a) of this section of such other person if such image resulted from voluntary exposure or engagement in sexual intercourse by such other person, in a public place, as defined in section 53a-181 of the general statutes, or in a commercial setting; or

(2) Any image described in subsection (a) of this section of such other person, if such other person is not clearly identifiable, unless other personally identifying information is associated with or accompanies the image.

(d) Unlawful dissemination of an intimate synthetically created image to (1) a person by any means is a class D misdemeanor, except that if such person violated subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section, a class A misdemeanor, and (2) more than one person by means of an interactive computer service, as defined in 47 USC 230, an information service, as defined in 47 USC 153, or a telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a of the general statutes, is a class C misdemeanor, except that if such person violated subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section, is a class D felony.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability on the provider of an interactive computer service, as defined in 47 USC 230, an information service, as defined in 47 USC 153, or a telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a of the general statutes, for content provided by another person.

Sec. 262. Subsection (d) of section 10a-173 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(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. Not later than November first, annually, the Office of Higher Education shall notify each institution of higher education of the estimated amount of funds allocated to such institution for awards to eligible students during the following fiscal year. 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.

Sec. 263. Section 10a-173 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this section:

[(1) "Family contribution" means the expected family contribution for educational costs as computed from a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid;

(2)**]** (1) "Student aid index" means the index used to determine eligibility for financial aid as computed from a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid;

[(3)**]** (2) "Eligible student" means a student who is (A) a resident of

the state, (B) enrolled at an institution of higher education in a course of study leading to such student's first associate or bachelor's degree, and (C) carrying, for a full-time student, twelve or more semester credit hours, or, for a part-time student, between six and eleven semester credit hours at such institution of higher education;

[(4)**]** (3) "Independent institution of higher education" means a nonprofit institution established in this state (A) that has degree-granting authority in this state; (B) that has its main campus located in this state; (C) that is not included in the Connecticut system of public higher education; and (D) whose primary function is not the preparation of students for religious vocation;

[(5)**]** (4) "Public institution of higher education" means the constituent units of the state system of higher education identified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 10a-1, except the regional community-technical colleges; and

[(6)**]** (5) "Eligible educational costs" means the tuition and required fees for an individual student that are published by each public or independent institution of higher education participating in the **[**grant**]** scholarship program established under this section, plus a fixed amount for required books and educational supplies as determined by the Office of Higher Education.

(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 **[**,**]** and 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 disburse the funds appropriated or allocated for the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program for the fiscal 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 in accordance with a plan developed by the office, provided the office shall (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.**]**

(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. Not later than November first, annually, the Office of Higher Education shall notify each institution of higher education of the estimated amount of funds allocated to such institution for awards to eligible students during the following fiscal year. 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. **[**For the academic year 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.

[(f) The Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Charter Oak grant shall be available to any eligible student enrolled in Charter Oak State College. The Office of Higher Education shall allocate any funds to Charter Oak State College to be used to provide grants for eligible educational costs to eligible students who demonstrate substantial financial need and who are matriculated in a degree program at Charter Oak State College. Individual awards shall not exceed a student's calculated eligible educational costs. Financial aid provided to eligible students under this program shall be designated as a grant from the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program.**]**

[(g)**]** (f) In administering the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program, the Office of Higher Education shall develop and utilize fiscal procedures designed to ensure accountability of the public funds expended. Such procedures shall include provisions for compliance reviews that shall be conducted by the Office of Higher Education on any institution of higher education that participates in the program. Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and biennially thereafter, each such institution of higher education shall submit the results of an audit done by an independent certified public accountant for each year of participation in the program. Any institution of higher education determined by the Office of Higher Education not to be in substantial compliance with the provisions of the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program shall be ineligible to receive funds under the program for the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the

institution of higher education was determined not to be in substantial compliance. Funding shall be restored when the Office of Higher Education determines that the institution of higher education has returned to substantial compliance.

Sec. 264. Section 18-81pp of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 373;

(2) "Alcohol and drug counselor" means an alcohol and drug counselor licensed or certified under chapter 376b;

(3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Correction;

(4) "Correctional institution" means a prison or jail under the jurisdiction of the commissioner;

(5) "Dental professional" means a (A) dentist, (B) dental hygienist licensed under chapter 379a, or (C) dental assistant, as defined in section 20-112a;

(6) "Dentist" means a dentist licensed under chapter 379;

(7) "Department" means the Department of Correction;

(8) "Discharge planner" means a (A) registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, (B) practical nurse licensed under chapter 378, (C) clinical social worker or master social worker licensed under chapter 383b, or (D) professional counselor licensed under chapter 383c;

(9) "HIV test" means a test to determine human immunodeficiency virus infection or antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus;

[(10) "Inmate" means a person in the custody of the commissioner and confined in a correctional institution;**]**

[(11)**]** (10) "Medical professional" means (A) a physician, (B) an advanced practice registered nurse, (C) a physician assistant, (D) a registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, or (E) a practical nurse licensed under chapter 378;

[(12)**]** (11) "Mental health care provider" means (A) a physician who specializes in psychiatry, or (B) an advanced practice registered nurse who specializes in mental health;

[(13)**]** (12) "Mental health therapist" means (A) a physician who specializes in psychiatry, (B) a psychologist licensed under chapter 383, (C) an advanced practice registered nurse who specializes in mental health, (D) a clinical social worker or master social worker licensed under chapter 383b, or (E) a professional counselor licensed under chapter 383c;

[(14)**]** (13) "Physician" means a physician licensed under chapter 370;

[(15)**]** (14) "Physician assistant" means a physician assistant licensed under chapter 370; and

[(16)**]** (15) "Psychotropic medication" means a medication that is used to treat a mental health disorder that affects behavior, mood, thoughts or perception.

(b) Not later than **[**January 1, 2023**]** October 1, 2025, the commissioner shall develop a plan for the provision of health care services, including, but not limited to, mental health care, substance use disorder and dental care services, to **[**inmates of correctional facilities**]** persons who are incarcerated under the jurisdiction of the department. Such plan shall **[**include, but not be limited to, guidelines for implementation of the following requirements**]** ensure, at a minimum, that:

(1) (A) **[**A**]** There is a sufficient number of mental health therapists, as determined by the commissioner, **[**shall be placed**]** at each correctional institution to provide mental health care services to **[**inmates**]** persons who are incarcerated;

(B) **[**A**]** There is a mental health therapist placed at a correctional institution **[**shall**]** to provide mental health care services to any **[**inmate**]** person who is incarcerated who requests such services or has been referred for such services by correctional staff only after the therapist makes an assessment of the **[**inmate's**]** person's need for such services and determines that the **[**inmate**]** person requires such services;

(C) Each mental health therapist shall deliver such services in concert with the security needs of all **[**inmates**]** persons who are incarcerated and correctional staff and the overall operation of the correctional institution, as determined by the warden of the correctional institution; and

(D) No mental health therapist who is providing mental health care services pursuant to this subdivision and licensed to prescribe medication shall prescribe a psychotropic medication to **[**an inmate**]** a person who is incarcerated unless (i) the mental health therapist has reviewed the mental health history and medical history of the **[**inmate**]** person, including, but not limited to, the list of all medications the **[**inmate**]** person is taking, (ii) the mental health therapist determines, based on a review of such history, that the benefits of prescribing such medication outweigh the risk of prescribing such medication, (iii) the mental health therapist diagnoses the **[**inmate**]** person with a mental health disorder, the **[**inmate**]** person has received a previous diagnosis of a mental health disorder by a licensed mental health care provider and such medication is used to treat such mental health disorder, or, in an emergency situation, the mental health therapist makes an assessment that the inmate's mental health is substantially impaired and requires psychotropic medication to treat, (iv) the mental health

therapist approves the use of such medication by the [inmate] person as part of the [inmate's] person's mental health treatment plan, and (v) the mental health therapist keeps a record of each psychotropic medication such provider prescribes to the [inmate] person and all other medications the [inmate] person is taking.

(2) Each [inmate] person who is incarcerated shall receive an annual physical examination by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse when such examination is clinically indicated. Such examination may include, but not be limited to, a breast and gynecological examination or prostate examination, where appropriate, and the administration of any test the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse deems appropriate.

(3) Each [inmate] person who is incarcerated shall receive an initial health assessment from a medical professional not later than fourteen days after the [inmate's] person's initial intake into a correctional institution.

(4) If a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse recommends, based on the initial health assessment of [an inmate or] a person who is incarcerated or other person, that such [inmate or] person who is incarcerated or other person be placed in a medical or mental health housing unit, the department shall ensure that such [inmate or] person who is incarcerated or other person is placed in an appropriate medical or mental health housing unit unless there are significant safety or security reasons for not making such placement.

(5) A medical professional shall perform health assessments of [inmates] persons who are incarcerated in a location at the correctional institution that the warden of the correctional institution designates as appropriate for performing such an examination, provided the analysis of any sample collected from the [inmate] person who is incarcerated during a health assessment may be performed at a laboratory that is

located outside of the correctional institution.

(6) A discharge planner shall conduct an exit interview of each **[**inmate**]** person who is incarcerated who is being scheduled for discharge from a correctional institution prior to the date of discharge if such exit interview is clinically indicated, provided the lack of such exit interview shall not delay the scheduled discharge of **[**an inmate**]** a person who is incarcerated. Such exit interview shall include a discussion with the **[**inmate**]** person regarding a medical discharge plan for any continued medical care or treatment that is recommended by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse for the **[**inmate**]** person when the **[**inmate**]** person reenters the community.

(7) A physician shall be on call on weekends, holidays and outside regular work hours to provide medical care to **[**inmates**]** persons who are incarcerated as necessary.

(8) The commissioner shall ensure that each **[**inmate**]** person who is incarcerated has access to all vaccines licensed or authorized under an emergency use authorization by the federal Food and Drug Administration that are recommended by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, subject to availability of such vaccines, unless there are substantial security concerns with providing access to such vaccines. Subject to availability, a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse shall prescribe to **[**an inmate**]** a person who is incarcerated any such vaccine that (A) the **[**inmate**]** person requests, and (B) is recommended for such **[**inmate**]** person by said committee, as determined by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, provided the prescribing of such vaccine does not impose significant safety concerns.

(9) Except in exigent circumstances, a dental professional shall perform a dental screening of each **[**inmate**]** person who is incarcerated

not later than one year after the [inmate] person initially enters a correctional institution and at least once annually thereafter. At the time the dental professional performs the dental screening of [an inmate] a person who is incarcerated, the dental professional shall develop a dental care plan for the [inmate] person. A dental professional shall provide dental care in accordance with the [inmate's] person's dental care plan throughout the [inmate's] person's time at the correctional institution. The commissioner shall ensure, in consultation with a dentist, that each correctional institution has a dental examination room that is fully equipped with all of the dental equipment necessary to perform a dental examination.

(10) A medical professional shall administer an HIV test to each [inmate] person who is incarcerated who requests an HIV test, subject to the availability of such test. Except in exigent circumstances and subject to availability, a medical professional shall offer an HIV test to each [inmate] person who is incarcerated where it is clinically indicated (A) at the time such [inmate] person enters a correctional institution, or (B) during an annual physical assessment.

(11) A medical professional shall interview each [inmate] person who is incarcerated regarding [the inmate's] such person's drug and alcohol use and mental health history at the time the [inmate] person initially enters a correctional institution. If [an inmate] the person is exhibiting symptoms of withdrawal from a drug or alcohol or mental distress at such time, a medical professional shall perform a physical and mental health assessment of the [inmate] person and communicate the results of such assessment to a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, and a mental health care provider or mental health therapist, if applicable. Except in exigent circumstances, a drug and alcohol counselor shall perform an evaluation of the [inmate] person not later than five days after the [inmate] the person initially enters the correctional institution. (A) The correctional institution shall

immediately transfer each **[**inmate**]** such person who is determined by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse to be experiencing withdrawal from a drug or alcohol to an appropriate area at such correctional institution for medical treatment of such withdrawal. A physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse shall periodically evaluate each **[**inmate who**]** person who is incarcerated and exhibits signs of or discloses an addiction to a drug or alcohol or who experiences withdrawal from a drug or alcohol, at a frequency deemed appropriate by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. (B) In the case of a person who is determined at the time of such person's intake into a correctional institution to be in need of mental health services, such person shall be provided evidence-based mental health interventions delivered by a mental health care provider or mental health therapist, as needed, within a reasonable amount of time after such determination of need, but in no case later than two business days following such determination. Such person shall be periodically evaluated by a mental health care provider or mental health therapist and provided such services, as needed.

(12) A physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse with experience in substance use disorder diagnosis and treatment shall oversee the medical treatment of **[**an inmate**]** a person who is incarcerated experiencing withdrawal from a drug or alcohol at each correctional institution. A medical professional shall be present in the medical unit at each correctional facility at all times during the provision of medical treatment to such **[**inmate**]** person.

(13) A drug and alcohol counselor shall offer appropriate substance use disorder counseling services, including, but not limited to, individual counseling sessions and group counseling sessions, to **[**an inmate who**]** a person who is incarcerated and exhibits signs of or discloses an addiction to a drug or alcohol and encourage such **[**inmate**]**

person to participate in at least one counselling session. At the time of **[**an inmate's**]** discharge of a person who is incarcerated from the correctional institution, a discharge planner may refer **[**an inmate**]** any such person who has exhibited signs of or disclosed an addiction to a drug or alcohol while **[**an inmate**]** incarcerated at such correctional institution to a substance use disorder treatment program in the community that is deemed appropriate for the **[**inmate**]** person by such discharge planner.

(14) The York Correctional Institution shall provide each **[**inmate who is**]** pregnant woman who is incarcerated and drug or alcohol-dependent, with information regarding the dangers of undergoing withdrawal from the drug or alcohol without medical treatment, the importance of receiving medical treatment during the second trimester of pregnancy for withdrawal from the drug or alcohol and the effects of neonatal abstinence syndrome on a newborn.

(15) The York Correctional Institution shall provide each **[**inmate who is**]** pregnant woman who is incarcerated prenatal visits at a frequency determined by an obstetrician to be consistent with community standards for prenatal visits.

(16) The department shall issue a request for information to which a school of medicine may apply for purposes of providing practical training at correctional institutions as part of a medical residency program, through which residents participating in such program may provide health care services to **[**inmates**]** persons who are incarcerated.

(c) Not later than **[**February 1, 2023**]** October 1, 2025, the commissioner 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 public health and the judiciary regarding the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, recommendations for any legislation necessary to implement such plan

and the department's timeline for implementation of such plan.

Sec. 265. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) The Commissioner of Correction shall provide palatable and nutritious meals to each person in the custody of the commissioner. Under no circumstances shall the commissioner permit such persons to be fed nutraloaf as a form of discipline or any other punitive diet.

(b) For purposes of this section, "nutraloaf" means a mixture of foods blended together and baked into a solid loaf and "punitive diet" means a diet that is used for punishment purposes.

Sec. 266. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) The Commissioner of Correction shall ensure that each person in the custody of the commissioner is provided with a form enabling such person to authorize another person to access such person's medical records that are otherwise subject to nondisclosure under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time.

Sec. 267. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Correction, shall study the feasibility of relocating the New Haven Correctional Center on Whalley Avenue and the Bridgeport Correctional Center, to locations that would create fewer impacts on neighborhoods. Such study shall include (1) an assessment of the practicality and potential impacts of each proposed relocation, and (2) a listing of potential sites for each proposed relocation, including a comparison of any advantages or disadvantages each proposed site may have when compared to the current site for each such facility. Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall submit such study, 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 the Department of Correction.

Sec. 268. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) The Commissioner of Correction shall ensure that each correctional facility under the commissioner's jurisdiction is staffed at a level to protect the safety of the staff who work at each such facility, visitors and contractors who enter each such facility and persons who are incarcerated at each such facility.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall develop and actively employ a program for the recruitment and retention of correctional officers.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the commissioner 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 the Department of Correction on efforts to comply with subsections (a) and (b) of this section, including any shortcomings in such compliance. Such report may include recommendations for additional resources needed to achieve such compliance.

Sec. 269. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Correction shall develop a protocol for full documentation of any assault by a person who is incarcerated on correctional staff. On and after October 1, 2025, each such assault shall be documented in accordance with such protocol.

Sec. 270. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Correction 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 the judiciary and government oversight. Such report shall include an evaluation of current directives and procedures for strip searches and cavity searches in correctional institutions in the state compared to other states in the northeastern region and federal policies,

based on the type of institution, and highlight any differences in such directives and procedures.

Sec. 271. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Correction 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 the judiciary and government oversight, concerning the conduct of strip and cavity searches in Department of Correction facilities. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The number of strip searches and cavity searches of persons who are incarcerated that have occurred during the prior calendar year, broken out by correctional facility, (2) whether there have been any lawsuits filed concerning such strip searches or cavity searches during the year immediately preceding such report and, if so, the status or outcome of such lawsuits, and (3) a copy of the current policy concerning the conduct of such searches, including any training requirements for correctional officers concerning the conduct of such searches.

Sec. 272. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) If the Correction Ombuds, appointed pursuant to section 18-81jj of the general statutes, intends to access a medical record of a person who is incarcerated, the Correction Ombuds shall notify such person of the purpose for accessing such record prior to accessing any such record.

Sec. 273. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) The Connecticut Siting Council shall establish a solar photovoltaic facility emergency preparedness account, which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. Any federal reimbursements and grants obtained in support of the solar photovoltaic facility emergency preparedness program established pursuant to section 274 of this act shall be paid into the General Fund and credited to the account. All moneys within the account shall be invested by the State Treasurer in

accordance with established investment practices and all interest earned by such investments shall be returned to the account.

Sec. 274. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this section, "solar photovoltaic facility" means a solar photovoltaic facility that has a generating capacity greater than one megawatt of electricity. The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, within available funds, establish and administer a solar photovoltaic facility emergency preparedness program to develop solar photovoltaic facility emergency response plans and provide training and equipment to emergency response personnel in connection with such plans.

(b) Moneys in the solar photovoltaic facility emergency preparedness account established pursuant to section 273 of this act shall be expended by the commissioner, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, to support the activities of the program and in accordance with the plan approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management under subsection (c) of this section. The program, within available funds, shall include, but need not be limited to, the: (1) Development of a detailed solar photovoltaic facility emergency response plan for areas surrounding each such facility, (2) annual training of state and local emergency response personnel concerning emergency responses to fires or other hazards located at or near such facilities, (3) development of accident scenarios and exercising of solar photovoltaic facility emergency response plans, and (4) provision of specialized response equipment necessary to respond to such emergencies.

(c) Not later than May first, annually, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall submit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management a plan for carrying out the purposes of the solar photovoltaic facility emergency preparedness program during the next state fiscal year. The plan shall

include proposed itemized expenditures for the program. The secretary shall review the plan and, not later than June first, annually, approve the plan if the plan conforms with the provisions of this section.

Sec. 275. Subdivision (15) of section 19a-630 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(15) "Termination of services" means the cessation of any services for a **[**period**]** combined total of greater than one hundred eighty days within any consecutive two-year period.

Sec. 276. Subsection (d) of section 19a-639 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(d) (1) For purposes of this subsection and subsection (e) of this section:

(A) "Affected community" means a municipality where a hospital is physically located or a municipality whose inhabitants are regularly served by a hospital;

(B) "Hospital" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490;

(C) "New hospital" means a hospital as it exists after the approval of an agreement pursuant to section 19a-486b or a certificate of need application for a transfer of ownership of a hospital;

(D) "Purchaser" means a person who is acquiring, or has acquired, any assets of a hospital through a transfer of ownership of a hospital;

(E) "Transacting party" means a purchaser and any person who is a party to a proposed agreement for transfer of ownership of a hospital;

(F) "Transfer" means to sell, transfer, lease, exchange, option, convey,

give or otherwise dispose of or transfer control over, including, but not limited to, transfer by way of merger or joint venture not in the ordinary course of business; and

(G) "Transfer of ownership of a hospital" means a transfer that impacts or changes the governance or controlling body of a hospital, including, but not limited to, all affiliations, mergers or any sale or transfer of net assets of a hospital and for which a certificate of need application or a certificate of need determination letter is filed on or after December 1, 2015.

(2) In any deliberations involving a certificate of need application filed pursuant to section 19a-638 that involves the transfer of ownership of a hospital, the unit shall, in addition to the guidelines and principles set forth in subsection (a) of this section and those prescribed through regulation pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, take into consideration and make written findings concerning each of the following guidelines and principles:

(A) Whether the applicant fairly considered alternative proposals or offers in light of the purpose of maintaining health care provider diversity and consumer choice in the health care market and access to affordable quality health care for the affected community; and

(B) Whether the plan submitted pursuant to section 19a-639a demonstrates, in a manner consistent with this chapter, how health care services will be provided by the new hospital for the first three years following the transfer of ownership of the hospital, including any consolidation, reduction, elimination or expansion of existing services or introduction of new services.

(3) The unit shall deny any certificate of need application involving a transfer of ownership of a hospital unless the 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 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.

(5) The unit may place any conditions on the approval of a certificate of need application involving a transfer of ownership of a hospital consistent with the provisions of this chapter. Before placing any such conditions, the unit shall weigh the value of such conditions in promoting the purposes of this chapter against the individual and cumulative burden of such conditions on the transacting parties and the new hospital. For each condition imposed, the unit shall include a concise statement of the legal and factual basis for such condition and the provision or provisions of this chapter that it is intended to promote. Each condition shall be reasonably tailored in time and scope. The transacting parties or the new hospital shall have the right to make a request to the unit for an amendment to, or relief from, any condition based on changed circumstances, hardship or for other good cause.

(6) In any deliberations involving a certificate of need application filed pursuant to section 19a-638 that involves the transfer of ownership of a hospital and is subject to a cost and market impact review, the unit may consider (A) the preliminary report and response to the preliminary report, (B) the final report, and (C) any written comments from the parties regarding the reports issued or submitted as part of the review. The unit shall not place the preliminary report in the public

record until the transacting parties have had an opportunity to respond to the findings of the preliminary report pursuant to subsection (f) of section 19a-639f.

Sec. 277. Section 52-571m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Reproductive health care services" includes all medical, surgical, counseling or referral services relating to the human reproductive system, including, but not limited to, services relating to pregnancy, assisted reproduction, contraception or the termination of a pregnancy; **[**and all medical care relating to treatment of gender dysphoria as set forth in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" and gender incongruence, as defined in the most recent revision of the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems"; and**]**

(2) "Gender-affirming health care services" means all supplies, care and services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative or supportive nature, including medication relating to the treatment of gender dysphoria and gender incongruence. "Gender-affirming health care services" does not include "conversion therapy" as defined in section 19a-907; and

[(2)**]** (3) "Person" includes an individual, a partnership, an association, a limited liability company or a corporation.

(b) When any person has had a judgment entered against such person, in any state, where liability, in whole or in part, is based on the alleged provision, receipt, assistance in receipt or provision, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy

liability derived therefrom, for reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state, such person may recover damages from any party that brought the action leading to that judgment or has sought to enforce that judgment. Recoverable damages shall include: (1) Just damages created by the action that led to that judgment, including, but not limited to, money damages in the amount of the judgment in that other state and costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees spent in defending the action that resulted in the entry of a judgment in another state; and (2) costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing an action under this section as may be allowed by the court.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a judgment entered in another state that is based on: (1) An action founded in tort, contract or statute, and for which a similar claim would exist under the laws of this state, brought by the patient who received the reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services upon which the original lawsuit was based or the patient's authorized legal representative, for damages suffered by the patient or damages derived from an individual's loss of consortium of the patient; (2) an action founded in contract, and for which a similar claim would exist under the laws of this state, brought or sought to be enforced by a party with a contractual relationship with the person that is the subject of the judgment entered in another state; or (3) an action where no part of the acts that formed the basis for liability occurred in this state.

Sec. 278. Section 52-146w of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Except as provided in sections 52-146c to 52-146k, inclusive, sections 52-146o, 52-146p, 52-146q and 52-146s and subsection (b) of this section, in any civil action or any proceeding preliminary thereto or in any probate, legislative or administrative proceeding, no covered entity or business associate, as defined in 45 CFR 160.103, shall disclose (1) any

communication made to such covered entity or business associate, or any information obtained by such covered entity or business associate from, a patient or the conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative of a patient relating to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 52-571m, that are permitted under the laws of this state, or (2) any information obtained by personal examination of a patient relating to **[**reproductive health care services, as defined in section 52-571m**]** such services, that are permitted under the laws of this state, unless the patient or that patient's conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative explicitly consents in writing to such disclosure. A covered entity shall inform the patient or the patient's conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative of the patient's right to withhold such written consent. A covered entity or business associate that receives a subpoena for patient information related to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services subject to the provisions of this section that does not fall under any exemption in subsection (b) of this section and is not accompanied by the written consent of the patient or the conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative of the patient shall provide a copy of the subpoena to the office of the Attorney General not later than seven days after the date of receipt of the subpoena. The office of the Attorney General shall post notice of the methods by which a covered entity and business associate may send the copy of the subpoena.

(b) Written consent of the patient or the patient's conservator, guardian or other authorized legal representative shall not be required for the disclosure of such communication or information (1) pursuant to the laws of this state or the rules of court prescribed by the Judicial Branch, (2) by a covered entity or business associate against whom a claim has been made, or there is a reasonable belief will be made, in such action or proceeding, to the covered entity's or business associate's attorney or professional liability insurer or such insurer's agent for use

in the defense of such action or proceeding, (3) to the Commissioner of Public Health for records of a patient of a covered entity in connection with an investigation of a complaint, if such records are related to the complaint, or (4) if child abuse, abuse of an elderly individual, abuse of an individual who is physically disabled or incompetent or abuse of an individual with intellectual disability is known or in good faith suspected.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impede the lawful sharing of medical records as permitted by state or federal law or the rules of the court prescribed by the Judicial Branch, except in the case of a subpoena commanding the production, copying or inspection of medical records relating to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 52-571m.

Sec. 279. Section 19a-17e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section, "reproductive health care services" **[**has**]** and "gender-affirming health care services" have the same **[**meaning**]** meanings as provided in section 52-571m.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 19a-14, the Department of Public Health shall not deny the eligibility of an applicant for a (1) permit, (2) license by examination, endorsement or reciprocity, or (3) reinstatement of a license (A) voided pursuant to the provisions of subsection (f) of section 19a-88, (B) voluntarily surrendered, or (C) by agreement, not renewed or reinstated pursuant to the provisions of subsection (d) of section 19a-17 based on pending disciplinary action, an unresolved complaint or the imposition of disciplinary action against the applicant by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, the District of Columbia or a commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States that is based solely on the alleged provision of, receipt of,

assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state and were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such services, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply where the underlying conduct of the applicant would constitute the basis of disciplinary action against the applicant under the laws of this state if the applicant had been licensed or permitted in this state and the conduct had occurred in this state.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 19a-17, a board or commission established under title 20 that has jurisdiction over persons licensed, certified or registered under said title who provide reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, and the Department of Public Health, with respect to professions under the department's jurisdiction that are not subject to discipline by such a board or commission, shall not impose disciplinary action against a licensed, certified or registered person based on pending disciplinary action, an unresolved complaint or the imposition of disciplinary action against such persons before or by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, the District of Columbia, or a commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States that is based solely on the alleged provision of, receipt of, assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state and were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such services, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply where the underlying conduct of the licensed, certified or registered

person would constitute the basis of disciplinary action against such person under the laws of this state if the conduct had occurred in this state.

Sec. 280. Section 19a-567 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section, (1) "credentialing" means the process of assessing and validating the qualifications of a health care provider applying to be approved to provide treatment, care or services in or for an institution, (2) "health care provider" means a person licensed pursuant to title 20 who provides reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, (3) "institution" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490, (4) "privileging" means the process of authorizing a health care provider to provide specific treatment, care or services at an institution, and (5) "reproductive health care services" **[**has**]** and "gender-affirming health care services" have the same **[**meaning**]** meanings as provided in section 52-571m.

(b) An institution shall not revoke, suspend, reprimand, penalize, refuse to issue or renew credentials or privileges or take any other adverse action against a health care provider with respect to credentialing or privileging based solely on the alleged provision of, receipt of, assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that (1) are permitted under the laws of this state, (2) were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such services, and (3) were provided by the health care provider (A) before the date on which the health care provider entered an employment relationship with the institution, or (B) outside the scope of the health care provider's employment with the institution, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state.

(c) An institution shall not revoke, suspend, reprimand, penalize, refuse to issue or renew credentials or privileges or take any other adverse action against a health care provider based on pending disciplinary action, an unresolved complaint or the imposition of disciplinary action against the applicant by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, the District of Columbia, or a commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States that is based solely on the alleged provision of, receipt of, assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that (1) are permitted under the laws of this state, (2) were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such services, and (3) were provided by the health care provider (A) before the date on which the health care provider entered an employment relationship with the institution, or (B) outside the scope of the health care provider's employment with the institution, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prevent an institution from taking any of the actions described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section against a health care provider for conduct that (1) does not conform to the standards of care for the provider's profession, (2) is illegal under the laws of this state, or (3) violates policies or rules of the institution that define the scope of services provided by the institution if (A) such conduct occurs within the scope of the health care provider's employment with, or delivery of care at, the institution, and (B) the institution's enforcement of such policies or rules is not otherwise prohibited by law or regulation.

Sec. 281. Section 20-579a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section, "reproductive health care services" **[**has**]**

and "gender-affirming health care services" have the same **[**meaning**]** meanings as provided in section 52-571m.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Commission of Pharmacy shall not deny the eligibility of an applicant for a license, permit or registration under this chapter based on pending disciplinary action, an unresolved complaint or the imposition of disciplinary action against the applicant by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, the District of Columbia or a commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States that is based solely on the alleged provision of, receipt of, assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state and were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such services, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply where the underlying conduct of the applicant would constitute the basis of disciplinary action against the applicant under the laws of this state if the applicant had been licensed, permitted or registered in this state and the conduct had occurred in this state.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Commission of Pharmacy shall not impose disciplinary action against any person licensed, permitted or registered pursuant to the provisions of this chapter based on pending disciplinary action, an unresolved complaint or the imposition of disciplinary action against the applicant by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, the District of Columbia, or a commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States that is based solely on the alleged provision of, receipt of, assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory

of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state and were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such services, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply where the underlying conduct of the person licensed, permitted or registered would constitute the basis of disciplinary action against such person under the laws of this state if such person had been licensed, permitted or registered in this state and the conduct had occurred in this state.

Sec. 282. Section 38a-835 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section, (1) "health care provider" means a person licensed pursuant to title 20 who provides reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, (2) "insurer" means an insurer that insures a health care provider against professional liability, and (3) "reproductive health care services" **[**has**]** and "gender-affirming health care services" have the same **[**meaning**]** meanings as provided in section 52-571m.

(b) An insurer shall not take any adverse action, including, but not limited to, denial or revocation of coverage, sanctions, fines, penalties or rate increases against a health care provider, if such action is based solely on:

(1) Such health care provider's alleged provision of, receipt of, assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state and were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such

services, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state; or

(2) Pending disciplinary action, an unresolved complaint or the imposition of disciplinary action against such health care provider by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, the District of Columbia, or a commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States that is based solely on the alleged provision of, receipt of, assistance in provision or receipt of, material support for, or any theory of vicarious, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom, reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state and were provided in accordance with the standard of care applicable to such services, regardless of whether the patient receiving such services was a resident of this state.

Sec. 283. Section 52-155a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 52-155 and 52-657, a judge, justice of the peace, notary public or commissioner of the Superior Court shall not issue a subpoena requested by a commissioner, appointed according to the laws or usages of any other state or government, or by any court of the United States or of any other state or government, when such subpoena relates to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 52-571m, that are permitted under the laws of this state, unless the subpoena relates to: (1) An out-of-state action founded in tort, contract or statute, for which a similar claim would exist under the laws of this state, brought by a patient or the patient's authorized legal representative, for damages suffered by the patient or damages derived from an individual's loss of consortium of the patient; or (2) an out-of-state action founded in contract, and for which a similar claim would exist under the laws of this state, brought or sought to be enforced by a

party with a contractual relationship with the person that is the subject of the subpoena requested by a commissioner appointed according to the laws or usages of another state.

Sec. 284. Subsection (b) of section 54-82i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) If a judge of a court of record in any state which by its laws has made provision for commanding persons within that state to attend and testify in this state certifies, under the seal of such court, that there is a criminal prosecution pending in such court, or that a grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence, that a person being within this state is a material witness in such prosecution or grand jury investigation and that the presence of such witness will be required for a specified number of days, upon presentation of such certificate to any judge of a court of record in the judicial district in which such person is, such judge shall fix a time and place for a hearing and shall make an order directing the witness to appear at such time and place for such hearing. If, at such hearing, the judge determines that the witness is material and necessary, that it will not cause undue hardship to the witness to be compelled to attend and testify in the prosecution or a grand jury investigation in the other state and that the laws of such other state and the laws of any other state through which the witness may be required to pass by ordinary course of travel will give to such witness protection from arrest and from the service of civil or criminal process, the judge shall issue a summons, with a copy of the certificate attached, directing the witness to attend and testify in the court where the prosecution is pending, or where a grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence at a time and place specified in the summons, except that no judge shall issue a summons in a case where prosecution is pending, or where a grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence for a criminal violation of a law of

such other state involving the provision or receipt of or assistance with reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section **[**52-571n**]** 52-571m, that are legal in this state, unless the acts forming the basis of the prosecution or investigation would also constitute an offense in this state. At any such hearing, the certificate shall be prima facie evidence of all the facts stated therein. If such certificate recommends that the witness be taken into immediate custody and delivered to an officer of the requesting state to assure the attendance of the witness in such state, such judge may, in lieu of notification of the hearing, direct that such witness be forthwith brought before such judge for such hearing, and, being satisfied, at such hearing, of the desirability of such custody and delivery, of which desirability such certificate shall be prima facie proof, may, in lieu of issuing a subpoena or summons, order that such witness be forthwith taken into custody and delivered to an officer of the requesting state. If such witness, after being paid or tendered by an authorized person the same amount per mile as provided for state employees pursuant to section 5-141c for each mile by the ordinary traveled route to and from the court where the prosecution is pending and five dollars each day that such witness is required to travel and attend as a witness, fails, without good cause, to attend and testify as directed in the summons, the witness shall be punished in the manner provided for the punishment of any witness who disobeys a summons issued from a court of record in this state.

Sec. 285. Section 54-155a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

No public agency, as defined in section 1-200, or employee, appointee, officer or official or any other person acting on behalf of a public agency may provide any information or expend or use time, money, facilities, property, equipment, personnel or other resources in furtherance of any interstate investigation or proceeding seeking to

impose civil or criminal liability upon a person or entity for (1) the provision, seeking or receipt of or inquiring about reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 52-571m, that are legal in this state, or (2) assisting any person or entity providing, seeking, receiving or responding to an inquiry about reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 52-571m, that are legal in this state. This section shall not apply to any investigation or proceeding where the conduct subject to potential liability under the investigation or proceeding would be subject to liability under the laws of this state if committed in this state.

Sec. 286. Subdivision (17) of section 42-515 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(17) "Gender-affirming health care services" has the same meaning as provided in section **[**52-571n**]** 52-571m.

Sec. 287. Sections 52-146x, 52-155b, 52-571n and 54-155b of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 288. (*Effective July 1, 2025)* (a) Notwithstanding any requirement of chapter 446d of the general statutes, the owner or operator of a transfer station that, on May 1, 2025, was: (1) Owned or operated by the MIRA Dissolution Authority; (2) registered under the general permit for a municipal transfer station; and (3) accepting municipal solid waste, including recyclables, may also accept at such transfer station, and charge for such acceptance, municipal solid waste, including recyclables, generated at locations both inside and outside the boundaries of the municipality or municipalities that have contracted to dispose of municipal solid waste at such transfer station, including recyclables, at such transfer station until July 1, 2027, or until the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection issues a final

decision on an application for any permit necessary to operate such transfer station as a commercial transfer station, whichever is later, provided: (A) Such municipal solid waste was generated in a municipality that was a member, or was part of a regional authority that was a member, of the Materials Innovation and Recovery Authority on January 1, 2022; (B) such transfer station remains in compliance with all other applicable requirements of such general permit; and (C) such owner or operator submits a complete application to the commissioner for any permit necessary to operate such transfer station as a commercial transfer station not later than July 1, 2026. The commissioner shall act expeditiously on any such application filed pursuant to this section and shall not unreasonably withhold such permit. Such an owner or operator may continue to operate such transfer station and accept such municipal solid waste, including recyclables, while such owner or operator's application that is filed pursuant to this section is pending before the commissioner.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of section 22a-6o of the general statutes: (1) Upon transfer of ownership or operation of any transfer station from the MIRA Dissolution Authority to the town of Essex, any permits or licenses held by the MIRA Dissolution Authority shall be deemed to be transferred to the town of Essex and shall continue in full force and effect, (2) any permit or license relating to the Torrington Transfer Station shall be deemed transferred to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority, or its designee, and shall continue in full force and effect, and (3) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall grant the owner of the Wallingford Transfer Station a temporary operating permit until the submission of a complete application by such owner to the commissioner for the resumption of operations in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Sec. 289. Section 9-139a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(a) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish the following materials to municipal clerks: The absentee ballot facsimile, the application for absentee ballot authorized for use at each election or primary, the inner envelope, the outer envelope provided for the return of the ballot to the municipal clerk, the instructions for the use of the absentee ballot and the envelope for mailing of such forms by the clerk to the absentee ballot applicant.

(b) The application for absentee ballot shall be in the form of a statement signed under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting. Each application shall contain (1) spaces for the signature under the penalties of false statement in absentee balloting of any person who assists the applicant in the completion of an application together with the information required in section 9-140, (2) spaces for the signature and the printed or typed name of the applicant, and (3) a clear and conspicuous notation of the year for which such application's use is authorized.

(c) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe and furnish to the Department of Correction an application for absentee ballot form for use within Department of Correction facilities. Such form shall contain spaces for all information required under subsection (b) of this section. Each such form shall be consecutively numbered and shall indicate that such form is only for use by an absentee ballot applicant who is incarcerated in a Department of Correction facility and that such applicant is required to provide in the appropriate space on such form a mailing address at the Department of Correction facility in order for an absentee ballot to be mailed to such applicant.

[(c)**]** (d) The instructions for the use of the absentee ballot shall be in plain language and shall include the steps to be taken if a vote is to be cancelled or changed, and shall also contain a simple and concise restatement of the provisions of subsection (l) of section 9-150a and section 9-159o concerning rejection of ballots marked in such manner as

to identify the voters casting them, and withdrawal of ballots by persons who find they are able to vote at the polls.

[(d)**]** (e) A sufficient supply of such instructions and envelopes shall be printed to supply the number which the municipal clerk requests or the Secretary of the State deems sufficient.

Sec. 290. Subsection (g) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(g) On the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets the municipal clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to each applicant whose application was received by the clerk prior to that day. When the clerk receives an application during the time period in which absentee voting sets are to be issued he shall mail an absentee voting set to the applicant, within twenty-four hours, unless the applicant submits his application in person at the office of the clerk and asks to be given his absentee voting set immediately, in which case the clerk shall comply with the request. Any absentee voting set to be mailed to an applicant shall be mailed to the bona fide personal mailing address shown on the application. If an applicant has provided a mailing address at a Department of Correction facility and such applicant is subsequently transferred to another Department of Correction facility, the Commissioner of Correction shall ensure delivery of the absentee voting set to such applicant. Issuance of absentee voting sets shall also be subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, section 9-150c and section 9-159q concerning persons designated to deliver or return ballots in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability and supervised voting at certain health care institutions.

Sec. 291. Subsection (k) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(k) (1) A person shall register with the **[**town**]** municipal clerk before distributing five or more absentee ballot applications for an election, primary or referendum, not including applications distributed to such person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not apply to a person who is the designee of an applicant or to any employee of the Department of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants.

(2) The municipal clerk shall reject the application of any absentee ballot applicant made upon the form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a if such form indicates any address other than an address at a Department of Correction facility. The municipal clerk shall maintain a log of all applications of incarcerated absentee ballot applicants received by such municipal clerk, which log shall indicate the name and address of each applicant, the date of receipt of each application and the date such municipal clerk mailed the absentee ballot to such applicant or the reason why such application was rejected.

[(2)**]** (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall maintain a list of the names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot applicants who receive such applications, and shall file such list with the **[**town**]** municipal clerk prior to the date of the primary, election or referendum for which the applications were so distributed, except that such requirements shall not apply to any employee of the Department of Correction who provides the application for absentee ballot form prescribed under subsection (c) of section 9-139a to incarcerated absentee ballot applicants. Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed application shall forthwith file the application with the **[**town**]** municipal clerk.

Sec. 292. Section 9-14a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

Any person in the custody of the state being held at a **[**community correctional center or a correctional institution**]** Department of Correction facility, whose voting rights have not been denied, shall be deemed to be absent from the town or city of which **[**he**]** such person is an inhabitant for purposes of voting, notwithstanding that such **[**center or institution**]** facility may be situated within such town or city.

Sec. 293. Subsection (b) of section 9-163aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) (1) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate a location for the conduct of early voting, which location shall be the same for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise specified in this subdivision, provided (A) the registrars of voters have access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and (B) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of the State not later than sixty days prior to the day of an election or a primary. The written certification under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall provide (i) the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with such location, (ii) the number of election or primary officials to be appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location and the roles of such officials, and (iii) a description of the design of such location and a plan for effective conduct of such early voting. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later than forty-five days prior to the day of an election or a primary. If the Secretary disapproves such certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the Secretary deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the appointment of additional election or primary officials or the alteration of such design or plan. After having received approval of such certification or having complied with any order for corrective action to

the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the registrars of voters shall determine the site of such location designated for the conduct of early voting at least thirty-one days prior to an election or a primary. Such location shall not be changed within such period, except, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters unanimously find that such location has been rendered unusable within such period, such clerk and registrars shall forthwith designate another location for the conduct of early voting to be used in place of the location so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such location has been so changed. The provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e shall apply to such location designated for the conduct of early voting.

(2) In any municipality with a population of at least twenty thousand, the legislative body may hold a public hearing on whether to designate any additional location in such municipality for the conduct of early voting, which public hearing, if any, shall be held not later than fifteen days prior to the time for designating any such location set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Any legislative body holding such a public hearing shall properly notice such public hearing not later than ten days prior to such public hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in such municipality and on the Internet web site of the municipality. For any such municipality in which such a public hearing was not held, the legislative body thereof shall determine whether to designate any such additional location and shall notify the Secretary of the State with a detailed explanation for such determination. For any municipality in which such a public hearing was held, not later than three days after the conclusion of such public hearing, the legislative body thereof shall determine whether to designate any such additional location and shall notify the Secretary with a detailed explanation for such determination. If the legislative body determines that any such additional location be designated, the registrars of voters shall so designate such additional location and the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to such additional location. The Secretary

shall take no action on any detailed explanation submitted under this subdivision with regard to the number of additional locations designated in such a municipality, and shall preserve each such detailed explanation as a public record open to public inspection. For the purposes of this subdivision, "population" means the estimated number of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90.

(3) In any municipality containing any campus of a constituent unit, as defined in section 10a-1, with at least one thousand students living in housing that is on such campus or is owned or operated by, or affiliated with, such constituent unit, the registrars of voters of such municipality shall designate an additional location on such campus for the conduct of early voting and the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to such additional location.

[(3)**]** (4) At each location designated for the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters shall provide to prospective electors during the early voting period the opportunity to apply for same-day election registration, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 9-19j, for such application and for the completion and processing of any such application.

[(4)**]** (5) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which early voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or primary officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct. The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the conduct of early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters of a municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of

the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be an early voting election or primary official.

(B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for the conduct of early voting, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii) a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

Sec. 294. Subsection (d) of section 9-19j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) Any person applying for same-day election registration under the provisions of this section shall make application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) (A) on election day, the applicant shall appear in person not later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration, and (B) during the period of early voting prior to election day, the applicant shall appear in person at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174, at such location, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election, as provided in subsection (f) of this section. If the information that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and this

section does not include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also (A) submit identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence address, including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current address and that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after the election or, in the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such institution that has the applicant's name and current address, or (B) prove the applicant's bona fide residence address by the testimony under oath of at least one elector.

Sec. 295. Subsection (b) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(b) In the event that an elector is present at the polling place but is unable to gain access to the polling place due to **[**a temporary**]** an incapacity, the elector may request that the ballot be brought to him or her in the area designated pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-236 for curbside voting. The registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters, as the case may be, shall take such ballot, along with a privacy sleeve to such elector. The elector shall show identification, in accordance with the provisions of this section. The elector shall forthwith mark the ballot in the presence of the election officials in such manner that the election officials shall not know how the ballot is marked. The elector shall place the ballot in the privacy sleeve. The election officials shall mark the elector's name on the official voter list, manually on paper or electronically, as having voted in person and deliver such ballot and privacy sleeve to the voting tabulator where such ballot shall be placed into the tabulator, by the election official, for counting. The moderator shall record such activity in the moderator's diary.

Sec. 296. Section 9-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(a) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit (1) parent-teacher associations or parent-teacher organizations from holding bake sales or other fund-raising activities on the day of any primary, referendum or election in any school used as a polling place, provided such sales or activities shall not be held in the room in which the election booths are located, (2) the registrars of voters from directing the officials at a primary, referendum or election to distribute, within the restricted area, adhesive labels on which are imprinted the words "I Voted Today", or (3) the registrars of voters in a primary, election or referendum from jointly permitting nonpartisan activities to be conducted in a room other than the room in which the election booths are located. The registrars may jointly impose such conditions and limitations on such nonpartisan activity as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly process of voting. The moderator shall evict any person who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting.

(b) (1) The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the seventy-five-foot distance from such entrance. Such markers shall consist of a board resting on an iron rod, which board shall be not less than twelve inches square and painted a bright color and shall bear the figures and letters "75 feet" and the following words: "On the day of any primary, referendum or election no person shall solicit in behalf of or in

opposition to another or himself or peddle or offer any ballot, advertising matter or circular to another person or loiter within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach."

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the selectmen may provide the markers required by the provisions of this subsection in effect prior to October 1, 1983, except that in the case of a referendum which is not held in conjunction with an election or a primary, the selectmen shall provide the markers required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The moderator and the moderator's assistants shall meet at least twenty minutes before the opening of a primary, referendum or an election in the voting district, and shall cause to be placed by a police officer or constable, or such other primary or election official as they select, a suitable number of distance markers. Such moderator or any police officer or constable shall prohibit loitering and peddling of tickets within that distance.

(c) (1) The registrars of voters shall designate at each polling place an area for curbside voting where any elector who is present at the polling place, but is unable to gain access to the polling place due to an incapacity, may request that the ballot be brought to such elector as provided in subsection (b) of section 9-261.

(2) On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a marked radius of twenty feet outside the boundary of the area designated for curbside

voting pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) (A) While an elector is casting his or her ballot in the area designated for curbside voting pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, no person shall be allowed in any vehicle being used by such elector to cast such ballot for any purpose other than casting such ballot or driving such elector to cast such ballot.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, no candidate shall be allowed in any vehicle used for the casting of a ballot under this subsection unless for purposes of casting the candidate's own ballot.

(4) The Secretary of the State shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this subsection. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, a model plan that municipalities may implement for curbside voting.

[(c)**]** (d) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted or exempt under this section or section 9-236a, (2) primary officials under section 9-436, (3) election officials under section 9-258, including (A) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing his or her official duties, or (4) unofficial checkers under section 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter, remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the activities taking place

in the polling place, provided there is proper parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any such student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be accompanied into any polling place by one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children.

[(d)**]** (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section or, while the polls are open for voting, removes or injures any such distance marker, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

Sec. 297. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established, within the office of the Secretary of the State, a Translation Advisory Committee for the purposes of (1) validating the translations of election-related materials for accuracy and ensuring that such translations meet the needs of the intended audience in a culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate way, and (2) making recommendations to the Secretary of the State and municipal officials on related matters.

(b) The Secretary of the State shall appoint members to serve on the Translation Advisory Committee based on an application that shall include the submission of a writing sample. Each member shall:

(1) Be a current resident of the state of Connecticut;

(2) Have experience in one or more of the municipalities served by the translation of election-related materials;

(3) Be proficient in reading and writing in (A) English, and (B) one or more dialects of a language, other than English, that is spoken in Connecticut and in which federal or state law requires election-related materials be made available; and

(4) Have experience in (A) election administration, including, but not

limited to, serving as a poll worker, or (B) bilingual educational settings or community assistance programs.

(c) The Secretary of the State shall make initial appointments to the Translation Advisory Committee not later than August 1, 2025. Each member shall serve for a term of four years from such appointment, or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

(d) The Translation Advisory Committee shall meet as frequently as necessary to timely approve election-related materials translations prior to elections, primaries and referenda, but not less than quarterly each year. Committee members shall serve without compensation and shall not be eligible for mileage reimbursement. Not later than January 15, 2027, and biennially thereafter, the committee shall submit to the Secretary of the State a report on the committee's proceedings, including any recommendations for improvements in performing the committee's duties under this section.

(e) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. 298. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) Each municipality that, pursuant to federal or state law, is required to make election-related materials available in a language other than English shall use professional translators when translating election-related materials from English into such other language. As soon as practicable, but in no case later than sixty-five days prior to each election, primary or referendum, such municipality shall submit its translated election-related materials to the Translation Advisory Committee established under section 297 of this act for review of such translations. As used in this section, "professional translator" means a person who has attained (1) an academic certificate or degree in translation from an accredited institution of higher education, or (2) certification as a translator by a

professional association or other accrediting organization.

Sec. 299. Section 10-262h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

[(a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount; and (2) any town not designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to ninety-five per cent of its base grant amount.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount plus four and one-tenth per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount minus twenty-five per cent of its grant adjustment, except any such town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount.

(c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus ten and sixty-six-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to

an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus eight and thirty-three-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment, except any such town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus ten and sixty-six-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus sixteen and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

(f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its

equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus twenty per cent of its grant adjustment; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.**]**

[(g)**]** (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus fifty-six and five tenths per cent of its grant adjustment; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district, shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(h)**]** (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount

equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to **[**its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus fourteen and twenty-nine-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment**]** the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(i)**]** (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to **[**its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus sixteen and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment**]** the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(j)**]** (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded

grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus **[**twenty**]** fourteen and twenty-nine-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(k)**]** (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus **[**twenty-five**]** sixteen and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(l)**]** (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid

grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus **[**thirty-three and thirty-three-one-hundredths**]** twenty per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(m)**]** (g) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2031, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus **[**fifty**]** twenty-five per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

(h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2032, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid

grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus thirty-three and thirty-three-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

(i) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2033, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus fifty per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

[(n)**]** (j) For the fiscal year ending June 30, **[**2032**]** 2034, and each fiscal year thereafter, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its

fully funded grant, except any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (1) its fully funded grant, (2) its base grant amount, or (3) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

Sec. 300. Section 10-215m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Local farm" means a farm, farmers' cooperative, food hub or wholesale distributor located in Connecticut.

(2) "Regional farm" means a farm, farmers' cooperative, food hub or wholesale distributor located in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine.

(3) "Locally sourced food" means produce and other farm products that have a traceable point of origin within Connecticut that are grown or produced at, or sold by, a local farm and includes, but is not limited to, value-added dairy, fish, pork, beef, poultry, eggs, fruits, vegetables and minimally processed foods.

(4) "Regionally sourced food" means produce and other farm products that have a traceable point of origin within New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine that are grown or produced at, or sold by, a regional farm and includes, but is not limited to, value-added dairy, fish, pork, beef, poultry, eggs, fruits, vegetables and minimally processed foods.

(5) **[**"Eligible board of education"**]** <u>"Eligible entity"</u> means a local or regional board of education that is participating in the National School Lunch Program <u>or a provider of child care services, as described in section 19a-77</u>.

(6) "Eligible meal program" means a meal program provided by an eligible **[**board of education to its**]** entity to its children or students or a meal provided as part of such **[**board's**]** entity's participation in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Seamless Summer Option, After School Snack Program, Summer Food Service Program or the Child and Adult Care Food Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, including the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. **[**administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.**]**

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, **[**2024**]** 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of **[**Agriculture**]** Education, in consultation with the Department of **[**Education**]** Agriculture, shall administer the local food for schools incentive program. Such program shall provide, utilizing state and federal funds, reimbursement payments to eligible **[**boards of education**]** entities for the purchase of locally sourced food and regionally sourced food that **[**may**]** shall be used as part of such **[**board's**]** entity's participation in an eligible meal program. An eligible **[**board of education**]** entity shall be entitled to receive reimbursement payments in accordance with the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (e) of this section and in an amount equal to (1) one-half of such **[**board's**]** entity's expenditures for locally sourced foods, and (2) one-third of such **[**board's**]** entity's expenditures for regionally sourced foods.

(c) (1) The department shall receive requests from eligible **[**boards of education**]** entities for reimbursement payments under the program in a manner similar to how the department receives applications under section 10-215b.

(2) Each eligible **[**board of education**]** entity shall (A) maintain a record of such **[**board's**]** entity's expenditures for all locally sourced food and regionally sourced food, as well as documentation confirming the

place of origin of such food, as prescribed by the department, and (B) submit, upon request of the department, such records and documentation to the department for review.

(d) Any locally sourced food or regionally sourced food for which an eligible **[**board of education**]** entity seeks reimbursement payments under this section shall comply with the nutrition standards established by the department pursuant to section 10-215e.

(e) The department shall develop guidelines for the implementation of the program. Such guidelines shall (1) establish a maximum reimbursement amount based on total **[**student**]** enrollment for each eligible **[**board of education**]** entity, (2) assist eligible **[**boards of education**]** entities in participating in the program, and (3) promote geographic, social, economic and racial equity, which may include a preference for **[**socially disadvantaged farmers, as defined in 7 USC 2279(a), as amended from time to time,**]** historically underserved farmers or small farm businesses.

(f) The department shall develop a survey to be distributed annually to any eligible **[**board of education**]** entity that receives reimbursement payments under this section. Such survey shall be designed to collect information to assist the department in implementing and improving the program.

(g) In addition to the reimbursement payments otherwise provided pursuant to this section, the department **[**may, within available appropriations, provide supplemental grants to eligible boards of education. Such supplemental grant funds may be expended for the purpose of purchasing kitchen equipment, engaging with school nutrition or farm-to-school consultants or training relating to the processing, preparation and serving of locally sourced food and regionally sourced food. In awarding supplemental grants under this subsection, the department shall give priority to an eligible board of

education for a town designated as an alliance district pursuant to section 10-262u**]** shall use at least twenty per cent of the annual appropriation for the local food for schools incentive program to engage with external partners to provide supplemental services. Such supplemental services may include, but need not be limited to, school nutrition or farm-to-school consultants, technical assistance, outreach, training or evaluation relating to the core elements of farm-to-school programming, such as procurement, processing, preparation, serving and education of locally sourced food and regionally sourced food.

(h) The department may accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations, for the administration of the local food for schools incentive program and to implement the provisions of this section. The department shall seek and maximize existing federal funding available for purposes of administering the local food for schools incentive program.

(i) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for expenditure during the next fiscal year.

(j) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, **[**2024**]** 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of reimbursement payments payable to eligible **[**boards of education**]** entities shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such reimbursement payments in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such reimbursement payments for such year.

(k) Not later than January 1, **[**2025**]** 2026, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report on the local food for schools incentive program 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. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, an accounting of the funds appropriated and received by

the department for the program, descriptions of the reimbursement payments made under the program and an evaluation of the program.

Sec. 301. Section 10-183t of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The board shall offer one or more health benefit plans to: Any member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the system; the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, and a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled dependent is participating in Medicare Part A hospital insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance. The board may offer one or more basic plans, the cost of which to any such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall be one-third of the basic plan's premium equivalent, and one or more optional plans, provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall pay one-third of the basic plan's premium equivalent plus the difference in cost between any such basic plans and any such optional plans. The board shall designate those plans which are basic and those plans which are optional for the purpose of determining such cost and the amount to be charged or withheld from benefit payments for such plans. The surviving spouse of a member, or a disabled dependent of a member if there is no surviving spouse, shall not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from the system. With respect to any person participating in any such plan, the state shall appropriate to the board one-third of the cost of such basic plan or plans, or one-third of the cost of the rate in effect during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, whichever is greater<u>, except that, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the state shall appropriate twenty-five per cent of the cost of the basic plan</u>.

(b) (1) Any member who (A) is receiving retirement benefits or a

disability allowance from the system, the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, and who is not participating in Medicare Part A hospital insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance, and (B) meets the state's eligibility criteria for health insurance or is eligible to participate in the group health insurance plan offered by such member's last employing board of education, may fully participate in any or all group health insurance plans maintained for active teachers by such member's last employing board of education, or by the state in the case of a member who was employed by the state, upon payment to such board of education or to the state, as applicable, by such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent, of the premium charged for the member's form of coverage. Such premium shall be no greater than that charged for the same form of coverage for active teachers.

(2) The member's spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from the system. No person shall be ineligible for participation in such plans for failure to enroll in such plans at the time the member's retirement benefit or disability allowance became effective.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair or alter the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement relating to the payment by a board of education of group health insurance premiums on behalf of any member receiving benefits from the system. Prior to the cancellation of coverage for any member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent for failure to pay the required premiums or cost due, the board of education or the state, if applicable, shall notify the Teachers' Retirement Board of its intention to cancel such coverage at least thirty days prior to the date of cancellation. Absent any contractual provisions to the contrary, the payments made pursuant to subsection

(c) of this section shall be first applied to any cost borne by the member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent participating in any such plan.

(4) As used in this subsection, "last employing board of education" means the board of education by which such member was employed when such member filed his or her initial application for retirement, and "health insurance plans" means hospital, medical, major medical, dental, prescription drug or auditory benefit plans that are available to active teachers.

(c) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, the board shall pay a subsidy of two hundred twenty dollars, to the board of education or to the state, if applicable, on behalf of any member who is receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the system, the spouse of such member, the surviving spouse of such member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, who is participating in a health insurance plan maintained by a board of education or by the state, if applicable. Such payment shall not exceed the actual cost of such insurance.

(2) With respect to any person participating in any such plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the state shall appropriate to the board one-third of the cost of the subsidy, except that, for the fiscal **[**year**]** years ending June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2026, the state shall appropriate twenty-five per cent of the cost of the subsidy. On and after July 1, 2018, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and for each fiscal year thereafter, fifty per cent of the total amount appropriated by the state in each such fiscal year for the state's share of the cost of such subsidies shall be paid to the board on or before July first of such fiscal year, and the remaining fifty per cent of such total amount shall be paid to the board on or before December first of such fiscal year.

(3) No payment to a board of education pursuant to this subsection

may be used to reduce the amount of any premium payment on behalf of any such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled dependent, made by such board pursuant to any agreement in effect on July 1, 1990. On and after July 1, 2022, the board shall pay a subsidy of four hundred forty dollars per month on behalf of the member, spouse or the surviving spouse of such member who: (A) Has attained the normal retirement age to participate in Medicare, (B) is not eligible for Medicare Part A without cost, and (C) contributes at least four hundred forty dollars per month towards his or her medical and prescription drug plan provided by the board of education.

(d) The Treasurer shall establish a separate retired teachers' health insurance premium account within the Teachers' Retirement Fund. Commencing July 1, 1989, and annually thereafter all health benefit plan contributions withheld under this chapter in excess of five hundred thousand dollars shall, upon deposit in the Teachers' Retirement Fund, be credited to such account. Interest derived from the investment of funds in the account shall be credited to the account. Funds in the account shall be used for (1) payments to boards of education pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and for payment of premiums on behalf of members, spouses of members, surviving spouses of members or disabled dependents of members participating in one or more health insurance plans pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in an amount equal to the difference between the amount paid pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the amount paid pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (2) payments for professional fees associated with the administration of the health benefit plans offered pursuant to this section. If, during any fiscal year, there are insufficient funds in the account for the purposes of all such payments, the General Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds to the account for such purpose.

(e) (1) Not later than the first business day of February, May, August and November of each year, each employer shall submit to the board, in

a format required by the board, any information the board determines to be necessary concerning additions, deletions and premium changes for the health insurance subsidy program described in subsection (c) of this section. Any report received by the board after the due date shall be processed in the following quarterly cycle. An employer's failure to timely submit a quarterly report shall result in a delay of the subsidy for that quarter and the board shall pay the subsidy as a retroactive subsidy, as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) Retroactive subsidy payments shall be limited to six months prior to the first day of the month in which the board receives an untimely report that includes newly eligible retired members or dependents. The board shall pay the subsidy retroactively to the effective date of the disability, provided any eligible members or dependents are added to the report not later than the first quarter following the board's approval of the disability and the member's disability allowance is initiated within four months of board approval. The employer shall hold any member or dependent harmless for any costs associated with, arising from or out of the loss of the benefit of the subsidy as a result of the employer's untimely or inaccurate filing of the quarterly report.

Sec. 302. Subsection (d) of section 10-71 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2022, inclusive, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the amount of the grants payable to towns, regional boards of education or regional educational service centers in accordance with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of this section for such year.

Sec. 303. Subsection (i) of section 10-217a of the general statutes is

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

(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2008, to June 30, **[**2025**]** 2026, inclusive, the amount of the grants payable to local or regional boards of education in accordance with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for purposes of this section.

Sec. 304. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-266m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, and for the fiscal **[**years**]** year ending June 30, 2024, **[**and June 30, 2025, inclusive**]** and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of transportation grants payable to local or regional boards of education shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

Sec. 305. Subsection (e) of section 10-66j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, and for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, to June 30, **[**2025**]** 2027, inclusive, the amount of grants payable to regional educational service centers shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

Sec. 306. Section 10-17g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the board of education for each local and regional school district that is required to provide a program of bilingual education, pursuant to section 10-17f, may make application to the State Board of Education and shall annually receive, within available appropriations, a grant in an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying three million eight hundred thirty-two thousand two hundred sixty by the ratio which the number of eligible children in the school district bears to the total number of such eligible children state-wide. The board of education for each local and regional school district receiving funds pursuant to this section shall annually, on or before September first, submit to the State Board of Education a progress report which shall include (1) measures of increased educational opportunities for eligible students, including language support services and language transition support services provided to such students, (2) program evaluation and measures of the effectiveness of its bilingual education and English as a second language programs, including data on students in bilingual education programs and students educated exclusively in English as a second language programs, and (3) certification by the board of education submitting the report that any funds received pursuant to this section have been used for the purposes specified. The State Board of Education shall annually evaluate programs conducted pursuant to section 10-17f. For purposes of this section, measures of the effectiveness of bilingual education and English as a second language programs include, but need not be limited to, mastery examination results, under section 10-14n, and graduation and school dropout rates. Any amount appropriated under this section in excess of three million eight hundred thirty-two thousand two hundred sixty dollars shall be spent in accordance with the provisions of section 10-17k. Any unexpended funds, as of November first, appropriated to the Department of Education for purposes of providing a grant to a local or regional board of education for the provision of a program of bilingual education, pursuant to section 10-17f, shall be distributed on a pro rata basis to each

local and regional board of education receiving a grant under this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009, to June 30, **[**2025**]** 2027, inclusive, the amount of grants payable to local or regional boards of education for the provision of a program of bilingual education under this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

Sec. 307. Section 10-252a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section, sections 10-65, 10-252b and 10-264*l*:

(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.

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

(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.

(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, 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, and each school year thereafter, (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 current 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.

(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*.

(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 current 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 current 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 current fiscal year, **[**ending June 30, 2025,**]** pursuant to section 10-264*l*.

(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, and each fiscal year thereafter, 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* for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, multiplied by the number of students enrolled in such program for the current fiscal year, **[**ending June 30, 2025,**]** and (B) the amount described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision, except, if such interdistrict magnet school program operator commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, for a new interdistrict magnet school program, the per student amount such operator received for purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall equal the per student grant amount received by other interdistrict magnet school program operators authorized to receive a grant under this subdivision in the same region as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, 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 current 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 current fiscal year. **[**ending June 30, 2025.**]**

(c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, 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* 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* 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 current fiscal year, **[**ending June 30, 2025,**]** and (2) the amount described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except, if such interdistrict magnet school program operator commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, in a new interdistrict magnet school program, the per student amount such operator received for purposes of subparagraphs (A)(ii) and (B) of this subdivision for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall equal the per student grant amount received by other interdistrict magnet school program operators authorized to receive a grant under this subdivision in the same region as determined by the commissioner.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, 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 current fiscal year, [ending June 30, 2025,] and (2) the amount described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 308. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-264*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, 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 10-252a.

Sec. 309. Section 10-221w of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Advanced course or program" means an honors class, advanced placement class, International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge International program, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college or any other advanced or accelerated course or program offered by a local or regional board of education in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; and

(2) "Prior academic performance" means the course or courses that a student has taken, the grades received for such course or courses and a student's grade point average.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy, or revise an existing policy, concerning the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or program. Such policy shall provide for multiple methods by which a student may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced course or program, including, but not limited to, recommendations from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school

personnel. Such eligibility criteria shall not be based exclusively on a student's prior academic performance and any use of a student's prior academic performance shall rely on evidence-based indicators of how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.

(c) Any policy adopted or revised and implemented under this section shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the Department of Education.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall, within available appropriations, establish a fee-waiver grant program to expand opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced courses or programs. A local or regional board of education may apply, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, for reimbursement for any fees charged to such board for any high-need student who enrolls in an advanced course or program.

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education may, within available appropriations, pay up to five hundred thousand dollars in a fiscal year to the State Education Resource Center for programming that provides direct support to local and regional boards of education in the articulation and expansion of dual credit courses. In expending such funds under this subsection, the State Education Resource Center shall give priority to providing funds to alliance districts.

Sec. 310. Section 17a-248g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Subject to the provisions of this section, funds appropriated to the lead agency for purposes of section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a shall not be used to satisfy a financial commitment for services that would have

been paid from another public or private source but for the enactment of said sections, except for federal funds available pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1431 et seq., except that whenever considered necessary to prevent the delay in the receipt of appropriate early intervention services by the eligible child or family in a timely fashion, funds provided under said sections may be used to pay the service provider pending reimbursement from the public or private source that has ultimate responsibility for the payment.

(b) Nothing in section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a shall be construed to permit the Department of Social Services or any other state agency to reduce medical assistance pursuant to this chapter or other assistance or services available to eligible children. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, costs incurred for early intervention services that otherwise qualify as medical assistance that are furnished to an eligible child who is also eligible for benefits pursuant to this chapter shall be considered medical assistance for purposes of payments to providers and state reimbursement to the extent that federal financial participation is available for such services.

(c) Providers of early intervention services shall, in the first instance and where applicable, seek payment from all third-party payers prior to claiming payment from the birth-to-three system for services rendered to eligible children, provided, for the purpose of seeking payment from the Medicaid program or from other third-party payers as agreed upon by the provider, the obligation to seek payment shall not apply to a payment from a third-party payer who is not prohibited from applying such payment, and who will apply such payment, to an annual or lifetime limit specified in the third-party payer's policy or contract.

(d) The commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management and the Insurance Commissioner, shall adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter 54, providing public reimbursement for deductibles

and copayments imposed under an insurance policy or health benefit plan to the extent that such deductibles and copayments are applicable to early intervention services.

(e) The commissioner shall not charge a fee for early intervention services to the parents or legal guardians of eligible children.

(f) With respect to early intervention services rendered prior to June 16, 2021, the commissioner shall develop and implement procedures to hold a recipient harmless for the impact of pursuit of payment for such services against lifetime insurance limits.

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of title 38a relating to the permissible exclusion of payments for services under governmental programs, no such exclusion shall apply with respect to payments made pursuant to section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a. Except as provided in this subsection, nothing in this section shall increase or enhance coverages provided for within an insurance contract subject to the provisions of section 10-94f, subsection (a) of section 10-94g, sections 17a-248, 17a-248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this section, and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a.

[(h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner shall make a general administrative payment to providers in the amount of two hundred dollars for each child with an individualized family service plan on the first day of the billing month and whose plan accounts for less than nine hours of service during such billing month, provided at least one service is provided by such provider during such billing month.**]**

Sec. 311. Subsection (a) of section 10-500 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established an Office of Early Childhood. The office shall be under the direction of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, whose appointment shall be made by the Governor. Such appointment shall be in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive. The commissioner shall be responsible for implementing the policies and directives of the office. The commissioner shall have the authority to designate any employee as his or her agent to exercise all or part of the authority, powers and duties of the commissioner in his or her absence. **[**Said office shall be within the Department of Education for administrative purposes only.**]**

Sec. 312. Section 10-264i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) The following entities shall be eligible, pursuant to section 10-264e, to receive a transportation grant for the cost of transporting a child to an interdistrict magnet school program, as defined in section 10-264*l*, located in a town other than the town in which such child resides: (A) A local or regional board of education, (B) a regional educational service center, (C) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of Quinebaug Valley Community College and Three Rivers Community College, (D) a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a, **[**or (E) to assist**]** and (E) an entity 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 of Education, (i) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college, (ii) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on behalf of a state university, (iii) the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (iv) 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 (v) any other third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the commissioner. **[**which transports a child to an interdistrict magnet school program, as defined in section 10-264*l*, in a town other than the town in which the child resides shall be eligible pursuant to section 10-264e to receive a grant for the cost of transporting such child in accordance with this section.**]**

(2) Except as provided in **[**subdivisions (3) and (4)**]** subdivision (3) of this subsection, the amount of such transportation grant shall not exceed an amount equal to the number of such children transported multiplied by one thousand three hundred dollars.

(3) For districts 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, (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the amount of such grant shall not exceed an amount equal to the number of such children transported multiplied by one thousand four hundred dollars, and (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of such grant shall not exceed an amount equal to the number of such children transported multiplied by two thousand dollars, except for transportation provided by a regional educational service center pursuant to this subdivision, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the grant shall equal the cost of reasonable transportation services, subject to the comprehensive audit and documentation process described in subdivision (4) of this subsection.

[(4) In addition to the grants otherwise provided pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Education may provide supplemental transportation grants to regional educational service centers for the purposes of transportation to interdistrict magnet schools. Any such grant shall be provided within available appropriations and after the commissioner has reviewed and approved the total interdistrict magnet

school transportation budget for a regional educational service center, including all revenue and expenditure estimates. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2018, inclusive, in addition to the grants otherwise provided pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Education may provide supplemental transportation to interdistrict magnet schools 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. Any such grant shall be provided within available appropriations and upon a comprehensive financial review, by an auditor selected by the Commissioner of Education, the costs of such review may be paid from funds that are part of the supplemental transportation grant. Any such grant shall be paid as follows: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, up to seventy per cent of the grant on or before June thirtieth of the fiscal year, and the balance on or before September first of the following fiscal year upon completion of the comprehensive financial review, provided any unpaid balance of eligible transportation costs incurred on or before December thirty-first of the fiscal year based on documentation, including, but not limited to, vendor bills dated on or before February first of the fiscal year, and any unpaid balance of eligible transportation costs incurred on or before March thirty-first of the fiscal year based on documentation, including, but not limited to, vendor bills on or before May first of the fiscal year, and the balance of the grant on or before September first of the following fiscal year upon completion of the comprehensive financial review. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, up to one hundred per cent of the grant on or before June thirtieth of the fiscal year and any remaining balance on or before September first of the following fiscal year upon completion of the comprehensive financial review. If, upon completion of the comprehensive financial review, the commissioner determines that there was an overpayment of the grant in the prior fiscal year, such funds shall be refunded to the department.**]**

(4) Any transportation grant provided to a regional educational

service center pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be provided upon a comprehensive financial review, by an auditor selected by the Commissioner of Education, the costs of such review may be paid from funds that are part of such transportation grant. For the fiscal year ending June 30, **[**2023**]** 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, **[**up**]** any such transportation grant shall be paid as follows: Up to ninety-five per cent of the grant on or before June thirtieth of the fiscal year based on documentation provided prior to May thirty-first of the fiscal year, with an amount equal to up to one-half of the total estimated transportation costs in October, and the remaining total balance paid in increments on or before **[**September**]** March first of the following fiscal year upon completion of the comprehensive financial review. If, upon completion of the comprehensive financial review, the commissioner determines there was an overpayment of the grant in the prior fiscal year, such funds shall be refunded to the department.

(5) **[**The**]** Except as provided in subdivision (4) of this subsection, the Department of Education shall provide such grants within available appropriations. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a local or regional board of education, regional educational service center or cooperative arrangement from receiving reimbursement under section 10-266m for reasonable transportation expenses for which such board, service center or cooperative arrangement is not reimbursed pursuant to this section.

(b) Grants under this section shall be contingent on documented costs of providing such transportation. Eligible entities identified in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall submit **[**applications for grants**]** an application to receive a transportation grant under this section to the Commissioner of Education in such form and at such times as **[**he prescribes. Grants**]** the commissioner prescribes. Except as provided in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section, grants pursuant to this section shall be paid as follows: **[**In October one-half**]**

One-half of the estimated eligible transportation costs on or before October thirty-first and the balance of such costs **[**in May**]** on or before May thirty-first.

(c) Each eligible entity identified in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section participating in the grant program shall prepare a financial statement of expenditures which shall be submitted to the Department of Education on or before September first of the fiscal year immediately following each fiscal year in which the school district, regional educational service center or cooperative arrangement participates in the grant program. Based on such statement, any underpayment or overpayment may be calculated and adjusted by the Department of Education in the grant for any subsequent year.

Sec. 313. Section 10-508 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate forty-eight million five hundred nineteen thousand one hundred forty-nine dollars, provided three million five hundred nineteen thousand one hundred forty-nine dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2015, five million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2020, ten million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2021, ten million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2022, and ten million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, 2023.

(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 Early Childhood for the purposes of early care and education facility improvements in the Smart Start competitive grant program established

pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-501, section 10-506 and section 3 of public act 14-41, **[**the school readiness program, as defined in section 10-16p, state-funded day care centers pursuant to section 8-210, Even Start program pursuant to section 10-265n**]** Early Start CT under sections 10-550 to 10-550i, inclusive, programs administered by local and regional boards of education, and to expand the delivery of child care services to infants and toddlers where a demonstrated need exists, as determined by the Office of Early Childhood. Grants awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be used for facility improvements and minor capital repairs. Applicants eligible pursuant to this subsection may submit an application to the Office of Early Childhood and may receive a grant for capital expenses in an amount not to exceed **[**seventy-five**]** one hundred thousand dollars per classroom for costs related to the renovation of a facility.

(c) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same

become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.

Sec. 314. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-262u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller shall withhold from any town that (A) was designated as an alliance district pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, and (B) was designated as an alliance district for the first time pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, except for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller shall withhold from the town of Enfield any increase of funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i. The Comptroller shall transfer such funds to the Commissioner of Education.

Sec. 315. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, administer the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program. Under the program, the department shall provide grants to local and regional boards of education for the purpose of implementing a home visiting program to reduce chronic absenteeism in the school district. A local or regional board of education may submit an application for a grant under this

section in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

(b) In awarding grants under the program, the Department of Education shall give priority to those school districts with the highest levels of chronic absenteeism. The department shall award grants to at least ten boards of education in any fiscal year that the department awards grants under the program.

(c) Not later than December 31, 2028, and biennially thereafter, the department shall prepare a report on the implementation of the program. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, an evaluation of the success of the program in each school district that received an award in either of the two prior fiscal years. In preparing such report, the department may consult with organizations that have expertise in reducing chronic absenteeism and increasing student engagement.

Sec. 316. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "high-dosage tutoring" means tutoring that contains one or more of the following elements:

(1) One tutor per group of four or fewer students;

(2) Is provided for a minimum of three sessions per week and for at least thirty minutes per tutoring session;

(3) Occurs during the regular school day and is not a before or after school program or an at-home, on-demand program;

(4) Supplements core academic instruction and does not replace core instruction;

(5) Is provided in person by an in-person tutor;

(6) Is provided by high-quality tutors that may include certified

teachers, paraeducators, community providers, private tutoring providers or other individuals who have received training to provide tutoring services;

(7) Uses a high-quality curriculum and instructional materials that are aligned with academic standards and core classroom, grade-level content approved by the State Board of Education;

(8) Is data driven and, where applicable, includes state-provided interim assessment blocks and other materials that are aligned with the state's summative assessment;

(9) Provides tutors with training and professional learning opportunities throughout the school year; and

(10) Requires collaboration between tutors and regular classroom educators to ensure such tutoring is instructionally aligned with classroom content.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, establish a competitive high-dosage tutoring matching grant program for local and regional boards of education to accelerate student learning by supporting the implementation of high-dosage tutoring programs.

(c) The Commissioner of Education shall develop an application for local and regional boards of education to apply for grants under this section and shall develop the criteria for reviewing and approving such grant applications. The commissioner may award a grant under this section to any program that provides high-dosage tutoring and such grant shall be for a two-year period.

(d) Not later than January 31, 2029, the commissioner shall develop a report on the implementation and outcomes of the competitive high-

dosage tutoring matching grant program for the two-year period in which grants were awarded. The commissioner shall submit such report 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.

(e) The department may retain up to three per cent of the total amount appropriated for the purposes of this section for grant administration, technical assistance and program evaluation purposes.

Sec. 317. Section 7 of public act 25-67 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Base aid ratio" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-262f of the general statutes.

(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) "Special education need students" means fifty per cent of the number of resident students who are children requiring special education and related services, as such terms are defined in section 10-76a of the general statutes, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 25-67.

(5) "Fully funded grant" means the product of a town's base aid ratio, the foundation and the town's special education need students for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each board of education for a town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to a special education and

expansion development grant in an amount equal to its fully funded grant.

(c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the board of education for a town shall be paid a special education and expansion development grant equal to the amount such board is entitled to receive under the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such grant shall be calculated using the data of record as of the December first prior to the fiscal year such grant is to be paid, adjusted for the difference between the final entitlement for the prior fiscal year and the preliminary entitlement for such fiscal year as calculated using the data of record as of the December first prior to the fiscal year when such grant was paid.

(d) The amount due each board of education pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall be paid by the Comptroller, upon certification of the Commissioner of Education, to the board of education for each town entitled to such aid in installments during the fiscal year as follows: Twenty-five per cent of the grant in October, twenty-five per cent of the grant in January and the balance of the grant in April. The balance of the grant due boards under the provisions of this subsection shall be paid in March rather than April to any board that has not adopted the uniform fiscal year and that would not otherwise receive such final payment within the fiscal year of such board.

(e) (1) All aid distributed to a board of education pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be expended for special education purposes only. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, if a board 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 funding for special education purposes. The budgeted appropriation for special education for any board receiving an increase in funds pursuant to this section shall be not

less than the amount appropriated for special education for the prior year plus such increase in funds. For purposes of this subsection, "special education purposes" means the direct provision of special education and related services to students, Tier 2 interventions, academic and behavioral interventions, the hiring and salaries of special education teachers, paraeducators and behavioral and reading specialists who work directly with students, equipment purchases and maintenance and curriculum materials. "Special education purposes" does not include any (A) administrative functions or operating expenses related to the provision of special education and related services, or (B) special education and related services provided by any third-party contractor.

(2) Upon a determination by the State Board of Education that a local or regional board of education failed in any fiscal year to meet the requirements pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the board of education shall forfeit an amount equal to two times the amount that was not expended for special education purposes. The amount so forfeited shall be withheld by the Department of Education from the grant payable to the board of education in the second fiscal year immediately following such failure by deducting such amount from the board of education's special education and expansion development grant payment pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, the State Board of Education may waive such forfeiture upon agreement with the board of education that the board of education shall increase its appropriation for special education during the fiscal year in which the forfeiture would occur by an amount not less than the amount of said forfeiture or for other good cause shown.

(f) Not later than July 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall submit an annual expenditure report to the Commissioner of Education, except any board of education that receives a grant under this section that is less than ten thousand dollars

in any fiscal year shall not be responsible for submitting such report for such fiscal year. Such report shall include a summary and itemization of how grant funds received pursuant to this section were expended during the prior fiscal year for the direct provision of special education and related services to students, including whether such grant was used to hire any new special education teachers, paraeducators or behavioral or reading specialists.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of grants payable to local or regional boards of education under this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

Sec. 318. Subsections (j) and (k) of section 10-264*l* of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(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**]** the amount of tuition authorized

pursuant to subsection (k) of this section.

(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 (A) a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict magnet school, (B) the Hartford school district operating the Great Path Academy on behalf of Manchester Community College, or (C) 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 (i) the average per pupil expenditure of 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, 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 (I) exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or (II) for an interdistrict magnet school program that is authorized to charge tuition to a local or regional board of education under this subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, exceed the per student average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school programs serving similar grade ranges in the same region as determined by the commissioner. 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) 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 (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 (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, except for an interdistrict magnet school preschool program that is authorized to charge tuition to a parent or guardian under this subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, charge tuition to such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed the per child average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school preschool programs in the same region as determined by the commissioner. 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.

Sec. 319. Subdivision (2) of subsection (m) of section 10-264*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(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 (i) exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or (ii) for an interdistrict magnet school program that is authorized to charge tuition to a local or regional board of education under this subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, exceed the per student average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school programs serving similar grade ranges in the same region as determined by the commissioner. In deciding whether to authorize an interdistrict magnet school operator to charge tuition under this subdivision, the commissioner shall consider **[**(i)**]** (I) the average per pupil expenditure of such operator for each interdistrict magnet school under the control of such operator, and **[**(ii)**]** (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.

Sec. 320. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 10-264o of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(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 or by Goodwin University Magnet Schools 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 (A) exceed fifty-eight per cent of the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or (B) for an interdistrict magnet school program that is authorized to charge tuition to a local or regional board of education under this subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, exceed the per student average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school programs serving similar grade ranges in the same region as determined by the commissioner. 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)**]** (i) the total expenditures of the magnet

school for the prior fiscal year, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) 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) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional educational service center or Goodwin University Magnet Schools 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 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 or Goodwin University Magnet Schools shall (1) 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 (2) for an interdistrict magnet school preschool program that is authorized to charge tuition to a parent or guardian under this subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, charge tuition to such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed the per child average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school preschool programs in the same region as determined by the commissioner. 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 (1) 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, and (2) for an interdistrict magnet school preschool program that is authorized to charge tuition to a parent or guardian under this subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, shall not charge tuition to such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed the per child average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school preschool programs in the same region as determined by the commissioner. 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. 321. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Library and other educational material" means any material belonging to, on loan to or otherwise in the custody of a school library media center, including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material, software and other material not required as part of classroom instruction.

(2) "School library staff member" means a school library media specialist, school librarian, any certificated or noncertificated staff member whose assignment is in the school library or any individual carrying out or assisting with the functions of a school library media

specialist or school librarian.

(3) "Individual with a vested interest" means any school staff member employed by a local or regional board of education, parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in a school at the time a reconsideration form is filed under subsection (e) of this section and any student currently enrolled in a school at the time a reconsideration form is filed under subsection (e) of this section.

(4) "Remove" means deliberately taking library material out of a library's collection. "Remove" does not include the process of clearing such collection of any materials that are no longer useful.

(b) Each local and regional board of education, after consulting with the superintendent of schools, the director of curriculum and a librarian employed by such board, shall adopt a (1) collection development and maintenance policy, (2) library display and program policy, and (3) library material review and reconsideration policy. Each such policy shall ensure that all library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 10-15c of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. In developing each such policy, the board shall have control over the content of each such policy, provided such policies are in accordance with the provisions of this section. Each local and regional board of education shall review, and update as necessary, each such policy every five years.

(c) The collection development and maintenance policy shall, at a minimum:

(1) Recognize that library and other educational materials should (A) be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all students, and (B) represent a wide range of varied and diverging

viewpoints in the collection as a whole;

(2) Require student access to age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate material, and provide access to library and other educational material that is relevant to the research, independent reading interests and educational needs of students based on a student's age, development or grade level;

(3) Recognize the importance of the school library media center as a place for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas and the promotion of free expression and free access to ideas by students;

(4) Acknowledge that a school library media specialist is professionally trained to curate and develop a collection that provides students with access to the widest array of age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate library and other educational material; and

(5) Establish a procedure for a certified school library media specialist to continually review library and other educational material within a school library media center using professionally accepted standards, which shall include, but need not be limited to, the material's relevance, physical condition of the material, availability of duplicates or copies of the material, availability of more recent age-appropriate or grade-level-appropriate material and continued demand for the material.

(d) The library display and program policy shall, at a minimum:

(1) Recognize that library displays should (A) be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all students, (B) represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints, (C) require student access to age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate content, and (D) provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of students;

(2) Recognize the importance of displays and student programs as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by students; and

(3) Acknowledge that a school library media specialist is professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs that provide students with access to the widest array of age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate library and other educational material.

(e) The library material review and reconsideration policy shall, at a minimum:

(1) Establish a process for individuals with a vested interest to challenge any library and other educational materials, display or student program;

(2) Limit consideration of requests to reconsider and remove material, displays or student programs to the parents and guardians of students and eligible students currently enrolled in the school or school district;

(3) Require that no library and other educational material, display or program shall be removed from library media centers, or programs be cancelled, because of the origin, background or viewpoints expressed in such material, display or program, or because of the origin, background or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display or program;

(4) Require that library and other educational materials, displays and student programs shall only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the collection development and maintenance policy or the display and program policy;

(5) Require that any process for petitioners to challenge any library

and other educational material, display or student program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics;

(6) Provide for the creation of a request for reconsideration form that may be submitted by an individual with a vested interest to the principal of the school in which the library and other educational material is being challenged to initiate a review of such material. The form shall require such individual to specify which portion or portions of such material such individual objects to and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. Such individual shall not submit a request for reconsideration form without including such individual's full legal name, address and telephone number;

(7) Require the principal, or the principal's designee, to promptly forward the request for reconsideration to the superintendent of schools for the school district. The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, shall appoint a review committee consisting of: (A) The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, (B) the principal of the school in which the library and other educational material is being challenged, or the principal's designee, (C) the director of curriculum, or a person in an equivalent position, employed by such board, (D) a representative from the local or regional board of education, (E) at least one grade-level-appropriate teacher familiar with the library material, provided the teacher selected is not the individual who submitted the form, (F) a parent or guardian of a student age thirteen years or younger enrolled in the school district, provided the parent or guardian selected is not the individual who submitted the form, (G) a parent or guardian of a student age fourteen years or older enrolled in the school district, provided the parent or guardian selected is not the individual who submitted the form, and (H) a certified school librarian employed by such board or employed by another board of education in the state. In cases where such form is submitted by a student enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and when appropriate and at the discretion of the

superintendent, a student enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, may serve on the review committee if such student did not submit the reconsideration form, provided the superintendent consults with the principal of the school involved in such reconsideration request prior to making this determination whether to include such student on the review committee;

(8) Require that any library and other educational material being challenged remain available in the school library media center according to such material's catalog record and be available for a student to reserve, check out or access until a final decision is made by the review committee;

(9) Require the review committee to evaluate the request for reconsideration form, read the challenged material in its entirety, evaluate the challenged material against the school district's collection development and maintenance policy and make a written decision on whether or not to remove the challenged material not later than sixty school days from the date of receiving such request. The review committee shall provide a copy of the committee's decision and report to the individual with a vested interest who submitted the form and to the principal of the school;

(10) Permit the individual with a vested interest who submitted the request for reconsideration form to appeal the review committee's decision to the local or regional board of education for the school district. The board shall determine whether the reconsideration process was followed and publish the decision on the Internet web site of the school district;

(11) Provide that once a decision has been made by the review committee on any library and other educational material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for review and reconsideration for a period of three years;

(12) Permit a school district to consolidate any requests for review and reconsideration of the same challenged library and other educational material; and

(13) Prohibit the removal, exclusion or censoring of any book on the sole basis that a person with a vested interest finds such book offensive.

(f) Any school library media specialist or school library staff member who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

(g) Each local and regional board of education shall make the (1) collection development and maintenance policy, (2) library program and display policy, and (3) library material review and reconsideration policy adopted under this section available on the board's or governing body's Internet web site, or, if no such Internet web site exists, inside the school library or included as part of such school library's policy manual.

Sec. 322. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Library and other educational material" means any material belonging to, on loan to or otherwise in the custody of a public library, including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material and software.

(2) "Public library staff member" means a staff member of a public library, a public librarian, any staff member whose assignment is in the public library or any individual carrying out or assisting with the functions of a public library.

(3) "Individual with a vested interest" means any individual residing

in the town in which the public library is located or the town in which the contract library is located at the time a reconsideration form is filed under subsection (e) of this section.

(4) "Remove" means deliberately taking library material out of a library's collection. "Remove" does not include the process of clearing such collection of any materials that are no longer useful.

(b) The board of trustees, or other governing body, of each public library shall adopt a (1) collection development and maintenance policy, (2) library display and program policy, and (3) library material review and reconsideration policy. Each such policy shall ensure that all library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. In developing each such policy, the board shall have control over the content of each such policy, provided such policies are in accordance with the provisions of this section. The board of trustees or other governing body shall review, and update as necessary, each such policy every five years.

(c) The collection development and maintenance policy shall, at a minimum:

(1) Recognize that library materials should (A) be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents, and (B) represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints in the collection as a whole;

(2) Recognize the importance of the public library as a place for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas and the promotion of free expression and free access to ideas by residents;

(3) Acknowledge that librarians are professionally trained to curate

and develop a collection that provides resident with access to the widest array of library and other educational materials; and

(4) Establish a procedure for a librarian to continually review library and other educational material within a public library using professionally accepted standards, which shall include, but not be limited to, the material's relevance, the physical condition of the material, the availability of duplicates or copies of the material, the availability of more recent age-appropriate or grade-level-appropriate material and the continued demand for the material.

(d) The library display and program policy shall, at a minimum:

(1) Recognize that library displays should (A) be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents, (B) represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints, and (C) provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents;

(2) Recognize the importance of displays and programs as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents;

(3) Acknowledge that librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs; and

(4) Differentiate between library displays and programs that are created or curated by librarians or staff members of the public library and those displays and programs created by members of the public or community groups and exhibited in the public library.

(e) The library material review and reconsideration policy shall, at a minimum:

(1) Establish a process for individuals with a vested interest to

challenge any library and other educational material, display or program;

(2) Limit consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to individuals residing in the town in which the library is located or the town in which the contract library is located;

(3) Require that no library material, display or program shall be removed, or programs be cancelled, because of the origin, background or viewpoints expressed in such material, display or program or because of the origin, background or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display or program;

(4) Require that library materials, displays and programs shall only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the collection development and maintenance policy or the display and program policy;

(5) Require that any process for petitioners to challenge any library material, display or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics;

(6) Provide for the creation of a request for reconsideration form that may be submitted by an individual to the library director to initiate a review of such material. The form shall require such individual to specify which portion or portions of such material such individual objects to and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. Such individual shall not submit a request for reconsideration form without including such individual's full legal name, address and telephone number;

(7) Acknowledge that reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes;

(8) Require that any library material being challenged remain available in the library according to its catalog record and be available for a resident to reserve, check out or access until a final decision is made by the library director;

(9) Require the library director to evaluate the request for reconsideration form, read the challenged material in its entirety, evaluate the challenged material against the collection development and maintenance policy and make a written decision on whether or not to remove the challenged material not later than sixty days from the date of receiving such request. The library director shall provide a copy of the library director's decision and report to the individual who submitted the form;

(10) Permit the individual who submitted the request for reconsideration form to appeal, in writing, the library director's decision to the board of trustees or other governing body for the library. The board, after evaluating the challenged material under the collection development and maintenance policy, shall (A) consult with (i) the library director, (ii) the State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee, (iii) a representative of the cooperating library service unit, as defined in section 11-9e of the general statutes, (iv) the president of the Connecticut Library Association, or the president's designee, and (v) the president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, or the president's designee, (B) deliberate on such request for reconsideration, (C) provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the library material, and (D) provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the library director;

(11) Provide that once a decision has been made by the library director or the board of trustees or other governing board on the reconsideration of any library material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for reconsideration for a period of three years;

(12) Permit a library director to consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged library material; and

(13) Prohibit the removal, exclusion or censoring of any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such book offensive.

(f) Any librarian or staff member of a public library who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

(g) The board of trustees, or other governing body, of each public library shall make available the (1) collection development and maintenance policy, (2) library display and program policy, and (3) library material review and reconsideration policy adopted under this section on the board's or governing body's Internet web site, or, if no such Internet web site exists, inside the library or included as part of such library's policy manual.

Sec. 323. Subsection (i) of section 11-24b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(i) No principal public library shall be eligible to receive a state grant in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this section if such principal public library does not maintain and adhere to a collection development **[**, collection management and collection reconsideration policies**]** and maintenance policy, a library display and program policy and a library material review and reconsideration policy that have been **[**approved**]** adopted by the board of trustees or other governing body of such library pursuant to section 321 of this act. Such **[**collection reconsideration**]** material review and reconsideration policy shall offer residents a clear process to request a reconsideration of

library materials. In the instance of a book challenge, these policies shall govern.

Sec. 324. Subsection (a) of section 17b-106 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) On July 1, 1989, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall increase the adult payment standards over those of the previous fiscal year for the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program by the percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban consumers over the average for the previous calendar year, provided the annual increase, if any, shall not exceed five per cent, except that the adult payment standards for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1993, June 30, 1994, June 30, 1995, June 30, 1996, June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998, June 30, 1999, June 30, 2000, June 30, 2001, June 30, 2002, June 30, 2003, June 30, 2004, June 30, 2005, June 30, 2006, June 30, 2007, June 30, 2008, June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012, June 30, 2013, June 30, 2016, June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, **[**and**]** June 30, 2021, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, shall not be increased. Effective October 1, 1991, the coverage of excess utility costs for recipients of the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program is eliminated. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commissioner may increase the personal needs allowance component of the adult payment standard as necessary to meet federal maintenance of effort requirements.

Sec. 325. Subsection (a) of section 17b-112g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall offer immediate diversion assistance designed to prevent certain families who are

applying for monthly temporary family assistance from needing such assistance. Diversion assistance shall be offered to families that (1) upon initial assessment are determined eligible for temporary family assistance, (2) demonstrate a short-term need that cannot be met with current or anticipated family resources, and (3) with the provision of a service or short-term benefit, would be prevented from needing monthly temporary family assistance. **[**Within resources available to the Department of Social Services, a person who requests diversion assistance on the basis of being a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-112a, shall be deemed to satisfy subdivision (2) of this subsection and shall not be subject to the requirements of subdivision (3) of this subsection. In determining whether the family of such a victim of domestic violence satisfies the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection and the appropriate amount of diversion assistance to provide, the commissioner shall not include as a member of the family the spouse, domestic partner or other household member credibly accused of domestic violence by such victim, nor shall the commissioner count the income or assets of such a spouse, domestic partner or other household member. For purposes of this subsection, allegations of domestic violence may be substantiated by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 17b-112a.**]**

Sec. 326. Section 17b-191 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 17b-190, 17b-195 and 17b-196, the Commissioner of Social Services shall operate a state-administered general assistance program in accordance with this section and sections 17b-131, 17b-193, 17b-194, 17b-197 and 17b-198. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, on and after October 1, 2003, no town shall be reimbursed by the state for any general assistance medical benefits incurred after September 30, 2003, and on and after March 1, 2004, no town shall be reimbursed by the state for

any general assistance cash benefits or general assistance program administrative costs incurred after February 29, 2004.

(b) The state-administered general assistance program shall provide cash assistance of (1) two hundred dollars per month for an unemployable person upon determination of such person's unemployability; (2) two hundred dollars per month for a transitional person who is required to pay for shelter; and (3) fifty dollars per month for a transitional person who is not required to pay for shelter. The standard of assistance paid for individuals residing in rated boarding facilities shall remain at the level in effect on August 31, 2003. No person shall be eligible for cash assistance under the program if eligible for cash assistance under any other state or federal cash assistance program. The standards of assistance set forth in this subsection shall be subject to annual increases, as described in subsection (b) of section 17b-104.

(c) To be eligible for cash assistance under the program, a person shall (1) be (A) eighteen years of age or older; (B) a minor found by a court to be emancipated pursuant to section 46b-150; or (C) under eighteen years of age and the commissioner determines good cause for such person's eligibility, and (2) not have assets exceeding five hundred dollars or, if such person is married, such person and his or her spouse shall not have assets exceeding one thousand dollars. In determining eligibility, the commissioner shall not consider as income (A) Aid and Attendance pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or the surviving spouse of such veteran; and (B) 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. No person who is a substance abuser and refuses or fails to enter available, appropriate treatment shall be eligible for cash assistance under the program until such person enters treatment. No person whose benefits from the temporary family

assistance program have terminated as a result of time-limited benefits or for failure to comply with a program requirement shall be eligible for cash assistance under the program.

(d) Prior to or upon discontinuance of assistance, a person previously determined to be a transitional person may petition the commissioner to review the determination of his or her status. In such review, the commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to: (1) Age; (2) education; (3) vocational training; (4) mental and physical health; and (5) employment history and shall make a determination of such person's ability to obtain gainful employment.

[(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 17b-194, a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-112a, who is not eligible for diversion assistance under the provisions of section 17b-112g, shall be eligible for a one-time assistance payment under the state-administered general assistance program within resources available to the Department of Social Services. Such payment shall be equivalent to that which such victim would be entitled to receive as diversion assistance if such victim and his or her family, if any, were eligible for diversion assistance. In determining whether and in what amount a victim of domestic violence and his or her family are eligible for a one-time assistance payment pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall not include as a member of such victim's family the spouse, domestic partner or other household member credibly accused of domestic violence by such victim, nor shall the commissioner count the income or assets of such a spouse, domestic partner or other household member. For purposes of this subsection, allegations of domestic violence may be substantiated by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 17b-112a, and "family" has the same meaning as used in section 17b-112, except as otherwise provided in this subsection.**]**

Sec. 327. Section 17b-278*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) As used in this section, "bariatric surgery" means surgical changes to the digestive system to help a patient with obesity to lose weight;

(2) "Body mass index" means the number calculated by dividing an individual's weight in kilograms by the individual's height in meters squared;

(3) "Medical services" means (A) prescription drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of obesity on an outpatient basis for individuals with type 2 diabetes and prescription drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration on an outpatient basis for the treatment of a comorbid condition for individuals with obesity, subject to prior authorization and only after step therapy when clinically appropriate, and (B) nutritional counseling provided by a registered dietitian-nutritionist certified pursuant to section 20-206n;

(4) "Severe obesity" means a body mass index that is:

(A) Greater than forty; or

(B) Thirty-five or more if an individual has been diagnosed with a comorbid disease or condition, including, but not limited to, a cardiopulmonary condition, diabetes, hypertension or sleep apnea; and

(5) "Obesity" means a body mass index of thirty or higher.

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services **[**shall provide medical assistance**]** may amend the Medicaid state plan and the state plan for the Children's Health Insurance Program to provide for this optional coverage under such programs, in accordance with federal law, for (1) bariatric surgery and related medical services for Medicaid and HUSKY

B beneficiaries with severe obesity, and (2) medical services for Medicaid and HUSKY B beneficiaries with a body mass index greater than thirty-five, provided such beneficiaries otherwise meet conditions set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for such surgery and medical services. **[**If necessary, the commissioner may amend the Medicaid state plan and the state plan for the Children's Health Insurance Program to implement the provisions of this section.**]** Upon approval of any state plan amendment, the Department of Social Services shall provide said coverage.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of section 17b-274f, any step therapy that may be required by the Commissioner of Social Services pursuant to the provisions of this section may be for a period of time not longer than one hundred eighty days.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c) of this section, step therapy shall not be required to obtain Medicaid coverage for medications approved in the state plan amendment to treat obesity for those individuals with a body mass index of forty or higher who a licensed health care provider certifies in writing are scheduled to undergo surgery requiring anesthesia not later than six months after such certification.

Sec. 328. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Social Services shall collect data concerning the use by Medicaid beneficiaries of glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1) drugs and costs and benefits to the state. Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the commissioner 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 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and public health on: (1) The number of Medicaid recipients who received GLP-1 drug treatment in the last calendar year, (2) the number of Medicaid recipients prescribed such drugs primarily due to a type 2

diabetes diagnosis, (3) the number of Medicaid recipients prescribed such drugs primarily due to cardiovascular concerns, (4) the total cost to the state to provide Medicaid coverage of such drugs, and (5) the total amount of rebates or discounts received from pharmaceutical companies associated with inclusion of such drugs in the Medicaid program to the extent permissible.

Sec. 329. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Comptroller shall collect data concerning the use by state employees and state employee retirees in the state employee health plans of glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1) drugs and costs and benefits to the state. Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the comptroller 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 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services, insurance and real estate and public health on: (1) The number of state employees and state employee retirees who received GLP-1 drug treatment in the last calendar year, (2) the number of state employees and state employee retirees prescribed such drugs primarily due to a type 2 diabetes diagnosis, (3) the number of state employees and state employee retirees prescribed such drugs primarily due to cardiovascular concerns, (4) the number of state employees and state employee retirees prescribed such drugs primarily for weight loss, (5) the total cost to the state to provide state employee health plan coverage of such drugs, and (6) any discounts or rebates received by the state from pharmaceutical companies associated with coverage of such drugs under the state employee health plans.

Sec. 330. Subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 17b-340d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(9) On and after July 1, 2025, costs shall be rebased no more frequently than every two years and no less frequently than every four years, as

determined by the commissioner. There shall be no inflation adjustment during a year in which a facility's rates are rebased. The commissioner shall determine whether and to what extent a change in ownership of a facility shall occasion the rebasing of the facility's costs. There shall be no rebasing for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Sec. 331. Subdivision (11) of subsection (a) of section 17b-340d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(11) There shall be no increase to rates based on inflation or any inflationary factor for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, unless otherwise authorized under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Notwithstanding section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, **[**and**]** June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, there shall be no inflationary increases to rates beyond those already factored into the model for the transition to an acuity-based reimbursement system. The commissioner shall amend the Medicaid state plan to extend the case mix neutrality limit as deemed necessary by the commissioner to remain within available appropriations. The neutrality limit shall not decrease below the limit in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, but may be otherwise adjusted as the commissioner deems necessary to remain within available appropriations. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, any subsequent increase to allowable operating costs, excluding fair rent, shall be inflated by the gross domestic product deflator when funding is specifically appropriated for such purposes in the enacted budget. The rate of inflation shall be computed by comparing the most recent rate year to the average of the gross domestic product deflator for the previous four fiscal quarters ending March thirty-first. Any increase to rates based on inflation shall be applied prior to the application of any other budget adjustment factors that may impact such rates.

Sec. 332. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17b-340d of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available appropriations, increase nursing home facility rates to support wage increases for nursing, nurse's aide, dietary, housekeeping, laundry and maintenance and plant operation personnel of three per cent effective July 1, 2025, three per cent effective July 1, 2026, and four per cent effective January 1, 2027. Facilities that receive a rate adjustment for wage enhancements for employees but do not provide such enhancements may be subject to a rate decrease in the same amount as the adjustment.

Sec. 333. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services shall distribute not more than ten million dollars in the aggregate to nursing homes deemed eligible for supplemental funding to promote workforce retention for nursing home providers that offer high standards of employee health and retirement security, as determined by the commissioner. Nursing homes determined eligible for such supplemental funding that receive such funding for the purpose of providing wage increases but do not provide such increases may be subject to recoupment of any state funding paid to such nursing homes for such purpose.

Sec. 334. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the Commissioner of Social Services shall distribute not more than fifty-five million dollars in the aggregate in supplemental funding to nursing homes. The Commissioner of Social Services may adjust the distribution of such funds proportionately, if necessary, to support a two and one-half per cent wage increase on July 1, 2027, for nursing, nurse's aide, dietary, housekeeping, laundry and maintenance and plant operation personnel, and an hourly rate of twenty-six dollars for nurse's aides by January 1, 2028. Facilities determined eligible for such supplemental funding that receive such funding for the purpose of providing wage increases but do not provide such increases may be subject to

recoupment of any state funding paid to such nursing homes for such purpose.

Sec. 335. Subsection (b) of section 17b-340e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) The department, in its sole discretion, may enter into a recoupment schedule with a nursing home facility so as not to negatively impact patient care. Any nursing home facility subject to a civil penalty assessed in accordance with this section may request a rehearing pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-238. The provisions of this section shall apply to all rate increases for wage enhancements received by nursing home facilities pursuant to the provisions of section 323 of public act 21-2 of the June special session prior to May 31, 2022, and sections 332 to 334, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 336. Subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 17b-340 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(h) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, any intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities with an operating cost component of its rate in excess of one hundred forty per cent of the median of operating cost components of rates in effect January 1, 1992, shall not receive an operating cost component increase. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, any intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities with an operating cost component of its rate that is less than one hundred forty per cent of the median of operating cost components of rates in effect January 1, 1992, shall have an allowance for real wage growth equal to thirty per cent of the increase determined in accordance with subsection (q) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, provided such operating cost component shall not exceed one hundred forty per cent of the median

of operating cost components in effect January 1, 1992. Any facility with real property other than land placed in service prior to October 1, 1991, shall, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, receive a rate of return on real property equal to the average of the rates of return applied to real property other than land placed in service for the five years preceding October 1, 1993. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, the rate of return on real property for property items shall be revised every five years. The commissioner shall, upon submission of a request, allow actual debt service, comprised of principal and interest, in excess of property costs allowed pursuant to section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, provided such debt service terms and amounts are reasonable in relation to the useful life and the base value of the property. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, and any succeeding fiscal year, the inflation adjustment made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall not be applied to real property costs. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, the allowance for real wage growth, as determined in accordance with subsection (q) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, shall not be applied. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, no rate shall exceed three hundred seventy-five dollars per day unless the commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Developmental Services, determines after a review of program and management costs, that a rate in excess of this amount is necessary for care and treatment of facility residents. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, rate period, the Commissioner of Social Services shall increase the inflation adjustment for rates made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to update allowable fiscal year 2000 costs to include a three and one-half per cent inflation factor. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, rate period, the commissioner shall increase the inflation adjustment for rates made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the

regulations of Connecticut state agencies to update allowable fiscal year 2001 costs to include a one and one-half per cent inflation factor, except that such increase shall be effective November 1, 2002, and such facility rate in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, shall be paid for services provided until October 31, 2002, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2002, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2002, and have such rate updated effective November 1, 2002, in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2003, shall remain in effect, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2003, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2003. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2004, shall remain in effect until September 30, 2004. Effective October 1, 2004, each facility shall receive a rate that is five per cent greater than the rate in effect September 30, 2004. Effective upon receipt of all the necessary federal approvals to secure federal financial participation matching funds associated with the rate increase provided in subdivision (4) of subsection (f) of this section, but in no event earlier than October 1, 2005, and provided the user fee imposed under section 17b-320 is required to be collected, each facility shall receive a rate that is four per cent more than the rate the facility received in the prior fiscal year, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective October 1, 2005, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective October 1, 2005. Such rate increase shall remain in effect unless: (A) The federal financial participation matching funds associated with the rate increase are no longer available; or (B) the user fee created pursuant to section 17b-320 is not in effect. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2006, shall

remain in effect until September 30, 2006, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2006, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2006. Effective October 1, 2006, no facility shall receive a rate that is more than three per cent greater than the rate in effect for the facility on September 30, 2006, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective October 1, 2006, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective October 1, 2006. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, each facility shall receive a rate that is two and nine-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2007, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2007, than for the rate period ending June 30, 2007, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2007. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2008, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2009, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, and June 30, 2011, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2009, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2011, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2011, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2012, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2013, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the period ending June 30, 2013, if a capital

improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, or June 30, 2015, to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. Any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2015, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the period ending June 30, 2015, if a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, or June 30, 2017, to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, and each succeeding fiscal year, any facility that would have been issued a lower rate, due to interim rate status, a change in allowable fair rent or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, and June 30, 2019, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2017, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the period ending June 30, 2017, if a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, or June 30, 2019, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, if a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services,

in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, or June 30, 2021, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2020, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2021, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. There shall be no increase to rates based on inflation or any inflationary factor for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, any subsequent increase to allowable operating costs, excluding fair rent, shall be inflated by the gross domestic product deflator when funding is specifically appropriated for such purposes in the enacted budget. The rate of inflation shall be computed by comparing the most recent rate year to the average of the gross domestic product deflator for the previous four fiscal quarters ending March thirty-first. Any increase to rates based on inflation shall be applied prior to the application of any other budget adjustment factors that may impact such rates. For the fiscal year ending June 30,

2024, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2022 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost report year ending June 30, 2022, and with the addition of a two per cent adjustment factor. No facility shall receive a rate less than the rate in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the minimum per diem, per bed rate shall remain at five hundred one dollars for a residential facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report years that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2023 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost report ending June 30, 2023. A facility may receive a rate that is less than the rate in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, but shall not receive a rate less than the minimum per diem, per bed rate. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the minimum per diem, per bed rate shall remain at five hundred one dollars for a residential facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2024 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost report ending June 30, 2024. Additionally, the facility shall receive a rate that is one and four-tenths

per cent greater than the calculated rate, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2025, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2025. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, there shall be no minimum per diem, per bed rate for a residential facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, each facility shall receive a rate that is two and eight-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2026, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2026, than the rate for the period ending June 30, 2027, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2026. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, each facility shall receive a rate that is three per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2027, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2027, than the rate for the period ending June 30, 2027, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2027. Effective January 1, 2028, each facility shall receive a rate that is three per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending December 31, 2027, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective January 1, 2028, than the rate for the period ending December 31, 2027, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective January 1, 2028. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the

fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. Any facility that has a significant decrease in land and building costs shall receive a reduced rate to reflect such decrease in land and building costs. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2012, June 30, 2013, June 30, 2014, June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016, June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022, June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, **[**and**]** June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services may provide fair rent increases to any facility that has undergone a material change in circumstances related to fair rent and has an approved certificate of need pursuant to section 17b-352, 17b-353, 17b-354 or 17b-355. The Department of Social Services shall amend the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to allow for the waiver of the separate inflation cost limitation on direct care costs when rebasing rates for intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities after the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Commissioner of Social Services may, within available appropriations, increase or decrease rates issued to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to reflect a reduction in available appropriations as provided in subsection (a) of this section. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, the commissioner shall not consider rebasing in determining rates. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, effective July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, the commissioner shall, within available appropriations, increase rates for the purpose of wage and benefit enhancements for employees of intermediate care facilities. Facilities that receive a rate adjustment for the purpose of wage and benefit enhancements but do not provide increases in employee salaries as described in this subsection on or before July 31, 2021, and July 31,

2022, respectively, may be subject to a rate decrease in the same amount as the adjustment by the commissioner.

Sec. 337. Subsection (i) of section 17b-340 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(i) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, any residential care home with an operating cost component of its rate in excess of one hundred thirty per cent of the median of operating cost components of rates in effect January 1, 1992, shall not receive an operating cost component increase. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, any residential care home with an operating cost component of its rate that is less than one hundred thirty per cent of the median of operating cost components of rates in effect January 1, 1992, shall have an allowance for real wage growth equal to sixty-five per cent of the increase determined in accordance with subsection (q) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, provided such operating cost component shall not exceed one hundred thirty per cent of the median of operating cost components in effect January 1, 1992. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, for the purpose of determining allowable fair rent, a residential care home with allowable fair rent less than the twenty-fifth percentile of the state-wide allowable fair rent shall be reimbursed as having allowable fair rent equal to the twenty-fifth percentile of the state-wide allowable fair rent. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, a residential care home with allowable fair rent less than three dollars and ten cents per day shall be reimbursed as having allowable fair rent equal to three dollars and ten cents per day. Property additions placed in service during the cost year ending September 30, 1996, or any succeeding cost year shall receive a fair rent allowance for such additions as an addition to three dollars and ten cents per day if the fair rent for the facility for property placed in service prior to September 30, 1995, is less than or equal to three dollars and ten cents

per day. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, a residential care home shall be reimbursed the greater of the allowable accumulated fair rent reimbursement associated with real property additions and land as calculated on a per day basis or three dollars and ten cents per day if the allowable reimbursement associated with real property additions and land is less than three dollars and ten cents per day. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, the allowance for real wage growth, as determined in accordance with subsection (q) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, shall not be applied. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, the inflation adjustment made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall not be applied to real property costs. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, minimum allowable patient days for rate computation purposes for a residential care home with twenty-five beds or less shall be eighty-five per cent of licensed capacity. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for the purposes of determining the allowable salary of an administrator of a residential care home with sixty beds or less the department shall revise the allowable base salary to thirty-seven thousand dollars to be annually inflated thereafter in accordance with section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies. The rates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, shall be based upon the increased allowable salary of an administrator, regardless of whether such amount was expended in the 2000 cost report period upon which the rates are based. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and until the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, inclusive, the inflation adjustment for rates made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall be increased by two per cent, and beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, the inflation adjustment for rates made in accordance with subsection (c) of said section shall be increased by one per cent. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, for the purpose of determining the allowable

salary of a related party, the department shall revise the maximum salary to twenty-seven thousand eight hundred fifty-six dollars to be annually inflated thereafter in accordance with section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies and beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, such allowable salary shall be computed on an hourly basis and the maximum number of hours allowed for a related party other than the proprietor shall be increased from forty hours to forty-eight hours per work week. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, each facility shall receive a rate that is two and one-quarter per cent more than the rate the facility received in the prior fiscal year, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2004, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2004. Effective upon receipt of all the necessary federal approvals to secure federal financial participation matching funds associated with the rate increase provided in subdivision (4) of subsection (f) of this section, but in no event earlier than October 1, 2005, and provided the user fee imposed under section 17b-320 is required to be collected, each facility shall receive a rate that is determined in accordance with applicable law and subject to appropriations, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective October 1, 2005, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective October 1, 2005. Such rate increase shall remain in effect unless: (1) The federal financial participation matching funds associated with the rate increase are no longer available; or (2) the user fee created pursuant to section 17b-320 is not in effect. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2006, shall remain in effect until September 30, 2006, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2006, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2006. Effective October 1, 2006, no facility shall receive a rate that is more than

four per cent greater than the rate in effect for the facility on September 30, 2006, except for any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective October 1, 2006, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective October 1, 2006. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, and June 30, 2011, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2009, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2011, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate, except (A) any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, due to interim rate status or agreement with the Commissioner of Social Services shall be issued such lower rate; and (B) the commissioner may increase a facility's rate for reasonable costs associated with such facility's compliance with the provisions of section 19a-495a concerning the administration of medication by unlicensed personnel. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2011, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2012, except that (i) any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, due to interim rate status or agreement with the Commissioner of Social Services shall be issued such lower rate; and (ii) the commissioner may increase a facility's rate for reasonable costs associated with such facility's compliance with the provisions of section 19a-495a concerning the administration of medication by unlicensed personnel. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the Commissioner of Social Services may, within available appropriations, provide a rate increase to a residential care home. Any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, due to interim rate status or agreement with the Commissioner of Social Services shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2012, and June 30, 2013, the Commissioner of Social Services may provide fair rent increases to any facility that has undergone a material change in circumstances related to fair rent and

has an approved certificate of need pursuant to section 17b-352, 17b-353, 17b-354 or 17b-355. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, for those facilities that have a calculated rate greater than the rate in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the commissioner may increase facility rates based upon available appropriations up to a stop gain as determined by the commissioner. No facility shall be issued a rate that is lower than the rate in effect on June 30, 2013, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, due to interim rate status or agreement with the commissioner, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and each fiscal year thereafter, a residential care home shall receive a rate increase for any capital improvement made during the fiscal year for the health and safety of residents and approved by the Department of Social Services, provided such rate increase is within available appropriations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each succeeding fiscal year thereafter, costs of less than ten thousand dollars that are incurred by a facility and are associated with any land, building or nonmovable equipment repair or improvement that are reported in the cost year used to establish the facility's rate shall not be capitalized for a period of more than five years for rate-setting purposes. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, subject to available appropriations, the commissioner may, at the commissioner's discretion: Increase the inflation cost limitation under subsection (c) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, provided such inflation allowance factor does not exceed a maximum of five per cent; establish a minimum rate of return applied to real property of five per cent inclusive of assets placed in service during cost year 2013; waive the standard rate of return under subsection (f) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for ownership changes or health and safety improvements that exceed one hundred thousand dollars and that are required under a consent order from the Department of Public Health; and waive the rate of return adjustment under subsection (f) of section

17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to avoid financial hardship. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2015, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in cost report years ending September 30, 2014, and September 30, 2015, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, and each succeeding fiscal year, any facility that would have been issued a lower rate, due to interim rate status, a change in allowable fair rent or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2017, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2016, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2018, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2017, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2018, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to

facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2019, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2020, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2021, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, rates shall be based upon rates in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, inflated by the gross domestic product deflator applicable to each rate year, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report years ending September 30, 2020, and September 30, 2021, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2022 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost

report year ending September 30, 2022. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, any subsequent increase to allowable operating costs, excluding fair rent, shall be inflated by the gross domestic product deflator when funding is specifically appropriated for such purposes in the enacted budget. The rate of inflation shall be computed by comparing the most recent rate year to the average of the gross domestic product deflator for the previous four fiscal quarters ending March thirty-first. Any increase to rates based on inflation shall be applied prior to the application of any other budget adjustment factors that may impact such rates. The commissioner shall determine whether and to what extent a change in ownership of a facility shall occasion the rebasing of the facility's costs. There shall be no inflation adjustment during a year in which a facility's rates are rebased. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2022, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2023, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost

report year ending September 30, 2024, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2025, that are not otherwise included in rates issued.

Sec. 338. Subsection (a) of section 19a-634 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The Health Systems Planning Unit shall conduct, on a biennial basis, within available appropriations, 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 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.

Sec. 339. Section 14-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There shall be within the Department of **[**Aging and Disability Services**]** Motor Vehicles a unit for the purpose of evaluating and

training persons with disabilities in the operation of motor vehicles. There shall be assigned to the driver training unit for persons with disabilities such staff as is necessary for the orderly administration of the driver training program for persons with disabilities. The personnel assigned to the driver training unit for persons with disabilities shall, while engaged in the evaluation, **[**or**]** instruction or examination of a person with disabilities, have the authority and immunities with respect to such activities as are granted under the general statutes to motor vehicle inspectors. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may permit a person whose license has been withdrawn as a result of a condition that makes such person eligible for evaluation and training under this section to operate a motor vehicle while accompanied by personnel assigned to the driver training unit for persons with disabilities. **[**When a person with disabilities has successfully completed the driver training program for persons with disabilities, the Department of Aging and Disability Services shall certify such completion in writing to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and shall recommend any license restrictions or limitations to be placed on the license of such person. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may accept such certification in lieu of the driving skills portion of the examination prescribed under subsection (e) of section 14-36. If such person with disabilities has met all other requirements for obtaining a license, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue a license with such restrictions recommended by the Department of Aging and Disability Services.**]**

(b) Any resident of this state who has a serious physical or mental disability which does not render the resident incapable of operating a motor vehicle and who must utilize special equipment in order to operate a motor vehicle and who cannot obtain instruction in the operation of a motor vehicle through any alternate program, including, but not limited to, other state, federal or privately operated drivers' schools, shall be eligible for instruction under the Department of **[**Aging and Disability Services**]** Motor Vehicles driver training program for

persons with disabilities.

Sec. 340. Subsection (d) of section 17b-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) **[**The council shall choose a chairperson from among its members.**]** The chairpersons of the council shall be the House and Senate chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public health. The Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall provide administrative support to such **[**chairperson**]** chairpersons.

Sec. 341. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section, "custom-made, noninvasive breast prosthesis" means an exterior, custom-made form to fit the individual physical profile of a mastectomy patient to restore such patient's symmetrical appearance after surgery. The Commissioner of Social Services shall (1) develop and distribute to Medicaid-enrolled providers a bulletin concerning Medicaid coverage for a custom-made, noninvasive breast prosthesis, (2) include information on such coverage in communication materials to persons enrolled in the Medicaid program, and (3) in collaboration with the Commissioner of Public Health, disseminate information regarding coverage through existing programs.

Sec. 342. Subsection (d) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) (1) Under said program, no family shall be eligible that has total gross earnings exceeding the federal poverty level, however, in the calculation of the benefit amount for eligible families and previously eligible families that become ineligible temporarily because of receipt of workers' compensation benefits by a family member who subsequently

returns to work immediately after the period of receipt of such benefits, earned income shall be disregarded up to the federal poverty level. On and after October 1, 2023, the commissioner shall not deny a family assistance under said program on the basis of such family's assets unless such assets exceed six thousand dollars. Except when determining eligibility for a six-month extension of benefits pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner shall disregard the first fifty dollars per month of income attributable to current child support that a family receives in determining eligibility and benefit levels for temporary family assistance. Any current child support in excess of fifty dollars per month collected by the department on behalf of an eligible child shall be considered in determining eligibility but shall not be considered when calculating benefits and shall be taken as reimbursement for assistance paid under this section, except that when the current child support collected exceeds the family's monthly award of temporary family assistance benefits plus fifty dollars, the current child support shall be paid to the family and shall be considered when calculating benefits.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, on and after January 1, 2024, in the first month in which a family's total gross earnings exceed one hundred per cent of the federal poverty level and for a period not to exceed six consecutive months, the department shall disregard, for purposes of eligibility, a family's total gross earnings in an amount not to exceed two hundred thirty per cent of the federal poverty level. If a family's total gross earnings are an amount between one hundred seventy-one per cent and two hundred thirty per cent of the federal poverty level, the department shall reduce the household's benefit by twenty per cent for the months in which earnings are between one hundred seventy-one per cent and two hundred thirty per cent of the federal poverty level.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall disregard any financial assistance

received by a family member to the extent the commissioner determines that such financial assistance was provided to the family member as part of such family member's participation in a pilot program that has developed a plan to study and evaluate the impact and potential benefits of direct cash transfers. Such disregard shall be applied for the length of time the family member participates in such program, not to exceed thirty-six cumulative months. Any pilot program subject to the provisions of this subdivision shall have received approval from the Department of Social Services to conduct such pilot program based on the department's ability to receive required waivers authorizing such income disregards in applicable federal and state benefits programs. The department shall request waivers authorizing such income disregards from all federal, state and local agencies as necessary. The department shall maintain a listing of approved pilot programs for use by the public and department staff when determining continuing eligibility of participants in existing benefits programs. The department shall require an approved pilot program to (A) inform potential participants, in writing in advance of participation in the pilot program, of the potential impact of their participation on their current and future eligibility for federal and state benefits, and (B) include contact information in such written document to allow such participants to obtain additional information or guidance on the impact of pilot program participation on their eligibility for such benefits.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall disregard from an income eligibility determination any stipend received by a family member as part of such family member's participation in a job training program approved by the commissioner, including, but not limited to, payments from programs offered by or through the Office of Workforce Strategy established pursuant to section 4-124w, the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services or a private not-for-profit organization that is exempt from taxation under

Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time. Such disregard shall be applied for the length of time the family member participates in such program, not to exceed thirty-six cumulative months.

Sec. 343. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) To the extent permissible under federal and state law, the Commissioner of Social Services shall disregard from income eligibility determinations any direct rental assistance received under a pilot program by an applicant for state and federal assistance programs administered by the Department of Social Services, including, but not limited to, the temporary family assistance program established pursuant to section 17b-112 of the general statutes. The Commissioner of Social Services may seek any waiver from federal law deemed necessary or amend the Medicaid state plan to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 344. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than September 1, 2026, the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee, in collaboration with the Departments of Education and Social Services, shall develop a framework and operational guidelines to streamline Medicaid billing by municipalities for Medicaid-eligible school-based behavioral health services. Not later than October 1, 2026, the committee shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the framework and operational guidelines with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education and human services.

Sec. 345. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the purposes of this section and sections 346 and 347 of this act:

(1) "Biological product" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-619 of the general statutes;

(2) "Brand-name drug" means a drug that is produced or distributed in accordance with an original new drug application approved under 21 USC 355, as amended from time to time, but does not include an authorized generic drug as defined in 42 CFR 447.502, as amended from time to time;

(3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Revenue Services;

(4) "Consumer price index" means the consumer price index, annual average, for all urban consumers: United States city average, all items, published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor, or, if the index is discontinued, an equivalent index published by a federal authority, or, if no such index is published, a comparable index published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(5) "Generic drug" means (A) a prescription drug product that is marketed or distributed in accordance with an abbreviated new drug application approved under 21 USC 355, as amended from time to time, (B) an authorized generic drug as defined in 42 CFR 447.502, as amended from time to time, or (C) a drug that entered the market before calendar year 1962 that was not originally marketed under a new prescription drug product application;

(6) "Identified prescription drug" means (A) a brand-name drug or biological product to which all exclusive marketing rights granted under the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, Section 351 of the federal Public Health Service Act and federal patent law have expired for at least twenty-four months, including any drug-device combination product for the delivery of the brand-name drug or biological product, or (B) a generic drug or interchangeable biological product;

(7) "Interchangeable biological product" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-619 of the general statutes;

(8) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 12-1 of the general statutes;

(9) "Pharmaceutical manufacturer" means a person that manufactures a prescription drug and sells, directly or through another person, the prescription drug for distribution in this state;

(10) "Prescription drug" means a legend drug, as defined in section 20-571 of the general statutes, approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, or any successor agency, and prescribed by a health care provider to an individual in this state;

(11) "Reference price" means the wholesale acquisition cost, as defined in 42 USC 1395w-3a, as amended from time to time, of (A) a brand-name drug or biological product (i) on January 1, 2025, if the patent for the brand-name drug or biological product expired on or before said date, or (ii) if the patent for the brand-name drug or biological product expires after January 1, 2025, on the date the patent for such brand-name drug or biological product expires, or (B) a generic drug or interchangeable biological product (i) on January 1, 2025, or (ii) if the generic drug or interchangeable biological product is first commercially marketed in the United States after January 1, 2025, on the date such generic drug or interchangeable biological product is first commercially marketed in the United States; and

(12) "Wholesale distributor" means a person, including, but not limited to, a repacker, own-label distributor, private-label distributor or independent wholesale drug trader, engaged in the wholesale distribution of prescription drugs.

Sec. 346. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor shall, on or after January 1, 2026, sell an identified

prescription drug in this state at a price that exceeds the reference price for the identified prescription drug, adjusted for any increase in the consumer price index.

(2) A pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor may, on or after January 1, 2026, sell an identified prescription drug in this state at a price that exceeds the reference price for the identified prescription drug, adjusted for any increase in the consumer price index, if the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services determines, pursuant to 21 USC 356e, as amended from time to time, that such identified prescription drug is in shortage in the United States.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, any pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be liable to this state for a civil penalty. Such civil penalty shall be imposed, calculated and collected on a calendar year basis by the Commissioner of Revenue Services, and the amount of such civil penalty for a calendar year shall be equal to eighty per cent of the difference between:

(A) The revenue that the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor earned from all sales of the identified prescription drug in this state during the calendar year; and

(B) The revenue that the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor would have earned from all sales of the identified prescription drug in this state during the calendar year if the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor had sold such identified prescription drug at a price that did not exceed the reference price for such identified prescription drug, as such reference price is adjusted for any increase in the consumer price index.

(2) No pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor of an identified prescription drug shall be liable to this state for the civil

penalty imposed under subdivision (1) of this subsection unless the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor made at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars in total annual sales in this state for the calendar year for which such civil penalty would otherwise be imposed.

(c) (1) (A) For calendar years commencing on or after January 1, 2026, each pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that violated the provisions of subsection (a) of this section during any calendar year shall, not later than the first day of March immediately following the end of such calendar year:

(i) Pay to the commissioner the civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section for such calendar year; and

(ii) File with the commissioner a statement for such calendar year in a form and manner, and containing all information, prescribed by the commissioner.

(B) A pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that is required to file the statement and pay the civil penalty pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall electronically file such statement and make such payment by electronic funds transfer in the manner provided by chapter 228g of the general statutes, irrespective of whether the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor would have otherwise been required to electronically file such statement or make such payment by electronic funds transfer under chapter 228g of the general statutes.

(2) If no statement is filed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner may make such statement at any time thereafter, according to the best obtainable information and the prescribed form.

(d) The commissioner may examine the records of any

pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that is subject to the civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section as the commissioner deems necessary. If the commissioner determines from such examination that the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor failed to pay the full amount of such civil penalty, the commissioner shall bill such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor for the full amount of such civil penalty.

(e) (1) The commissioner may require each pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that is subject to the civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section to keep such records as the commissioner may prescribe, and produce books, papers, documents and other data to provide or secure information pertinent to the enforcement and collection of such civil penalty.

(2) The commissioner, or the commissioner's authorized representative, may examine the books, papers, records and equipment of any person who is subject to the provisions of this section and may investigate the character of the business of such person to verify the accuracy of any statement made or, if no statement is made by such person, to ascertain and determine the amount of the civil penalty due under subsection (b) of this section.

(f) Any pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that is subject to the civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section and aggrieved by any action of the commissioner under subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section or subsection (d) of this section may apply to the commissioner, in writing and not later than sixty days after the notice of such action is delivered or mailed to such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor, for a hearing, setting forth the reasons why such hearing should be granted and if such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor believes that such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor is not liable for such civil penalty or the full amount of such civil penalty, the grounds

for such belief and the amount by which such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor believes such civil penalty should be reduced. The commissioner shall promptly consider each such application and may grant or deny the hearing requested. If the hearing request is denied, the commissioner shall immediately notify the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor. If the hearing request is granted, the commissioner shall notify the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor of the date, time and place for such hearing. After such hearing, the commissioner may make such order as appears just and lawful to the commissioner and shall furnish a copy of such order to the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor. The commissioner may, by notice in writing, order a hearing on the commissioner's own initiative and require a pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor, or any other person who the commissioner believes to be in possession of relevant information concerning such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor, to appear before the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent with any specified books of account, papers or other documents for examination under oath.

(g) Any pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that is aggrieved by any order, decision, determination or disallowance of the commissioner made under subsection (f) of this section may, not later than thirty days after service of notice of such order, decision, determination or disallowance, take an appeal therefrom to the superior court for the judicial district of New Britain, which appeal shall be accompanied by a citation to the commissioner to appear before said court. Such citation shall be signed by the same authority and such appeal shall be returnable at the same time and served and returned in the same manner as is required in case of a summons in a civil action. The authority issuing the citation shall take from the appellant a bond or recognizance to this state, with surety, to prosecute the appeal to effect and to comply with the orders and decrees of the court. Such

appeals shall be preferred cases, to be heard, unless cause appears to the contrary, at the first session, by the court or by a committee appointed by the court. Said court may grant such relief as may be equitable and, if the civil penalty was paid prior to the granting of such relief, may order the Treasurer to pay the amount of such relief. If the appeal was taken without probable cause, the court may tax double or triple costs, as the case demands and, upon all such appeals that are denied, costs may be taxed against such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor at the discretion of the court but no costs shall be taxed against this state.

(h) The commissioner, and any agent of the commissioner duly authorized to conduct any inquiry, investigation or hearing pursuant to this section, 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 commissioner, the commissioner, or the commissioner's agent authorized to conduct such hearing and having authority by law to issue such process, may subpoena witnesses and require the production of books, papers and documents pertinent to such inquiry or investigation. No witness under any subpoena authorized to be issued under the provisions of this section shall be excused from testifying or from producing books, papers or documentary evidence on the ground that such testimony or the production of such books, papers or documentary evidence would tend to incriminate such witness, but such books, papers or documentary evidence so produced shall not be used in any criminal proceeding against such witness. If any person disobeys such process or, having appeared in obedience thereto, refuses to answer any pertinent question put to such person by the commissioner, or the commissioner's authorized agent, or to produce any books, papers or other documentary evidence pursuant thereto, the commissioner, or such agent, may apply to the superior court of the judicial district wherein the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor resides or

wherein the business was conducted, or to any judge of such court if the same is not in session, setting forth such disobedience to process or refusal to answer, and such court or such judge shall cite such person to appear before such court or such judge to answer such question or to produce such books, papers or other documentary evidence and, upon such person's refusal to do so, shall commit such person to a community correctional center until such person testifies, but not for a period longer than sixty days. Notwithstanding the serving of the term of such commitment by any person, the commissioner may proceed in all respects with such inquiry and examination as if the witness had not previously been called upon to testify. Officers who serve subpoenas issued by the commissioner or under the commissioner's authority and witnesses attending hearings conducted by the commissioner pursuant to this section shall receive fees and compensation at the same rates as officers and witnesses in the courts of this state, to be paid on vouchers of the commissioner on order of the Comptroller from the proper appropriation for the administration of this section.

(i) The amount of any civil penalty unpaid under the provisions of this section may be collected under the provisions of section 12-35 of the general statutes. The warrant provided under section 12-35 of the general statutes shall be signed by the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent. The amount of any such civil penalty shall be a lien on the real property of the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor from the last day of the month next preceding the due date of such civil penalty until such civil penalty is paid. The commissioner may record such lien in the records of any town in which the real property of such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor is situated, but no such lien shall be enforceable against a bona fide purchaser or qualified encumbrancer of such real property. When any civil penalty with respect to which a lien was recorded under the provisions of this subsection is satisfied, the commissioner shall, upon request of any interested party, issue a certificate discharging such

lien, which certificate shall be recorded in the same office in which such lien was recorded. Any action for the foreclosure of such lien shall be brought by the Attorney General in the name of this state in the superior court for the judicial district in which the real property subject to such lien is situated, or, if such property is located in two or more judicial districts, in the superior court for any one such judicial district, and the court may limit the time for redemption or order the sale of such real property or make such other or further decree as the court judges equitable. The provisions of section 12-39g of the general statutes shall apply to all civil penalties imposed under this section.

(j) (1) Any officer or employee of a pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor, who owes a duty to the pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor to pay the civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section on behalf of such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor, shall file a statement with the commissioner pursuant to subsection (c) of this section on behalf of such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor and keep records or supply information to the commissioner on behalf of such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor pursuant to this section. Any such officer or employee who wilfully fails, at the time required under this section, to pay such civil penalty, file such statement, keep such records or supply such information on behalf of such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor shall, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 54-193 of the general statutes, no such officer or employee shall be prosecuted for a violation of the provisions of this subdivision committed on or after January 1, 2026, except within three years next after such violation is committed.

(2) Any officer or employee of a pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor, who owes a duty to the pharmaceutical

manufacturer or wholesale distributor to deliver or disclose to the commissioner, or the commissioner's authorized agent, any list, statement, return, account statement or other document on behalf of such pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor, and who wilfully delivers or discloses to the commissioner, or the commissioner's authorized agent, any such list, statement, return, account statement or other document that such officer or employee knows to be fraudulent or false in any material matter shall, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, be guilty of a class D felony.

(3) No officer or employee of a pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor shall be charged with an offense under both subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection in relation to the same civil penalty, but such officer or employee may be charged and prosecuted for both such offenses upon the same information.

(k) Each civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed to constitute a civil fine or penalty within the meaning of 42 USC 1396b(w), as amended from time to time. No portion of any civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section shall be waived under section 12-3a of the general statutes or any other applicable law. No tax credit shall be allowable against any civil penalty imposed under subsection (b) of this section.

(l) Not later than July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall prepare a list containing the name of each pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that violated subsection (a) of this section during the preceding calendar year. The commissioner shall make each such list publicly available.

(m) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 347. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) No pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor of an identified prescription drug shall withdraw the identified prescription drug from sale in this state for the purpose of avoiding the civil penalty established in subsection (b) of section 346 of this act.

(b) Any pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that intends to withdraw an identified prescription drug from sale in this state shall, at least one hundred eighty days before such withdrawal, send advance written notice to the Office of Health Strategy disclosing such pharmaceutical manufacturer's or wholesale distributor's intention.

(c) Any pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesale distributor that violates the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be liable to this state for a civil penalty in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 348. Subsection (b) of section 17b-238 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

(b) Any institution or agency to which payments are to be made under sections 17b-239 to 17b-246, inclusive, and sections 17b-340 and 17b-343 which is aggrieved by any decision of said commissioner may, within ten days after written notice thereof from the commissioner, obtain, by written request to the commissioner, a rehearing on all items of aggrievement. On and after July 1, 1996, a rehearing shall be held by the commissioner or his designee, provided a detailed written description of all such items is filed within ninety days of written notice of the commissioner's decision. The rehearing shall be held within thirty days of the filing of the detailed written description of each specific item of aggrievement. The commissioner shall issue a final decision within sixty days of the close of evidence or the date on which final briefs are

filed, whichever occurs later. Any designee of the commissioner who presides over such rehearing shall be impartial and shall not be employed within the Department of Social Services office of certificate of need and rate setting. Any such items not resolved at such rehearing to the satisfaction of either such institution or agency or said commissioner **[**shall be submitted to binding arbitration to an arbitration board consisting of one member appointed by the institution or agency, one member appointed by the commissioner and one member appointed by the Chief Court Administrator from among the retired judges of the Superior Court, which retired judge shall be compensated for his services on such board in the same manner as a state referee is compensated for his services under section 52-434. The proceedings of the arbitration board and any decisions rendered by such board shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act, 49 Stat. 620 (1935), 42 USC 1396, as amended from time to time, and chapter 54**]** may be appealed in accordance with section 4-183. Such appeals shall be privileged cases to be heard by the court as soon after the return date as shall be practicable.

Sec. 349. Subsection (i) of section 17b-99a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

(i) Any facility aggrieved by a final report issued pursuant to subsection (h) of this section may request a rehearing. A rehearing shall be held by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, provided a detailed written description of all items of aggrievement in the final report is filed by the facility not later than ninety days following the date of written notice of the commissioner's decision. The rehearing shall be held not later than thirty days following the date of filing of the detailed written description of each specific item of aggrievement. The commissioner shall issue a final decision not later than sixty days following the close of evidence or the date on which final briefs are filed,

whichever occurs later. Any items not resolved at such rehearing to the satisfaction of the facility or the commissioner **[**shall be submitted to binding arbitration by an arbitration board consisting of one member appointed by the facility, one member appointed by the commissioner and one member appointed by the Chief Court Administrator from among the retired judges of the Superior Court, which retired judge shall be compensated for his services on such board in the same manner as a state referee is compensated for his services under section 52-434. The proceedings of the arbitration board and any decisions rendered by such board shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396, as amended from time to time, and chapter 54**]** may be appealed in accordance with section 4-183. Such appeals shall be privileged cases to be heard by the court as soon after the return date as shall be practicable.

Sec. 350. Section 17b-245b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall, consistent with federal law, reimburse federally qualified health centers on an all-inclusive encounter rate per client encounter based on the prospective payment system required by 42 USC 1396a(bb). Any patient encounter with more than one health professional for the same type of service and multiple interactions with the same health professional that occur on the same day shall constitute a single encounter for purposes of reimbursement, except when the patient, after the first encounter, suffers illness or injury requiring additional diagnosis and treatment. A federally qualified health center shall be reimbursed in accordance with the requirements prescribed in section 17b-262-1002 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies.

(b) A federally qualified health center may not provide nonemergency periodic dental services on different dates of service for the purpose of billing for separate encounters. Any nonemergency

periodic dental service, including, but not limited to, (1) an examination, (2) prophylaxis, and (3) radiographs, including bitewings, complete series and periapical imaging, if warranted, shall be completed in one visit. A second visit to complete any service normally included during the course of a nonemergency periodic dental visit shall not be eligible for reimbursement unless (A) medically necessary, and (B) such medical necessity is clearly documented in the patient's dental record.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, not later than October 1, 2025, the Department of Social Services shall provide an alternative, updated prospective payment methodology for each federally qualified health center that is the same as rates established under the prospective payment system set forth in 42 USC 1396a(bb)(3), as may be amended from time to time, except that the base year for determining the costs of providing such services shall be the average of the reasonable costs incurred in a federally qualified health center's fiscal year ending in 2023, adjusted for any change in scope adjustments approved since the 2023 base year and for inflation as measured by the Medicare Economic Index published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, subject to available appropriations and as provided pursuant to this section. Any rebasing established under such alternative, updated prospective payment methodology shall be phased in over the course of three years, commencing during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and concluded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, in accordance with the provisions of section 351 of this act. Each federally qualified health center shall be given the option to be reimbursed under the provisions of this subsection or under the prospective payment system pursuant to federal law.

(d) The following requirements shall apply to any alternative payment methodology developed by the department for payments to federally qualified health centers: (1) The alternative payment methodology must be consistent with the requirements of 42 USC

1396a(bb), as may be amended from time to time; (2) to the extent federal law requires that federally qualified health centers be allowed to elect to use the prospective payment system set forth in 42 USC 1396a(bb)(3), as amended from time to time, any alternative payment methodology developed under this section must be an additional option and not in lieu of the alternative, updated prospective payment methodology provided for in subsection (c) of this section; and (3) in developing an alternative payment methodology, the department shall consult with federally qualified health centers prior to implementing any such methodology.

Sec. 351. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) In implementing the alternative, updated prospective payment methodology for federally qualified health centers pursuant to section 17b-245b of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Social Services shall allocate, and not exceed, in the aggregate, the following amounts from state appropriations during each of the three years of phase in: (1) Five million dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; (2) an additional seven million dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027; and (3) an additional fourteen million four hundred thousand dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028. In accordance with the provisions of this section, the total cumulative increases in state appropriations during each of the three years of the phased-in rebasing as measured against the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall be as follows: (A) Five million dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; (B) twelve million dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027; and (C) twenty-six million four hundred thousand dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028.

Sec. 352. Section 17b-245d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) On or before February 1, 2013, and on January first annually thereafter, each federally qualified health center shall file with the Department of Social Services the following documents for the previous

state fiscal year: (1) Medicaid cost report; (2) audited financial statements; and (3) any additional information reasonably required by the department. Any federally qualified health center that does not use the state fiscal year as its fiscal year shall have six months from the completion of such health center's fiscal year to file said documents with the department.

(b) Each federally qualified health center shall provide to the Department of Social Services a copy of its original scope of project, as approved by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, and all subsequently approved amendments to its original scope of project. Each federally qualified health center shall notify the department, in writing, of all approvals for additional amendments to its scope of project, and provide to the department a copy of such amended scope of project, not later than thirty days after such approvals.

[(c) If there is an increase or a decrease in the scope of services furnished by a federally qualified health center, the federally qualified health center shall notify the Department of Social Services, in writing, of any such increase or decrease not later than thirty days after such increase or decrease and provide any additional information reasonably requested by the department not later than thirty days after the request.

(d) The Commissioner of Social Services may impose a civil penalty of five hundred dollars per day on any federally qualified health center that fails to provide any information required pursuant to this section not later than thirty days after the date such information is due.**]**

[(e) The**]** (c) Under the payment methodologies provided under subsections (a) and (c) of section 17b-245b, the department may adjust a federally qualified health center's encounter rate based upon an increase or decrease in the scope of services furnished by the federally qualified health center, in accordance with 42 USC 1396a(bb)(3)(B), following

receipt of the written notification described in this subsection **[**(c) of this section**]** or based upon the department's review of documents filed in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and upon demonstration that the federally qualified health center's costs of providing services has experienced a change as a result of a change in the type, intensity, duration or amount of services provided in a patient encounter.

(1) If there is an increase or a decrease in the scope of services furnished by a federally qualified health center, the federally qualified health center shall notify the Department of Social Services, in writing, of any such increase or decrease not later than sixty calendar days after the end of the federally qualified health center's fiscal year in which the change in scope of services occurred and provide any additional information reasonably requested by the department not later than thirty calendar days after the department's request.

(2) Notwithstanding this section and section 17b-262 and regulations adopted thereunder, a change in the volume of services, including, but not limited to, a change in the volume of services as a result of an expansion or reduction of an existing clinic, the addition or discontinuance of a satellite or new site, a change in operational costs attributable to capital expenditures, including new service facilities or regulatory compliance, or an increase in utilization of current services, shall not constitute a change in the scope of services furnished by a federally qualified health center for which a federally qualified health center's encounter rate may be adjusted. This subdivision shall not preclude a federally qualified health center from requesting a change in scope based on a change in the type, intensity, duration or amount of services provided in a patient encounter, even if such change in the type, intensity, duration or amount of services provided in a patient encounter may have resulted from an expansion or reduction of an existing clinic or the addition or discontinuance of a satellite or new site.

(3) If the Department of Social Services approves a change in scope of services request, and contingent upon the federally qualified health center's compliance with the mandatory notice provisions provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the new encounter rate shall be effective on the date of the department's approval of said change in scope request or the next calendar date after the end of the federally qualified health center's fiscal year in which the change in scope occurred, whichever is earlier.

(d) The Commissioner of Social Services may impose a civil penalty of five hundred dollars per day on any federally qualified health center that fails to provide any information required pursuant to this section not later than thirty days after the date such information is due.

[(f)**]** (e) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations, or amending existing regulations, provided the commissioner **[**prints notice of intent to adopt regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal**]** publishes notice of intent to adopt regulations on 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. 353. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 12-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*):

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section:

(A) Any excess of the deductions provided in this section for any income year commencing on or after January 1, 1973, over the gross income for such year or the amount of such excess apportioned to this

state under the provisions of this chapter, shall be an operating loss of such income year and shall be deductible as an operating loss carry-over for operating losses incurred prior to income years commencing January 1, 2000, in each of the five income years following such loss year; for operating losses incurred in income years commencing on or after January 1, 2000, and prior to January 1, 2025, in each of the twenty income years following such loss year; and for operating losses incurred in income years commencing on or after January 1, 2025, in each of the thirty income years following such loss year; except that:

(i) For income years commencing prior to January 1, 2015, the portion of such operating loss that may be deducted as an operating loss carry-over in any income year following such loss year shall be limited to the lesser of (I) any net income greater than zero of such income year following such loss year, or in the case of a company entitled to apportion its net income under the provisions of this chapter, the amount of such net income that is apportioned to this state pursuant thereto, or (II) the excess, if any, of such operating loss over the total of such net income for each of any prior income years following such loss year, such net income of each of such prior income years following such loss year for such purposes being computed without regard to any operating loss carry-over from such loss year allowed under this subparagraph and being regarded as not less than zero, and provided further the operating loss of any income year shall be deducted in any subsequent year, to the extent available for such deduction, before the operating loss of any subsequent income year is deducted;

(ii) For income years commencing on or after January 1, 2015, the portion of such operating loss that may be deducted as an operating loss carry-over in any income year following such loss year shall be limited to the lesser of (I) fifty per cent of net income of such income year following such loss year, or in the case of a company entitled to apportion its net income under the provisions of this chapter, fifty per

cent of such net income that is apportioned to this state pursuant thereto, or (II) the excess, if any, of such operating loss over the operating loss deductions allowable with respect to such operating loss under this subparagraph for each of any prior income years following such loss year, such net income of each of such prior income years following such loss year for such purposes being computed without regard to any operating loss carry-over from such loss year allowed under this subparagraph and being regarded as not less than zero, and provided further the operating loss of any income year shall be deducted in any subsequent year, to the extent available for such deduction, before the operating loss of any subsequent income year is deducted; and

(iii) If a combined group so elects, the combined group shall relinquish fifty per cent of its unused operating losses incurred prior to the income year commencing on or after January 1, 2015, and before January 1, 2016, and may utilize, for income years commencing prior to January 1, 2025, the remaining operating loss carry-over without regard to the limitations prescribed in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision. The portion of such operating loss carry-over that may be deducted shall be limited to the amount required to reduce a combined group's tax under this chapter, prior to surtax and prior to the application of credits, to two million five hundred thousand dollars in any income year commencing on or after January 1, 2015, and prior to January 1, 2025. **[**Only after the combined group's remaining operating loss carry-over for operating losses incurred prior to income years commencing January 1, 2015, has been fully utilized, will the limitations prescribed in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision apply.**]** The combined group, or any member thereof, shall make such election on its return for the income year beginning on or after January 1, 2015, and before January 1, 2016, by the due date for such return, including any extensions. Only combined groups with unused operating losses in excess of six billion dollars from income years beginning prior to January 1, 2013, may make

the election prescribed in this clause. Any combined group that made the election pursuant to this clause shall recalculate its remaining operating loss carry-over on the return it files under this chapter for the income year commencing on or after January 1, 2025, and prior to January 1, 2026, as if such combined group had not been required to relinquish fifty per cent of its unused net operating loss carry-over to make the election under this clause. Such recalculated remaining operating losses may be utilized in income years commencing on or after January 1, 2025, subject to the provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to, the limitation prescribed in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision and the period of time prescribed in this subparagraph, based upon when such losses were incurred, to claim such deductions; and

(B) Any net capital loss, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code effective and in force on the last day of the income year, for any income year commencing on or after January 1, 1973, shall be allowed as a capital loss carry-over to reduce, but not below zero, any net capital gain, as so defined, in each of the five following income years, in order of sequence, to the extent not exhausted by the net capital gain of any of the preceding of such five following income years; and

(C) Any net capital losses allowed and carried forward from prior years to income years beginning on or after January 1, 1973, for federal income tax purposes by companies entitled to a deduction for dividends paid under the Internal Revenue Code other than companies subject to the gross earnings taxes imposed under chapters 211 and 212, shall be allowed as a capital loss carry-over.

Sec. 354. Subsection (k) of section 12-218e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(k) (1) **[**In**]** For income years beginning prior to January 1, 2025, in no

event shall the tax calculated for a combined group on a combined unitary basis, prior to surtax and application of credits, exceed the nexus combined base tax described in subdivision (2) of this subsection by more than two million five hundred thousand dollars.

(2) (A) The nexus combined base tax equals the tax measured on the sum of the separate net income or loss of each taxable member or the minimum tax base of each taxable member as if such members were not required to file a combined unitary tax return, but only to the extent that such income, loss or minimum tax base of any taxable member is separately apportioned to Connecticut in accordance with the applicable provisions of section 12-218, 12-218b, 12-219a or 12-244. In computing such net income or loss, intercorporate dividends shall be eliminated, and in computing the combined additional tax base, intercorporate stockholdings shall be eliminated.

(B) In computing such net income or loss, any intangible expenses and costs, as defined in section 12-218c, any interest expenses and costs, as defined in section 12-218c, and any income attributable to such intangible expenses and costs or to such interest expenses and costs shall be eliminated, provided the corporation that is required to make adjustments under section 12-218c for such intangible expenses and costs or for such interest expenses and costs, and the related member or members, as defined in section 12-218c, are both taxable members of the combined group. If any such income and any such expenses and costs are eliminated as provided in this subparagraph, the intangible property, as defined in section 12-218c, of the corporation eliminating such income shall not be taken into account in apportioning under the provisions of section 12-219a the tax calculated under subsection (a) of section 12-219, of such corporation.

(C) In computing the apportionment fraction under this subdivision:

(i) Intercompany rents shall not be included in the computation of the

value of property rented if the lessor and lessee are both taxable members in the combined unitary tax return; and

(ii) Intercompany business receipts, receipts by a taxable member included in a combined unitary tax return from any other taxable member included in such return, shall not be included.

Sec. 355. (*Effective from passage*) The provisions of section 12-242d of the general statutes shall not apply to any additional tax due as a result of the changes made to section 12-217 of the general statutes pursuant to section 353 of this act or section 12-218e of the general statutes pursuant to section 354 of this act, for income years commencing on or after January 1, 2025, but prior to the effective date of sections 353 and 354 of this act.

Sec. 356. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 12-214 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(4) (A) With respect to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2018, and prior to January 1, **[**2026**]** 2029, any company subject to the tax imposed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section shall pay, for such income year, except when the tax so calculated is equal to two hundred fifty dollars, an additional tax in an amount equal to ten per cent of the tax calculated under said subsection (a) for such income year, without reduction of the tax so calculated by the amount of any credit against such tax. The additional amount of tax determined under this subsection for any income year shall constitute a part of the tax imposed by the provisions of said subsection (a) and shall become due and be paid, collected and enforced as provided in this chapter.

(B) Any company whose gross income for the income year was less than one hundred million dollars shall not be subject to the additional tax imposed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. This exception

shall not apply to taxable members of a combined group that files a combined unitary tax return.

Sec. 357. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 12-219 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(4) (A) With respect to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2018, and prior to January 1, **[**2026**]** 2028, the additional tax imposed on any company and calculated in accordance with subsection (a) of this section shall, for such income year, except when the tax so calculated is equal to two hundred fifty dollars, be increased by adding thereto an amount equal to ten per cent of the additional tax so calculated for such income year, without reduction of the tax so calculated by the amount of any credit against such tax. The increased amount of tax payable by any company under this section, as determined in accordance with this subsection, shall become due and be paid, collected and enforced as provided in this chapter.

(B) Any company whose gross income for the income year was less than one hundred million dollars shall not be subject to the additional tax imposed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. This exception shall not apply to taxable members of a combined group that files a combined unitary tax return.

Sec. 358. Section 12-217ee of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025, and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Any taxpayer that **[**(1)**]** (A) is a qualified small business, **[**(2)**]** (B) qualifies for a credit under section 12-217j or section 12-217n, and **[**(3)**]** (C) cannot take such credit in the taxable year in which the credit could otherwise be taken as a result of having no tax liability under this chapter may elect to carry such credit forward under this chapter or may

apply to the commissioner as provided in subsection (b) of this section to exchange such credit with the state for a credit refund as follows: For a biotechnology company, equal to ninety per cent of the value of the credit and for all other companies, equal to sixty-five per cent of the value of the credit.

(2) Any amount of credit refunded under this section shall be refunded to the taxpayer under the provisions of this chapter, except that such credit refund shall not be subject to the provisions of section 12-227. Payment of the capital base tax under section 12-219 for an income year commencing on or after January 1, 2002, in which year the taxpayer reports no net income, as defined in section 12-213, or payment of the minimum tax of two hundred fifty dollars under section 12-219 or 12-223c for any income year, shall not be considered a tax liability for purposes of this section.

(b) An application for refund of such credit amount shall be made to the Commissioner of Revenue Services, at the same time such taxpayer files its return for the income year on or before the original due date or, if applicable, the extended due date of such year's return, on such forms and containing such information as prescribed by said commissioner. No application for refund of such credit amount may be made after the due date or extended due date, as the case may be, of such return.

(c) If the commissioner determines that the taxpayer qualifies for a credit refund under this section, the commissioner shall notify, no later than one hundred twenty days from receipt of the application for such credit refund, the State Comptroller of the name of the eligible taxpayer, and the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the State Treasurer. The amount of the credit refund shall be limited as follows:

(1) In the case of an application for such credit refund filed by the taxpayer for income years beginning during 2000 or 2001 where such credit refund has not been paid as of July 1, 2002, the taxpayer shall be

entitled to receive no more than one million dollars during the state's fiscal year in which the initial refund is paid, with any remaining unpaid balance to be paid in two equal installments during the state's next two succeeding fiscal years; and

(2) **[**in**]** In the case of an application for such credit refund filed by the taxpayer for the income years beginning during 2002 or thereafter, the taxpayer shall be entitled to receive no more than one million five hundred thousand dollars for any one such income year.

(d) The Commissioner of Revenue Services may disallow the credit refund of any credit otherwise allowable for a taxable year under this section if the company claiming the exchange has any amount of taxes due and unpaid to the state including interest, penalties, fees and other charges related thereto for which a period in excess of thirty days has elapsed following the date on which such taxes were due and which are not the subject of a timely filed administrative appeal to the commissioner or of a timely filed appeal pending before any court of competent jurisdiction. Before any such disallowance, the commissioner shall send written notice to the company, stating that it may pay the amount of such delinquent tax or enter into an agreement with the commissioner for the payment thereof, by the date set forth in said notice, provided, such date shall not be less than thirty days after the date of such notice. Failure on the part of the company to pay the amount of the delinquent tax or enter into an agreement to pay the amount thereof by said date shall result in a disallowance of the credit refund being claimed.

(e) For purposes of this section, (1) "qualified small business" means a company that **[**(1)**]** (A) has gross income for the previous income year that does not exceed seventy million dollars, and **[**(2)**]** (B) has not, in the determination of the commissioner, met the gross income test through transactions with a related person, as defined in section 12-217w, and (2) "biotechnology company" has the same meaning as provided in

subsection (b) of section 12-217j.

Sec. 359. Section 12-263p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

As used in sections 12-263p to 12-263x, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Revenue Services;

(2) "Department" means the Department of Revenue Services;

(3) "Taxpayer" means any health care provider subject to any tax or fee under section 12-263q or 12-263r;

(4) "Health care provider" means an individual or entity that receives any payment or payments for health care items or services provided;

(5) "Gross receipts" means the amount received, whether in cash or in kind, from patients, third-party payers and others for taxable health care items or services provided by the taxpayer in the state, including retroactive adjustments under reimbursement agreements with third-party payers, without any deduction for any expenses of any kind;

(6) "Net revenue" means gross receipts less payer discounts, charity care and bad debts, to the extent the taxpayer previously paid tax under section 12-263q on the amount of such bad debts;

(7) "Payer discounts" means the difference between a health care provider's published charges and the payments received by the health care provider from one or more health care payers for a rate or method of payment that is different than or discounted from such published charges. "Payer discounts" does not include charity care or bad debts;

(8) "Charity care" means free or discounted health care services rendered by a health care provider to an individual who cannot afford

to pay for such services, including, but not limited to, health care services provided to an uninsured patient who is not expected to pay all or part of a health care provider's bill based on income guidelines and other financial criteria set forth in the general statutes or in a health care provider's charity care policies on file at the office of such provider. "Charity care" does not include bad debts or payer discounts;

(9) "Received" means "received" or "accrued", construed according to the method of accounting customarily employed by the taxpayer;

(10) "Hospital" means any health care facility, as defined in section 19a-630, that (A) is licensed by the Department of Public Health as a short-term general hospital; (B) is maintained primarily for the care and treatment of patients with disorders other than mental diseases; (C) meets the requirements for participation in Medicare as a hospital; and (D) has in effect a utilization review plan, applicable to all Medicaid patients, that meets the requirements of 42 CFR 482.30, as amended from time to time, unless a waiver has been granted by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services;

(11) "Inpatient hospital services" means, in accordance with federal law, all services that are (A) ordinarily furnished in a hospital for the care and treatment of inpatients; (B) furnished under the direction of a physician or dentist; and (C) furnished in a hospital. "Inpatient hospital services" does not include skilled nursing facility services and intermediate care facility services furnished by a hospital with swing bed approval;

(12) "Inpatient" means a patient who has been admitted to a medical institution as an inpatient on the recommendation of a physician or dentist and who (A) receives room, board and professional services in the institution for a twenty-four-hour period or longer, or (B) is expected by the institution to receive room, board and professional services in the institution for a twenty-four-hour period or longer, even if the patient

does not actually stay in the institution for a twenty-four-hour period or longer;

(13) "Outpatient hospital services" means, in accordance with federal law, preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative or palliative services that are (A) furnished to an outpatient; (B) furnished by or under the direction of a physician or dentist; and (C) furnished by a hospital;

(14) "Outpatient" means a patient of an organized medical facility or a distinct part of such facility, who is expected by the facility to receive, and who does receive, professional services for less than a twenty-four-hour period regardless of the hour of admission, whether or not a bed is used or the patient remains in the facility past midnight;

(15) "Nursing home" means any licensed chronic and convalescent nursing home or a rest home with nursing supervision;

(16) "Intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities" or "intermediate care facility" means a residential facility for persons with intellectual disability that is certified to meet the requirements of 42 CFR 442, Subpart C, as amended from time to time, and, in the case of a private facility, licensed pursuant to section 17a-227;

(17) "Medicare day" means a day of nursing home care service provided to an individual who is eligible for payment, in full or with a coinsurance requirement, under the federal Medicare program, including fee for service and managed care coverage;

(18) "Nursing home resident day" means a day of nursing home care service provided to an individual and includes the day a resident is admitted and any day for which the nursing home is eligible for payment for reserving a resident's bed due to hospitalization or temporary leave and for the date of death. For purposes of this subdivision, a day of nursing home care service shall be the period of

time between the census-taking hour in a nursing home on two successive calendar days. "Nursing home resident day" does not include a Medicare day or the day a resident is discharged;

(19) "Intermediate care facility resident day" means a day of intermediate care facility residential care provided to an individual and includes the day a resident is admitted and any day for which the intermediate care facility is eligible for payment for reserving a resident's bed due to hospitalization or temporary leave and for the date of death. For purposes of this subdivision, a day of intermediate care facility residential care shall be the period of time between the census-taking hour in a facility on two successive calendar days. "Intermediate care facility resident day" does not include the day a resident is discharged;

(20) "Nursing facility service revenue" means, in accordance with federal law, revenue for which a nursing home provides nursing home care services to an individual and that are covered services for Medicaid payment under section 17b-262-705 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, whether or not such services were provided to Medicaid recipients. "Nursing facility service revenue" does not include Medicare payments;

(21) "Intermediate care facility service revenue" means, in accordance with federal law, revenue for which an intermediate care facility provides services to its residents and that are covered services for Medicaid payment under section 17b-262-303 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, whether or not such services were provided to Medicaid recipients. "Intermediate care facility service revenue" does not include Medicare payments;

[(20)**]** (22) "Medicaid" means the program operated by the Department of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-260 and authorized by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended from time

to time; and

[(21)**]** (23) "Medicare" means the program operated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in accordance with Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time.

Sec. 360. Section 12-263q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to calendar quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) For each calendar quarter commencing on or after July 1, 2017, each hospital shall pay a tax on the total net revenue received by such hospital for the provision of inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services.

(A) (i) On and after July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2026, the rate of tax for the provision of inpatient hospital services shall be six per cent of each hospital's audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to inpatient hospital services. **[**Such rate shall apply for fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, unless modified through any provision of the general statutes.**]**

(ii) On and after July 1, 2026, the rate of tax for the provision of inpatient hospital services shall be six per cent of each hospital's audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year attributable to inpatient hospital services.

(B) (i) On and after July 1, 2017, and prior to July 1, 2019, the rate of tax for the provision of outpatient hospital services shall be nine hundred million dollars less the total tax imposed on all hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital services, which sum shall be divided by the total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay such tax, resulting in an effective rate of twelve and three thousand three hundred twenty-five ten thousandths (12.3325) per cent of each

hospital's audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services.

(ii) On and after July 1, 2019, and prior to July 1, 2020, the rate of tax for the provision of outpatient hospital services shall be eight hundred ninety million dollars less the total tax imposed on all hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital services, which sum shall be divided by the total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay such tax, resulting in an effective rate of twelve and nine hundred forty-two ten thousandths (12.0942) per cent of each hospital's audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(iii) On and after July 1, 2020, and prior to July 1, 2021, the rate of tax for the provision of outpatient hospital services shall be eight hundred eighty-two million dollars less the total tax imposed on all hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital services, which sum shall be divided by the total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay such tax, resulting in an effective rate of eleven and seven thousand five hundred three ten thousandths (11.7503) per cent of each hospital's audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(iv) On and after July 1, 2021, and prior to July 1, 2025, the rate of tax for the provision of outpatient hospital services shall be eight hundred fifty million dollars less the total tax imposed on all hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital services, which sum shall be divided by

the total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay such tax, resulting in an effective rate of eleven and nine hundred seventy-six ten thousandths (11.0976) per cent of each hospital's audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(v) On and after July 1, 2025, and prior to July 1, 2026, the rate of tax for the provision of outpatient hospital services shall be eight hundred twenty million dollars less the total tax imposed on all hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital services, which sum shall be divided by the total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay such tax, resulting in an effective rate of ten and four thousand eight hundred fifty-eight ten thousandths (10.4858) per cent of each hospital's audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section. **[**The rate set forth in this clause shall apply for fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, unless modified through any provision of the general statutes.**]**

(vi) (I) On and after July 1, 2026, the rate of tax for the provision of outpatient hospital services shall be equal to the amount specified under clause (vi)(II) of this subparagraph less the total tax imposed on all hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital services, which sum shall be divided by the total audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay such tax, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of

this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(II) For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026, the amount shall be one billion one hundred ninety-five million dollars. For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2027, and each state fiscal year thereafter, such amount shall be increased by twenty-five million dollars from the prior state fiscal year.

(C) (i) (I) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2019, and prior to July 1, 2026, the total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to inpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay the tax under this section, shall be five billion ninety-seven million eight hundred twenty thousand one hundred ninety-seven dollars, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(II) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2026, the total audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year attributable to inpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay the tax under this section, shall be the total amount of net revenue attributable to inpatient hospital services reported to the commissioner for the applicable federal fiscal year by all hospitals subject to the tax or, if applicable, as adjusted by the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4) of this subsection, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision, disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section or the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection.

(ii) (I) For the state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2019, and prior to July 1, 2020, the total audited net revenue for fiscal year

2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay the tax under this section shall be four billion eight hundred twenty-nine million eight hundred fifty-nine thousand three hundred ninety-nine dollars, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(II) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2020, and prior to July 1, 2026, the total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay the tax under this section, shall be four billion nine hundred three million one hundred twenty-seven thousand one hundred thirty-three dollars, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision or disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(III) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2026, the total audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year attributable to outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals that are required to pay the tax under this section, shall be the total amount of net revenue attributable to outpatient hospital services reported to the commissioner for the applicable federal fiscal year by all hospitals subject to the tax or, if applicable, as adjusted by the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4) of this subsection, subject to any hospital dissolutions or cessation of operations pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this subdivision, disallowed exemptions pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section or the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection.

(D) (i) If a hospital or hospitals subject to the tax imposed under this subdivision merge, consolidate, are acquired or otherwise reorganize, the surviving hospital shall assume and be liable for the total tax

imposed under this subdivision on the merged, consolidated, acquired or reorganized hospitals, including any outstanding liabilities from periods prior to such merger, consolidation, acquisition or reorganization.

(ii) If a hospital ceases to operate as a hospital for any reason other than a merger, consolidation, acquisition or reorganization, or ceases for any reason to be subject to the tax imposed under this subdivision, the amount of tax due from each taxpayer under this subdivision shall not be recalculated to take into account such occurrence for the state fiscal year in which the hospital dissolves or ceases to operate. The amount of tax that would be due from the dissolved hospital after its dissolution or cessation of operations shall not be collected by the commissioner for the state fiscal year in which such hospital dissolves or ceases to operate. In the next succeeding state fiscal year after the hospital dissolves or ceases to operate and in each subsequent state fiscal year, the total audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** shall be **[**reduced by**]** adjusted to exclude such hospital's audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** and the effective rate of the tax due under this section shall be adjusted to ensure that the total amount of such tax to be collected under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision is redistributed among the surviving hospitals in proportion to the reduced total audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** attributable to inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services, of all hospitals.

(E) (i) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2026, if the Commissioner of Social Services determines for any fiscal year that the effective rate of tax for the tax imposed on net revenue for the provision of inpatient hospital services exceeds the rate permitted under the provisions of 42 CFR 433.68(f), as amended from time to time, the amount of tax collected that exceeds the permissible amount shall be refunded to hospitals, in proportion to the amount of net revenue for

the provision of inpatient hospital services upon which the hospitals were taxed. The effective rate of tax shall be calculated by comparing the amount of tax paid by hospitals on net revenue for the provision of inpatient hospital services in a state fiscal year with the amount of net revenue received by hospitals subject to the tax for the provision of inpatient hospital services for the equivalent fiscal year.

(ii) On or before July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, each hospital subject to the tax imposed under this subdivision shall report to the Commissioner of Social Services, in the manner prescribed by and on forms provided by said commissioner, the amount of tax paid pursuant to this subsection by such hospital and the amount of net revenue received by such hospital for the provision of inpatient hospital services, in the state fiscal year commencing two years prior to each such reporting date. Not later than ninety days after said commissioner receives completed reports from all hospitals required to submit such reports, said commissioner shall notify the Commissioner of Revenue Services of the amount of any refund due each hospital to be in compliance with 42 CFR 433.68(f), as amended from time to time. Not later than thirty days after receiving such notice, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall notify the Comptroller of the amount of each such refund and the Comptroller shall draw an order on the Treasurer for payment of each such refund. No interest shall be added to any refund issued pursuant to this subparagraph.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, each hospital subject to the tax imposed under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be required to pay the total amount due in four quarterly payments consistent with section 12-263s, with the first quarter commencing with the first day of each state fiscal year and the last quarter ending on the last day of each state fiscal year. Hospitals shall make all payments required under this subsection in accordance with procedures established by and on forms provided by the

commissioner.

(3) (A) For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017, each hospital required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall make an estimated tax payment on December 15, 2017, which estimated payment shall be equal to one hundred thirty-three per cent of the tax due under chapter 211a for the period ending June 30, 2017. If a hospital was not required to pay tax under chapter 211a on either inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services, such hospital shall make its estimated payment based on its unaudited net patient revenue.

(B) Each hospital required to pay tax pursuant to this subdivision on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall pay the remaining balance determined to be due in two equal payments, which shall be due on April 30, 2018, and July 31, 2018, respectively.

(C) (i) (I) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2017, and prior to July 1, 2026, each hospital required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall calculate the amount of tax due on forms prescribed by the commissioner by multiplying the applicable rate set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection by its audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016.

(II) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2026, each hospital required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall calculate the amount of tax due on forms prescribed by the commissioner.

(ii) For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019, the payment made for the period ending September 30, 2019, by each hospital required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall be considered an estimated payment for purposes of the tax due for said state fiscal year. Each hospital required to pay the tax

under this section on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall pay the remaining balance due in three equal payments, which shall be due on January 31, 2020, April 30, 2020, and July 31, 2020, respectively.

(D) The commissioner shall apply any payment made by a hospital in connection with the tax under chapter 211a for the period ending September 30, 2017, as a partial payment of such hospital's estimated tax payment due on December 15, 2017, under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. The commissioner shall return to a hospital any credit claimed by such hospital in connection with the tax imposed under chapter 211a for the period ending September 30, 2017, for assignment as provided under section 12-263s.

(4) (A) (i) Each hospital required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall submit to the commissioner such information as the commissioner requires in order to calculate the audited net inpatient revenue for fiscal year 2016, the audited net outpatient revenue for fiscal year 2016 and the audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 of all such health care providers. Such information shall be provided to the commissioner not later than January 1, 2018. The commissioner shall make additional requests for information as necessary to fully audit each hospital's net revenue. Upon completion of the commissioner's examination, the commissioner shall notify, prior to February 28, 2018, each hospital of its audited net inpatient revenue for fiscal year 2016, audited net outpatient revenue for fiscal year 2016 and audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016.

(ii) (I) Not later than January 1, 2026, and January 1, 2029, and quadrennially thereafter, each hospital required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services shall submit to the commissioner such information as the commissioner requires in order to calculate, for the applicable federal fiscal year, the audited net inpatient revenue, the audited net outpatient revenue and the audited

net revenue of all such hospitals. The amounts reported by each hospital shall be deemed accepted on the first day of the state fiscal year, provided the commissioner has not initiated an audit of the hospital before such first day.

(II) If the commissioner initiates an audit of a hospital, such hospital shall comply with all additional requests by the commissioner for information necessary to enable the commissioner to fully audit the hospital within fourteen days of the date the commissioner requests such information.

(III) The commissioner shall issue any notice setting forth additional audited net revenue not later than the first day of the state fiscal year. Such additional audited net revenue shall be final fourteen days after the date such notice is mailed to the taxpayer, except for any amounts as to which the taxpayer files a written protest with the commissioner. If a protest is filed, the commissioner shall reconsider the additional audited net revenue and, if the taxpayer or the taxpayer's authorized representative has requested a hearing, shall grant or deny such hearing. The commissioner shall mail notice of the commissioner's determination to the taxpayer, which notice shall briefly set forth the commissioner's findings of fact and the basis of the commissioner's decision in each case decided adversely, in whole or in part, to the taxpayer. The commissioner's action on the taxpayer's protest shall be final upon the expiration of one month from the date the commissioner mails the notice of the commissioner's determination to the taxpayer, unless the taxpayer seeks judicial review of such determination within such period.

(IV) If any protest or appeal is pending on the first day of the next succeeding state fiscal year, the amounts reported by the protesting or appealing taxpayer shall be used to tentatively calculate the tax due under this section until such protest or appeal is finally resolved. If any amount is revised pursuant to such protest or appeal from the amount

originally reported by a hospital, the commissioner shall recalculate for each hospital the amounts due under this section and shall issue assessments or refunds, as applicable, with respect to any affected calendar quarter.

(V) A notice under this clause shall not be required for any hospital for which an audit has not been issued.

(B) Any hospital that fails to provide the requested information by the dates specified in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision or fails to comply with a request for additional information made under this subdivision shall be subject to a penalty of one thousand dollars per day for each day the hospital fails to provide the requested information or additional information.

(C) The commissioner may engage an independent auditor to assist in the performance of the commissioner's duties and responsibilities under this subdivision.

(5) Net revenue derived from providing a health care item or service to a patient shall be taxed only one time under this section.

(6) (A) For purposes of this section:

(i) "Audited net inpatient revenue for fiscal year 2016" means the amount of revenue that the commissioner determines, in accordance with federal law, that a hospital received for the provision of inpatient hospital services during the 2016 federal fiscal year;

(ii) "Audited net outpatient revenue for fiscal year 2016" means the amount of revenue that the commissioner determines, in accordance with federal law, that a hospital received for the provision of outpatient hospital services during the 2016 federal fiscal year; **[**and**]**

(iii) "Audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016" means net revenue, as

reported in each hospital's audited financial statements, less the amount of revenue that the commissioner determines, in accordance with federal law, that a hospital received from other than the provision of inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services. The total audited net revenue for fiscal year 2016 shall be the sum of all audited net revenue for the 2016 fiscal year for all hospitals required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services;

(iv) "Audited net inpatient revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year" means the amount of revenue that a hospital reports to the commissioner that such hospital received for the provision of inpatient hospital services during the applicable federal fiscal year, subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section;

(v) "Audited net outpatient revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year" means the amount of revenue that a hospital reports to the commissioner that such hospital received for the provision of outpatient hospital services during the applicable federal fiscal year, subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section;

(vi) "Audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year" means net revenue, as reported in each hospital's audited financial statements, less the amount of revenue a hospital received from other than the provision of inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services. The total audited net revenue shall be the sum of all audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year for all hospitals required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services; and

(vii) "Applicable federal fiscal year" means (I) for state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, and prior to July 1, 2029, federal fiscal year 2024, (II) for state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2029, and prior to July 1, 2033, federal fiscal year 2027, and (III) for the periods commencing with the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2033, and quadrennially thereafter, the federal fiscal year that concluded in

the calendar year that is two years prior to the start of such quadrennial period.

(B) For purposes of this section, if a hospital's audited financial statements for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** does not report revenue for the entire fiscal year, such hospital's audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** shall be calculated by projecting the amount of revenue such hospital would have received for the entire fiscal year based proportionally on the audited net revenue reported on its audited financial statements.

(C) Audited net inpatient revenue and audited net outpatient revenue shall be based on information provided by each hospital required to pay tax on inpatient hospital services or outpatient hospital services.

(b) (1) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to exempt from the net revenue tax imposed under subsection (a) of this section the following: (A) Specialty hospitals; (B) children's general hospitals; and (C) hospitals operated exclusively by the state other than a short-term general hospital operated by the state as a receiver pursuant to chapter 920. Any hospital for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grants an exemption shall be exempt from the net revenue tax imposed under subsection (a) of this section. Any hospital for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies an exemption shall be deemed to be a hospital for purposes of this section and shall be required to pay the net revenue tax imposed under subsection (a) of this section on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services at the same effective rates set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to remove the exemption approved pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for children's

general hospitals from the net revenue tax imposed under subsection (a) of this section. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the removal of such exemption, any children's general hospitals that were exempt prior to July 1, 2026, from the net revenue tax imposed under subsection (a) of this section shall be required, on and after July 1, 2026, to pay such tax on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services at the same effective rates set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

[(2)**]** (3) Each hospital shall provide to the Commissioner of Social Services, upon request, such information as said commissioner may require to make any computations necessary to seek approval for exemption under this subsection.

[(3)**]** (4) As used in this subsection, (A) "specialty hospital" means a health care facility, as defined in section 19a-630, other than a facility licensed by the Department of Public Health as a short-term general hospital or a short-term children's hospital. "Specialty hospital" includes, but is not limited to, a psychiatric hospital or a chronic disease hospital, and (B) "children's general hospital" means a health care facility, as defined in section 19a-630, that is licensed by the Department of Public Health as a short-term children's hospital. "Children's general hospital" does not include a specialty hospital.

(c) (1) (A) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2017, and prior to July 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to exempt financially distressed hospitals from the net revenue tax imposed on outpatient hospital services. Any such hospital for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grants an exemption shall be exempt from the net revenue tax imposed on outpatient hospital services under subsection (a) of this section. Any hospital for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies an exemption shall be required to pay the net revenue tax imposed on outpatient hospital

services under subsection (a) of this section.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision, "financially distressed hospital" means a hospital that has experienced over the five-year period from October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2016, an average net loss of more than five per cent of aggregate revenue. A hospital has an average net loss of more than five per cent of aggregate revenue if such a loss is reflected in the applicable years of financial reporting that have been made available by the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy for such hospital in accordance with section 19a-670. Upon said commissioner's receipt of a determination by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that a hospital is not exempt, the total audited net revenue from the provision of outpatient hospital services for fiscal year 2016 shall be increased by such hospital's audited net revenue from the provision of outpatient hospital services for fiscal year 2016 and the effective rate of the tax due under this section shall be adjusted to ensure that the total amount of such tax to be collected under subsection (a) of this section is redistributed, commencing with the calendar quarter next succeeding the date of the determination by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(2) (A) For each state fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to exempt sole community hospitals from the net revenue tax imposed on outpatient hospital services. Any such hospital for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grants an exemption shall be exempt from the net revenue tax imposed on outpatient hospital services under subsection (a) of this section. Any hospital for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies an exemption shall be required to pay the net revenue tax imposed on outpatient hospital services under subsection (a) of this section.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision, "sole community hospital"

means a hospital that is classified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for purposes of Medicare as a sole community hospital under 42 CFR 412.92. Upon said commissioner's receipt of a determination by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that a hospital is not exempt, the total audited net revenue from the provision of outpatient hospital services for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** shall be increased by such hospital's audited net revenue from the provision of outpatient hospital services for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** and the effective rate of the tax due under this section shall be adjusted to ensure that the total amount of such tax to be collected under subsection (a) of this section is redistributed, commencing with the calendar quarter next succeeding the date of the determination by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(3) Upon receipt of a determination by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under this subsection that a hospital is not exempt, said commissioner shall notify all hospitals subject to the tax under this section of such determination, the corresponding increase to the total audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** and the change in any effective rate of the tax to be collected under subsection (a) of this section. **[**through the state fiscal year 2026.**]** Such notice shall be provided prior to the end of the calendar quarter next succeeding the date of the determination by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. If a state fiscal year has commenced when such determination is made, the adjusted audited net revenue for the applicable federal fiscal year **[**2016**]** and the change in any effective rate of the tax to be collected under subsection (a) of this section shall be prorated to take into account the amount of the tax already paid during the **[**applicable**]** state fiscal year.

(d) The commissioner shall issue guidance regarding the administration of the tax on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services. Such guidance shall be issued upon completion of a

study of the applicable federal law governing the administration of tax on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services. The commissioner shall conduct such study in collaboration with the Commissioner of Social Services, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Connecticut Hospital Association and the hospitals subject to the tax imposed on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services.

(e) (1) The commissioner shall determine, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Connecticut Hospital Association and the hospitals subject to the tax imposed on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services, if there is any underreporting of revenue on hospitals' audited financial statements. Such consultation shall only be as authorized under section 12-15. The commissioner shall issue guidance, if necessary, to address any such underreporting.

(2) If the commissioner determines, in accordance with this subsection, that a hospital underreported net revenue on its audited financial statements, the amount of underreported net revenue shall be added to the amount of net revenue reported on such hospital's audited financial statements so as to comply with federal law and the revised net revenue amount shall be used for purposes of calculating the amount of tax owed by such hospital under this section. For purposes of this subsection, "underreported net revenue" means any revenue of a hospital subject to the tax imposed under this section that is required to be included in net revenue from the provision of inpatient hospital services and net revenue from the provision of outpatient hospital services to comply with 42 CFR 433.56, as amended from time to time, 42 CFR 433.68, as amended from time to time, and Section 1903(w) of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time, but that was not reported on such hospital's audited financial statements. Underreported net revenue shall only include revenue of the hospital subject to such

tax.

(f) On or before November 15, 2026, and quarterly thereafter, the commissioner shall report to the Commissioner of Social Services and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management the amount of tax paid under this section by each hospital for the most recently completed calendar quarter and the amount of any delinquent tax, plus penalty and interest thereon, owed by a hospital and due under this section.

[(f)**]** (g) Nothing in this section shall affect the commissioner's obligations under section 12-15 regarding disclosure and inspection of returns and return information.

[(g)**]** (h) The provisions of section 17b-8 shall not apply to any exemption or exemptions sought by the Commissioner of Social Services from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under this section.

Sec. 361. Subsection (b) of section 12-263s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to calendar quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2026*):

(b) **[**(1)**]** Each taxpayer doing business in this state shall, on or before the last day of January, April, July and October of each year, render to the commissioner a quarterly return, on forms prescribed or furnished by the commissioner and signed by one of the taxpayer's principal officers, stating specifically the name and location of such taxpayer, the amount of its net patient revenue, nursing facility service revenue, intermediate care facility service revenue or resident days during the calendar quarter ending on the last day of the preceding month and such other information as the commissioner deems necessary for the proper administration of this section and the state's Medicaid program. **[**Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the**]** The taxes and fees imposed under section 12-263q or 12-263r shall be due and

payable on the due date of such return. Each taxpayer shall be required to file such return electronically with the department and to make such payment by electronic funds transfer in the manner provided by chapter 228g, irrespective of whether the taxpayer would have otherwise been required to file such return electronically or to make such payment by electronic funds transfer under the provisions of said chapter.

[(2) (A) A taxpayer may file, on or before the due date of a payment of tax or fee imposed under section 12-263q or 12-263r, a request for a reasonable extension of time for such payment for reasons of undue hardship. Undue hardship shall be demonstrated by a showing that such taxpayer is at substantial risk of defaulting on a bond covenant or similar obligation if such taxpayer were to make payment on the due date of the amount for which the extension is requested. Such request shall be filed on forms prescribed by the commissioner and shall include complete information of such taxpayer's inability, due to undue hardship, to make payment of the tax or fee on or before the due date of such payment. The commissioner shall not grant any extension for a general statement of hardship by the taxpayer or for the convenience of the taxpayer.

(B) The commissioner may grant an extension if the commissioner determines an undue hardship exists. Such extension shall not exceed three months from the original due date of the payment, except that the commissioner may grant an additional extension not exceeding three months from the initial extended due date of the payment (i) upon the filing of a subsequent request by the taxpayer on or before the extended due date of the payment, on forms prescribed by the commissioner, and (ii) upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the commissioner.

(3) If the commissioner grants an extension pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, no penalty shall be imposed and no interest shall accrue during the period of time for which an extension is granted if the

taxpayer pays the tax or fee due on or before the extended due date of the payment. If the taxpayer does not pay such tax or fee by the extended due date, a penalty shall be imposed in accordance with subsection (c) of this section and interest shall begin to accrue at a rate of one per cent per month for each month or fraction thereof from the extended due date of such tax or fee until the date of payment.**]**

Sec. 362. Subsection (c) of section 17b-239e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) (1) **[**The**]** From July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2026, the department shall distribute supplemental payments to applicable hospitals in accordance with the settlement agreement, including any court order issued in accordance with the provisions of section 12-263z. The commissioner shall diligently pursue the federal approvals required for the supplemental pools and payments set forth in this section.

(2) To the extent required by the settlement agreement, including any court order issued in accordance with the provisions of section 12-263z, the Department of Social Services shall pay Medicaid supplemental payments to nongovernmental licensed short-term general hospitals located in the state as follows: (A) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, five hundred forty-eight million three hundred thousand dollars in each such fiscal year; and (B) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, through June 30, 2026, five hundred sixty-eight million three hundred thousand dollars in each such fiscal year. **[**For fiscal years commencing on and after July 1, 2026, the total amount of supplemental payments paid to such hospitals shall continue at the level in effect for the prior fiscal year unless modified through any provision of the general statutes or appropriations act.**]**

(3) (A) For the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026, the Department of Social Services shall pay Medicaid supplemental payments to

nongovernmental licensed short-term general hospitals located in the state in the amount of seven hundred eight million three hundred thousand dollars. For fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2027, the total amount of such supplemental payments paid to such hospitals each fiscal year shall be increased twenty-five million dollars over the total amount of such supplemental payments paid to such hospitals in the immediately preceding fiscal year, provided such supplemental payments shall not be increased for any fiscal year unless the total amount collected for the immediately preceding fiscal year from the tax imposed on inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services under section 12-263q, across all hospitals subject to such tax, exceeds such amounts collected for the fiscal year prior to the immediately preceding fiscal year by at least twenty-five million dollars.

(B) The Department of Social Services shall not pay Medicaid supplemental payments in a manner that does not comply with applicable federal requirements and required federal approvals, including, but not limited to, payments that cause total hospital payments in an applicable category to exceed the upper payment limit, as defined in section 17b-239.

[(3)**]** (4) From July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2026, the Department of Social Services shall make supplemental payments to the applicable hospitals on or before the last day of the first month of each calendar quarter, except that payments scheduled to be made before December 19, 2019, shall be made not later than thirty days after December 19, 2019.

[(4)**]** (5) If a nongovernmental licensed short-term general hospital located in the state merges or consolidates with or is acquired by another hospital, such that the hospital does not continue to maintain a separate short-term general hospital license, the supplemental payments that would have been paid to the hospital that no longer maintains such license shall be paid instead to the surviving hospital, beginning with

the first calendar quarter that commences on or after the effective date of the merger, consolidation or acquisition. If a nongovernmental licensed short-term general hospital located in the state dissolves, ceases to operate or otherwise terminates licensed short-term general hospital services, the supplemental payments that would have been paid to such hospital shall not be paid to any other hospital for the remainder of the fiscal year in which such hospital dissolves, ceases operations or otherwise terminates such services. Commencing with the fiscal year after the hospital dissolved, ceased to operate or otherwise terminated such services, the supplemental payments that would have been made to such hospital shall be redistributed to all other nongovernmental licensed short-term general hospitals located in the state in accordance with the distribution methodology set forth in the settlement agreement for each supplemental pool.

[(5)**]** (6) Both the state and federal share of supplemental payments set forth in this subsection shall be appropriated to the Department of Social Services. Such supplemental payments shall not be subject to rescissions or holdbacks. Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of the state to recover overpayments and collect unpaid liabilities, as authorized by law.

Sec. 363. Section 12-263r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to calendar quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) For each calendar quarter commencing on or after July 1, 2017, and prior to July 1, 2026, there is hereby imposed a quarterly fee on each nursing home and intermediate care facility in this state, which fee shall be the product of each facility's total resident days during the calendar quarter multiplied by the user fee. Except as otherwise provided in this section, **[**(1)**]** (A) the user fee for nursing homes shall be twenty-one dollars and two cents, and **[**(2)**]** (B) the user fee for intermediate care facilities shall be **[**(A)**]** (i) twenty-seven dollars and twenty-six cents for

calendar quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2017, and prior to July 1, 2019, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) twenty-seven dollars and seventy-six cents for calendar quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2019. As used in this **[**subsection**]** subdivision, "resident day" means nursing home resident day and intermediate care facility resident day, as applicable.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 12-263aa, for each calendar quarter commencing on or after July 1, 2026, there is hereby imposed a tax on all nursing homes and intermediate care facilities at a rate of six per cent of the nursing facility service revenue and intermediate care facility service revenue received by such nursing facility and intermediate care facility, except that an intermediate care facility operated exclusively by the state, other than an intermediate care facility operated by the state as a receiver pursuant to chapter 920, shall be exempt from the tax.

(b) (1) (A) (i) Prior to January 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to exempt from the quarterly fee imposed on nursing homes under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section those nursing homes set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this subsection that are licensed on or prior to July 1, 2017.

(ii) Prior to January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to exempt from the tax imposed on nursing homes under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section those nursing homes set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this subsection that are licensed on or prior to July 1, 2017.

(B) Upon the licensure of any nursing home set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection on or after July 2, 2017, the Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to exempt such nursing home from

such quarterly fee or tax.

(C) Any nursing home for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grants an exemption shall be exempt from such quarterly fee or tax. Any nursing home for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies an exemption shall be required to pay the quarterly fee or tax imposed on nursing homes under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) Upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, each of the following nursing homes shall be exempt from the quarterly fee or tax imposed on nursing homes under subsection (a) of this section:

(A) Each nursing home licensed on or prior to July 1, 2017, that is owned and operated by a legal entity registered as a continuing care facility with the Department of Social Services on July 1, 2017, in accordance with section 17b-521 and (i) that is licensed for not more than seventy-five beds, (ii) that is licensed for more than seventy-five beds but less than one hundred fifty-one beds and provided more than six thousand five hundred days of care paid by Medicare was reported by the nursing home in its most recently filed cost report with the Department of Social Services as of the date of submission of the request for an exemption, or (iii) that, pursuant to section 17b-352, is not subject to the certificate of need provisions set forth in sections 17b-352 to 17b-354, inclusive; and

(B) Each nursing home licensed on or after July 2, 2017, that is owned and operated by a legal entity registered as a continuing care facility with the Department of Social Services in accordance with section 17b-521 and (i) that is licensed for not more than seventy-five beds, (ii) that is licensed for more than seventy-five beds but less than one hundred fifty-one beds and provided more than six thousand five hundred days of care paid by Medicare was reported by the nursing home in its most

recently filed cost report with the Department of Social Services as of the date of submission of the request for an exemption, or (iii) that, pursuant to section 17b-352, is not subject to the certificate of need provisions set forth in sections 17b-352 to 17b-354, inclusive.

(c) (1) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for permission to impose a user fee in the amount of sixteen dollars and thirteen cents upon nursing homes owned by municipalities and nursing homes licensed for more than two hundred thirty beds. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grants permission, the user fee imposed on nursing homes owned by municipalities and nursing homes licensed for more than two hundred thirty beds shall be sixteen dollars and thirteen cents. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies permission, the user fee for nursing homes owned by municipalities and nursing homes licensed for more than two hundred thirty beds shall be twenty-one dollars and two cents.

(2) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for permission to impose a tax at the rate of four and six-tenths per cent of the nursing facility service revenue received by nursing homes owned by municipalities and nursing homes licensed for more than two hundred thirty beds. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grants permission, the rate of the tax imposed under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section on nursing homes owned by municipalities and nursing homes licensed for more than two hundred thirty beds shall be four and six-tenths per cent. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies permission, the rate of the tax imposed under said subdivision on nursing homes owned by municipalities and nursing homes licensed for more than two hundred thirty beds shall be six per cent.

(d) The provisions of section 17b-8 shall not apply to any exemption or exemptions sought by the Department of Social Services from the

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under this section.

Sec. 364. Section 12-263aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) For the state fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, through June 30, 2026, the tax imposed under section 12-263q on the provision of inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services shall cease to be imposed if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (1) determines that such tax is an impermissible tax under Section 1903(w) of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time, or (2) does not approve the applicable Medicaid state plan amendments necessary for the state to receive federal financial participation under the Medicaid program for the payments set forth in subsection (i) of section 17b-239 and subsection (c) of section 17b-239e. In the event of such a determination or disapproval, the General Assembly shall consider, during the next occurring regular or special session, whichever is sooner, such amendments to the general statutes as are necessary to comply with federal law regarding such tax.

(b) On and after July 1, 2026, the tax imposed under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-263r shall cease to be imposed if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services determines that such tax is an impermissible tax under Section 1903(w) of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time. In the event of such a determination, the quarterly fee under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-263r shall be reinstated and applicable to the calendar quarter during which such determination was made and each calendar quarter thereafter. If the state successfully appeals such determination, such quarterly fee shall cease and the tax under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-263r shall be reinstated and applicable to the calendar quarter commencing immediately after the date of the final decision of such appeal and each calendar quarter thereafter.

Sec. 365. Section 3-114c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) At the end of each fiscal year, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for such fiscal year the amount of tax revenue received by the Commissioner of Revenue Services under the provisions of chapter 214 as payment for the sale of Connecticut cigarette tax stamps or heat-applied decals sold by said commissioner as provided under section 12-298 prior to the end of such fiscal year, provided payment for such stamps or decals is received by said commissioner not later than five business days after the last day of July immediately following the end of such fiscal year.

(b) At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for such fiscal year the amount of tax that is required to be paid to the Commissioner of Revenue Services under the provisions of chapter 214a and is received by said commissioner not later than five business days after the last day of July immediately following the end of such fiscal year.

Sec. 366. Section 3-114m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) At the end of each fiscal year commencing with the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2003, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for such fiscal year the amount of tax that is required to be paid to the Commissioner of Revenue Services under section 12-494 and that is received by the Commissioner of Revenue Services not later than five business days after the last day of July immediately following the end of such fiscal year.

(b) At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for

such fiscal year the amount of tax that is required to be paid to the Commissioner of Revenue Services under the provisions of chapter 228b and is received by said commissioner not later than five business days after the last day of July immediately following the end of such fiscal year.

Sec. 367. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than June 30, 2026, the Comptroller shall transfer the balance remaining in the Connecticut Itinerant Vendors Guaranty Fund, repealed by section 5 of public act 17-75, to the General Fund.

Sec. 368. Section 12-412 of the general statutes is amended by adding subdivision (127) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025, and applicable to sales occurring on or after July 1, 2025*):

(NEW) (127) Sales of and the storage, use or other consumption of (A) any ambulance-type motor vehicle used exclusively to transport any medically incapacitated individual, except any such vehicle used to transport any such individual for payment, and (B) any ambulance operating under a license or certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-180.

Sec. 369. Subdivision (58) of section 12-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(58) (A) Sales of any services rendered for purposes of (i) personnel services, (ii) commercial or industrial marketing, development, testing or research services, or (iii) business analysis and management services, whenever, pursuant to a joint venture agreement, the recipient of any such services is either a corporation, a partnership, or a limited liability company, and such services are rendered by one or more corporate shareholders, or a corporate partner or corporate member in such joint venture, and in accordance with which, except as provided in

subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the company rendering such service must have an ownership interest equivalent to not less than twenty-five per cent of total ownership in such joint venture, provided (I) the purpose of such joint venture is directly related to production or development of new or experimental products or systems and the marketing and support thereof, (II) at least one of the corporations participating in such joint venture shall have been actively engaged in business in this state for not less than ten years, and (III) exemption for such sales in accordance with this subsection, with respect to any single joint venture, shall not be allowed for a period in excess of twenty consecutive years from the date of such venture's incorporation, formation or organization, or in the case of a joint venture in existence prior to January 1, 1986, within the aircraft industry, for a period in excess of **[**forty**]** fifty consecutive years, and such exemption shall be applicable to sales of such services rendered on or after January 1, 1986.

(B) In the case of a joint venture in the aircraft industry, the ownership interest percentage of each participant in such joint venture shall be equal to the aggregate ownership interest percentage owned directly or indirectly by every participant in such venture that is a related member, as defined in subsection (a) of section 12-218c.

Sec. 370. Section 12-543 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There is hereby imposed a tax equivalent to ten per cent of any amount paid as dues or initiation fees to any social, athletic or sporting club. Such tax shall be imposed upon the club receiving such amounts. Reimbursement for such tax shall be collected by the club from the member. Such reimbursement, termed "tax", shall be paid by the member to the club charging the dues or initiation fees. Such tax when added to the amounts charged shall be a debt from the member to the club charging such amounts and shall be recoverable at law. The amount of tax reimbursement, when so collected, shall be deemed to be

a special fund in trust for the state. **[**of Connecticut.**]**

(b) The following shall be exempt from the dues tax:

(1) A club **[**shall be exempt from the dues tax**]** if the annual dues of a member enjoying full privileges and any initiation fee required of such a member are each **[**one hundred**]** two hundred fifty dollars or less; **[**.**]**

(2) A club sponsored and controlled by a charitable or religious organization, a governmental agency or a nonprofit educational institution; **[**shall be exempt from the dues tax.**]**

(3) Any society, order or association operating under the lodge system or any local fraternal organization among students of a college or university; **[**shall be exempt from the dues tax.**]** and

(4) Lawn bowling clubs. **[**shall be exempt from the dues tax.**]**

Sec. 371. Section 12-704e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to taxable years commencing on and after January 1, 2025*):

(a) Any resident of this state, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-701, who is subject to the tax imposed under this chapter for any taxable year shall be allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this chapter in an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the earned income credit claimed and allowed for the same taxable year under Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in subsection (a) of section 12-701. As used in this section, "applicable percentage" means (1) twenty-three per cent for taxable years commencing prior to January 1, 2021, (2) thirty and one-half per cent for taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2021, and prior to January 1, 2023, and (3) forty per cent for taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2023.

(b) If the amount of the credit allowed pursuant to this section exceeds the taxpayer's liability for the tax imposed under this chapter, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall treat such excess as an overpayment and, except as provided under section 12-739 or 12-742, shall refund the amount of such excess, without interest, to the taxpayer. If the taxpayer is eligible for the credit under this section and has at least one qualifying child for federal income tax purposes, such taxpayer shall be allowed an additional two hundred fifty dollars for the amount of the credit.

(c) If a married individual who is otherwise eligible for the credit allowed **[**hereunder**]** under this section has filed a joint federal income tax return for the taxable year, but is required to file a separate return under this chapter for such taxable year, the credit for which such individual is eligible under this section shall be an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the earned income credit claimed and allowed for such taxable year under Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is such individual's federal adjusted gross income, as reported on such individual's separate return under this chapter, and the denominator of which is the federal adjusted gross income, as reported on the joint federal income tax return.

(d) To the extent permitted under federal law, any state or federal earned income tax credit shall not be counted as income when received by an individual who is an applicant for, or recipient of, benefits or services under any state or federal program that provides such benefits or services based on need, nor shall any such earned income tax credit be counted as resources, for the purpose of determining the individual's or any other individual's eligibility for such benefits or services, or the amount of such benefits or services.

Sec. 372. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026, and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2026*) (a) There shall be allowed a credit

against the tax imposed by chapter 229 of the general statutes, other than the liability imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes, for a taxpayer who owns a family child care home, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes and is licensed under section 19a-87b of the general statutes, in the amount of five hundred dollars per family child care home.

(b) If the taxpayer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, the credit may be claimed by the taxpayer's shareholders or partners. If such taxpayer is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited liability company's owner, provided such owner is subject to the tax imposed under chapter 229 of the general statutes.

(c) If the amount of the credit allowed pursuant to this section exceeds such taxpayer's tax liability for the tax imposed under chapter 229 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall treat such excess as an overpayment and, except as provided in section 12-739 or 12-742 of the general statutes, shall refund the amount of such excess, without interest, to such taxpayer.

Sec. 373. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026, and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Eligible farmer" means a taxpayer in this state whose federal gross income from farming for the income or taxable year is at least two-thirds of excess federal gross income;

(2) "Excess federal gross income" means the amount of federal gross income from all sources for the income or taxable year in excess of thirty thousand dollars;

(3) "Agricultural production" has the same meaning as provided in

subdivision (63) of section 12-412 of the general statutes;

(4) "Farm investment property" means machinery and equipment that are acquired by purchase by an eligible farmer on or after January 1, 2026, and buildings and structural components of buildings that are acquired, constructed, reconstructed or erected by an eligible farmer and placed in service on or after January 1, 2026, and (A) are situated in this state, (B) have a class life of more than four years, as described in Section 168(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, (C) are acquired by an eligible farmer from a person other than a related person, (D) are not acquired to be leased, and are not leased, to another person or persons during the twelve full months following their acquisition or placement in service, and (E) will be held and used in this state by the eligible farmer in the ordinary course of agricultural production for not less than five full years following the date of acquisition of such machinery and equipment or the date of placement in service of such buildings;

(5) "Related person" means (A) a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by the taxpayer, (B) an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, (C) a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, or (D) a member of the same controlled group as the taxpayer; and

(6) "Control" means (A) with respect to a corporation, ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty per cent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of such corporation entitled to vote, or (B) with respect to a trust, ownership, directly or indirectly, of fifty per cent or more of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of such trust. The ownership (i) of stock in a

corporation, (ii) of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or association, or (iii) of a beneficial interest in a trust shall be determined in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock provided in Section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, other than paragraph (3) of said section.

(b) A taxpayer, in determining income eligibility for purposes of this section, may use for any income or taxable year the average of the taxpayer's federal gross income from farming for such income or taxable year and the two consecutive income or taxable years immediately preceding.

(c) (1) There shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed under chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes, other than the liability imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes, of twenty per cent of the amount paid or incurred during an income or a taxable year for farm investment property by a taxpayer that is an eligible farmer.

(2) If the taxpayer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, the credit may be claimed by the taxpayer's shareholders or partners. If the taxpayer is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited liability company's owner, provided such owner is subject to the tax imposed under chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes.

(3) If the amount of the credit allowed pursuant to this section exceeds the taxpayer's liability for the tax imposed under chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall treat such excess as an overpayment and, except as provided in section 12-739 or 12-742 of the general statutes, shall refund the amount of such excess, without interest, to such taxpayer.

(4) No taxpayer claiming the credit under this section with respect to the acquisition of farm investment property may claim a credit against any tax under any other provision of the general statutes with respect to the same acquisition.

(d) If the farm investment property for which a taxpayer has claimed the credit allowed under this section is not held and used in this state in the ordinary course of agricultural production in this state for three full years following its acquisition, the taxpayer shall recapture one hundred per cent of the amount of the credit allowed under this section on its tax return required to be filed for the income or taxable year immediately succeeding the income or taxable year during which such three-year period expires. If the farm investment property for which a taxpayer has claimed the credit allowed under this section is not held and used in this state in the ordinary course of agricultural production in this state for five full years following its acquisition, the taxpayer shall recapture fifty per cent of the amount of the credit allowed under this section on its tax return required to be filed for the income or taxable year immediately succeeding the income or taxable year during which such five-year period expires. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply if the property that is the subject of the credit under this section is replaced, provided such replacement property shall not be eligible for the credit under this section. If any amount of credit required to be recaptured has not been paid to the commissioner on or before the first day of the fourth month next succeeding the end of the income year immediately succeeding the income year during which the three-year or five-year period, as the case may be, expires, such amount shall bear interest at the rate of one per cent per month or fraction thereof from such date to the date of payment.

Sec. 374. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025, and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*) (a) (1) There shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed under chapter 207, 208 or 229

of the general statutes, other than the liability imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes, for contributions made by an employer into a CHET account, as defined in section 3-22f of the general statutes of an employee of such employer, provided such employee is not an owner, member or partner of such employer or a family member of an owner, member or partner of such employer.

(2) The amount of the credit shall be equal to twenty-five per cent of the amount of the contributions made by the employer into the CHET accounts of employees of such employer for the income or taxable year, provided the amount of the credit allowed for any income or taxable year with respect to a specific employee shall not exceed five hundred dollars.

(b) If the employer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, the credit may be claimed by the shareholders or partners of the employer. If the employer is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited liability company's owner, provided such owner is a person subject to the tax imposed under chapter 207, 208 or 229 of the general statutes.

Sec. 375. Section 3-22f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

As used in sections 3-22f to 3-22p, inclusive:

(1) **[**"Depositor" means any person making a deposit, payment, contribution, gift or otherwise to the trust pursuant to a participation agreement**]** "Account owner" means the owner or any successor owner of a CHET account;

(2) "CHET account" means an account in the trust, established pursuant to a participation agreement, into which contributions are made for the purpose of meeting the qualified higher education

expenses of a designated beneficiary of such account;

[(2)**]** (3) "Designated beneficiary" **[**means (A) any individual (i) state resident originally designated in the participation agreement, (ii) subsequently designated who is a family member as defined in Section 2032A(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (iii) receiving a scholarship from interests in the trust purchased by a state or local government or an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and qualified under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, or (B) any other designated beneficiary qualifying under said Section 529 enrolled in the trust**]** has the same meaning as provided in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code;

[(3)**]** (4) "Eligible educational institution" **[**means an institution of higher education qualifying under**]** has the same meaning as provided in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code; **[**as an eligible educational institution;**]**

[(4)**]** (5) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time; **[**amended;**]**

[(5) "Participation agreements" means agreements between the trust and depositors for participation in a savings plan for a designated beneficiary**]**

(6) "Participation agreement" means the agreement between the trust and the account owner for participation in a CHET account for a designated beneficiary;

[(6)**]** (7) "Qualified higher education expenses" **[**means tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance of a designated beneficiary at an eligible educational institution, including undergraduate and graduate schools and any other higher education expenses that may be permitted by**]** has the same

meaning as provided in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code; and

[(7)**]** (8) "Trust" means the Connecticut Higher Education Trust.

Sec. 376. Section 3-22h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Treasurer, on behalf of the trust and for purposes of the trust, may:

(1) Receive and invest moneys in the trust in any instruments, obligations, securities or property in accordance with section 3-22i;

(2) Establish **[**consistent**]** terms for **[**each**]** the participation agreement **[**, bulk deposit, coupon or installment payments**]** and the administration of CHET accounts, including, but not limited to, (A) the method of payment into the trust by payroll deduction, transfer from bank accounts or otherwise, (B) the termination, withdrawal or transfer of payments under the trust, including transfers to or from a qualified tuition program established by another state pursuant to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, (C) penalties for distributions not used **[**or made in accordance with Section 529(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**]** for qualified higher education expenses, (D) changing of the identity of the designated beneficiary, and (E) any charges or fees in connection with the administration of the trust;

(3) Enter into one or more contractual agreements, including, but not limited to, contracts for legal, actuarial, accounting, custodial, advisory, management, administrative, advertising, marketing and consulting services for the trust and pay for such services from the gains and earnings of the trust;

(4) Procure insurance in connection with the trust's property, assets, activities, or deposits or contributions to the trust;

(5) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources to enable the trust to carry out its objectives;

(6) Adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 for purposes of sections 3-22f to 3-22p, inclusive;

(7) Sue and be sued;

(8) Establish one or more funds within the trust and maintain separate accounts for each designated beneficiary; and

(9) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 3-22f to 3-22p, inclusive, and incidental to the duties imposed on the Treasurer pursuant to said sections.

Sec. 377. Section 3-22i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Notwithstanding sections 3-13 to 3-13h, inclusive, the Treasurer shall invest the amounts on deposit in the trust in a manner reasonable and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the trust, 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 the trust, liquidity, the projected disbursements and expenditures, and the expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received. The Treasurer shall not require the trust to invest directly in obligations of the state or any political subdivision of the state or in any investment or other fund administered by the Treasurer.

(b) (1) The Treasurer may retain investment advisors to make such investments on behalf of the Treasurer and may delegate to such advisors the authority to act in place of the Treasurer in (A) the investment or reinvestment of all or parts of the amounts on deposit in the trust, and (B) the holding, purchasing, selling, assigning,

transferring or disposing of any or all of the securities and investments in which such amounts have been invested and the proceeds of such securities and investments. Any such investment advisor shall be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission unless such advisor is exempt from registration pursuant to federal law.

(2) Any investments made by an investment advisor pursuant to this subsection shall be made solely in the interest of account owners and designated beneficiaries and for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to designated beneficiaries for qualified higher education expenses and for defraying reasonable expenses of administering the trust and CHET accounts. The assets of the trust shall be continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent with the objectives of the trust until disbursed**[**, for qualified educational expenses,**]** expended on expenses incurred by the operations of the trust **[**,**]** or refunded to the **[**depositor**]** account owner or designated beneficiary **[**on**]** in accordance with the conditions provided in the participation agreement.

Sec. 378. Section 3-22k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

On or before December thirty-first, annually, the Treasurer shall submit a financial report, pursuant to section 3-37, to the Governor on the operations of the trust including the receipts, disbursements, assets, investments **[**,**]** and liabilities and administrative costs of the trust for the prior fiscal year. The Treasurer shall also submit such report to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 3-22e, and make the report available to each **[**depositor**]** account owner and designated beneficiary.

Sec. 379. Section 3-22m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The state pledges to **[**depositors**]** account owners, designated

beneficiaries and with any party who enters into contracts with the trust, pursuant to the provisions of sections 3-22f to 3-22p, inclusive, that the state will not limit or alter the rights under said sections vested in the trust or contract with the trust until such obligations are fully met and discharged and such contracts are fully performed on the part of the trust, provided nothing contained in this section shall preclude such limitation or alteration if adequate provision is made by law for the protection of such **[**depositors**]** account owners and designated beneficiaries pursuant to the obligations of the trust or parties who entered into such contracts with the trust. The trust, on behalf of the state, may include this pledge and undertaking for the state in participation agreements and such other obligations or contracts.

Sec. 380. Section 3-22o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Treasurer shall take any action necessary to ensure that the trust complies with all applicable requirements of federal and state laws, rules and regulations to the extent necessary for the trust to constitute a qualified **[**state**]** tuition program and be exempt from taxation under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Sec. 381. Section 3-22p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, **[**no**]** moneys invested in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust, **[**shall be considered to be an asset for purposes of determining an individual's eligibility for assistance under the temporary family assistance program, as described in section 17b-112, programs funded under the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant, and the federally appropriated weatherization assistance program, as described in section 16a-41i**]** contributions to a CHET account, distributions from a CHET account for qualified higher education expenses and any other

distributions that are not includable in federal gross income under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be disregarded for purposes of determining an individual's eligibility for assistance under any means-tested public assistance program administered by the state or any political subdivision thereof.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no moneys invested in said trust shall be considered to be an asset for purposes of determining an individual's eligibility for need-based, institutional aid grants offered to an individual at the public eligible educational institutions in the state.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, an account owner may transfer money from a CHET account via any rollover distribution that is not includable in federal gross income under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Sec. 382. Section 12-743 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Any taxpayer filing a return under this chapter may contribute any part of a refund under this chapter to (1) the organ transplant account established pursuant to section 17b-288, (2) the AIDS research education account established pursuant to section 19a-32a, (3) the endangered species, natural area preserves and watchable wildlife account established pursuant to section 22a-27*l*, (4) the breast cancer research and education account established pursuant to section 19a-32b, (5) the safety net services account established pursuant to section 17b-112f, (6) **[**an individual savings plan established**]** a CHET account under the Connecticut Higher Education Trust established pursuant to sections 3-22f to 3-22p, inclusive, or to the **[**CHET Baby Scholars fund established pursuant to section 3-22u**]** Connecticut Baby Bond Trust established pursuant to section 3-36b, or (7) the mental health community investment account established pursuant to section 17a-

451g. Such contribution shall be made by indicating on the tax return, in a manner provided for by the Commissioner of Revenue Services pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the amount to be contributed to the account.

(b) (1) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall revise the tax return form to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, which form shall include spaces on the return in which taxpayers may indicate their intention to make a contribution, in a whole dollar amount, in accordance with this section. The commissioner shall include in the instructions accompanying the tax return a description of the purposes for which the accounts and funds set forth in subsection (a) of this section were created.

(2) For purposes of facilitating the registration of a taxpayer as an organ donor, the commissioner shall include information in the instructions accompanying the tax return that (A) indicates the manner by which a taxpayer may contact an organ donor registry organization, or (B) provides electronic links to appropriate organ donor registry organizations for such purpose.

[(3) For purposes of facilitating the participation of a taxpayer in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust and the CHET Baby Scholars fund, the commissioner shall include spaces on the return, as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection as follows: (A) There shall be a space indicating a taxpayer's intention to contribute any part of a refund to someone known to the taxpayer who is a designated beneficiary, as defined in section 3-22f, including a space for the taxpayer to provide the name and Social Security number of such designated beneficiary; and (B) there shall be a space indicating a taxpayer's intention to contribute any part of a refund to the CHET Baby Scholars fund, including a description of such fund and a statement that such contribution shall not benefit a specific child. The commissioner shall include information in the instructions accompanying the tax return that

indicates the manner by which the taxpayer may contact the administrator of the Connecticut Higher Education Trust and the CHET Baby Scholars fund, or provides electronic links to such administrator for such purpose.**]**

(c) A designated contribution of all or part of any refund shall be irrevocable upon the filing of the return and shall be made in the full amount designated if the refund found due the taxpayer upon the initial processing of the return, and after any deductions required by this chapter, is greater than or equal to the designated contribution. If the refund due, as determined upon initial processing, and after any deductions required by this chapter, is less than the designated contribution, the contribution shall be made in the full amount of the refund. The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall subtract the amount of any contribution of all or part of any refund from the amount of the refund initially found due the taxpayer and shall certify the difference to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Treasurer for payment to the taxpayer in accordance with this chapter. For the purposes of any subsequent determination of the taxpayer's net tax payment, such contribution shall be considered a part of the refund paid to the taxpayer.

(d) Except for any funds collected for purposes of subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Revenue Services, after notification of and approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, may deduct and retain from the remaining funds so collected an amount equal to the costs of implementing this section and sections 17b-288, 19a-32a, 22a-27*l*, 19a-32b and 17b-112f but not to exceed seven and one-half per cent of the funds contributed in any fiscal year and in no event shall exceed the total cost of implementation of said sections.

Sec. 383. Section 3-22u of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 384. (NEW) (*Effective from passage and applicable to taxable and income years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1) "qualified agreement" means a written agreement with The University of Connecticut in accordance with the tax credit incentive program established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (2) "taxpayer" means any person, as defined in section 12-1 of the general statutes, whether or not subject to any taxes levied by this state, that has executed a qualified agreement.

(b) The University of Connecticut is authorized to establish and administer a tax credit incentive program for the purposes of encouraging the promotion and public recognition of the university and its programs, services or mission. The university shall adopt, update and implement such policies and procedures as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(c) (1) There shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed under chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 228z or 229 of the general statutes, other than the liability imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes, for payments made in accordance with the tax credit incentive program by a taxpayer for a taxable or an income year, as applicable, pursuant to a qualified agreement executed on or after July 1, 2025, or an earlier date on which the university adopts or updates its policies and procedures under subsection (b) of this section. The amount of the credit shall be fifty per cent of the payments made for a taxable or an income year, as applicable, and shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any taxpayer for any taxable or income year. The aggregate amount of the credits allowed under this section shall not exceed five million dollars in any calendar year.

(2) The credit allowed under this section shall not be subject to the limit set forth in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-217zz of the general statutes.

(d) (1) Any taxpayer that is subject to a tax imposed under a chapter set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section may apply to The University of Connecticut, in such form and manner as prescribed by the university, to reserve an allocation for a credit under this section. The application shall contain such information as the university deems necessary to administer the provisions of this section.

(2) If the university determines that such taxpayer has satisfied the requirements of this section, the university shall reserve for the benefit of the taxpayer, on a first-come first-served basis, an allocation for a credit equal to fifty per cent of the amount of any payments made or to be made for the applicable taxable or income year.

(e) (1) Each taxpayer shall request and obtain a voucher from The University of Connecticut to claim a credit on such taxpayer's state tax return. Such taxpayer shall provide any documentation the university requires to verify the amount of the payments made by the taxpayer pursuant to a qualified agreement. After such verification, the university shall issue a voucher to such taxpayer in an amount equal to fifty per cent of the payments made, subject to the limits set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section. The taxpayer shall file the voucher with the taxpayer's state tax return for the taxable or income year such payments were made and the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a credit in the amount specified in the voucher to such taxpayer against any tax due under a chapter set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section.

(2) If the taxpayer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, the credit may be claimed by the taxpayer's shareholders or partners. If such taxpayer is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited liability company's owner, provided such owner is subject to the tax imposed under a chapter set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of

this section.

(3) Any credit or portion thereof that is not used by the taxpayer for the taxable or income year such payments were made may be carried forward for the fifteen immediately succeeding taxable or income years, as applicable, until the full credit has been applied.

(f) (1) If a taxpayer requests a voucher for an amount that exceeds the amount of the credit allocation reserved pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, The University of Connecticut may issue a voucher in such requested amount only if credits remain available under the aggregate limit set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and the taxpayer provides documentation satisfactory to the university verifying that such requested amount has been paid by the taxpayer pursuant to a qualified agreement.

(2) If a taxpayer that did not reserve a credit allocation under subsection (d) of this section requests a voucher for a credit under this section, the university may issue a voucher to such taxpayer only if credits remain available under the aggregate limit set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and the taxpayer provides documentation satisfactory to the university verifying that such requested amount has been paid by the taxpayer pursuant to a qualified agreement.

(3) The university shall give priority to taxpayers requesting a voucher under subdivision (1) of this subsection over taxpayers requesting a voucher under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(g) (1) Not later than January 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, The University of Connecticut shall provide a list to the Commissioner of Revenue Services of the vouchers issued to taxpayers pursuant to subsection (e) of this section for the preceding calendar year and the amount of each voucher issued.

(2) Not later than March 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, the university 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 finance, revenue and bonding and institutions of higher education, summarizing, for the preceding calendar year, the number and amounts of the credits reserved, the number and amounts of the vouchers issued and any other information the university deems informative to said committees to monitor the tax credit incentive program.

Sec. 385. Section 12-217zz of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2025*):

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section and sections 12-217aaa, **[**and**]** 12-217bbb and section 384 of this act, the amount of tax credit or credits otherwise allowable against the tax imposed under this chapter shall be as follows:

(1) For any income year commencing on or after January 1, 2002, and prior to January 1, 2015, the amount of tax credit or credits otherwise allowable shall not exceed seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits;

(2) For any income year commencing on or after January 1, 2015, the amount of tax credit or credits otherwise allowable shall not exceed fifty and one one-hundredths per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits;

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, any taxpayer that possesses excess credits may utilize the excess credits as follows:

(A) For income years commencing on or after January 1, 2016, and prior to January 1, 2017, the aggregate amount of tax credits and excess credits allowable shall not exceed fifty-five per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits;

(B) For income years commencing on or after January 1, 2017, and prior to January 1, 2018, the aggregate amount of tax credits and excess credits allowable shall not exceed sixty per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits;

(C) For income years commencing on or after January 1, 2018, and prior to January 1, 2019, the aggregate amount of tax credits and excess credits allowable shall not exceed sixty-five per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits;

(D) For purposes of this subdivision, "excess credits" means any remaining credits available under section 12-217j, 12-217n or 32-9t after tax credits are utilized in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection;

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, the aggregate amount allowable of tax credits and any remaining credits available under section 12-217j or 12-217n after tax credits are utilized in accordance with said subdivision shall not exceed (A) for income years commencing on or after January 1, 2022, and prior to January 1, 2023, sixty per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits, and (B) for income years commencing on or after January 1, 2023, and prior to

January 1, 2024, seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, for income years commencing on or after January 1, 2024, the aggregate amount allowable of tax credits and any remaining credits available under section 12-217j or 12-217n or subparagraph (B) of subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 12-217x, after tax credits are utilized in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not exceed seventy per cent of the amount of tax due from such taxpayer under this chapter with respect to any such income year of the taxpayer prior to the application of such credit or credits.

(b) The amount of the rebate computed under section 32-7t shall be treated as a credit and may exceed the amount specified in subsection (a) of this section. If the amount of the rebate allowed pursuant to section 32-7t exceeds the taxpayer's liability for the tax imposed under this chapter, the commissioner shall treat such excess as an overpayment and shall refund the amount of such excess, without interest, to the taxpayer.

Sec. 386. Subsection (a) of section 4-30a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

(a) (1) **[**All**]** (A) For the fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2017, and ending on or before June 30, 2024, all revenue in excess of three billion one hundred fifty million dollars received by the state each fiscal year from estimated and final payments of the personal income tax imposed under chapter 229 and the affected business entity tax imposed under section 12-699 shall be transferred by the Treasurer to a special fund to be known as the Budget Reserve Fund. On and after July 1, 2018, the threshold amount shall be adjusted annually by the compound

annual growth rate of personal income in the state over the preceding five calendar years, using data reported by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis.

(B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the threshold amount prescribed by subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be four billion seventy-nine million three hundred thousand dollars.

(C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the threshold amount prescribed by subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be four billion seven hundred twenty-eight million six hundred thousand dollars. On and after July 1, 2026, the threshold amount shall be adjusted annually by the compound annual growth rate of personal income in the state over the preceding five calendar years, using data reported by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis.

(2) The General Assembly may amend the threshold amount **[**of three billion one hundred fifty million dollars**]** determined under subdivision (1) of this subsection, by vote of at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the General Assembly, due to changes in state or federal tax law or policy or significant adjustments to economic growth or tax collections.

Sec. 387. Section 12-7d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall **[**annually**]** biennially:

(1) Estimate the state tax gap and develop an overall strategy to promote compliance and discourage tax avoidance. Such estimate shall include an analysis of income distribution and population distribution expressed for (A) every ten percentage points, (B) the top five per cent of all income taxpayers, (C) the top one per cent of all income taxpayers, and (D) the top one-half of one per cent of all income taxpayers. As used

in this section, "tax gap" means the difference between taxes and fees owed under full compliance with all state tax laws and the state taxes and fees voluntarily paid, where such difference may be due to a failure to file taxes, underreporting of tax liability or not paying all taxes and fees owing;

(2) Evaluate the specific staffing needs of the Department of Revenue Services to implement such overall strategy and reduce the state tax gap and determine the progress made, if any, towards filling such staffing needs; and

(3) Conduct (A) a cost benefit analysis of each major tax compliance initiative undertaken by the department in the preceding fiscal year, including tax amnesty programs, and (B) an analysis of audit rates, by income level, undertaken by the department in the preceding fiscal year.

(b) On or before December 15, **[**2024**]** 2026, and **[**annually**]** biennially thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a 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 finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations. Such report shall be posted on the Department of Revenue Service's Internet web site and shall include (1) the tax gap estimate and analysis and the compliance strategy developed under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and any information supporting the amount of the tax gap estimate, (2) a summary of the evaluation and determination of the department's staffing needs under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, **[**and**]** (3) the findings of the analyses conducted under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, and (4) an update of the plan set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) On or before July 1, 2025, the commissioner shall **[**publish**]** post on the department's Internet web site a plan that includes the department's measurable goals for closing the tax gap, specific strategies to achieve

such goals and a timetable to measure progress towards closing the tax gap. **[**Such plan shall be posted on the department's Internet web site and updated annually.**]**

Sec. 388. Section 12-7c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall, on or before December 15, 2023, and biennially thereafter, submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, and post on the department's Internet web site a report on the overall incidence of the following:

(A) For the report due in the 2025 calendar year and quadrennially thereafter, the personal income tax, the affected business entity tax, sales and excise taxes, the corporation business tax, property tax and any other tax that generated at least one hundred million dollars in the most recent fiscal year prior to the submission of each report, for each of the most recent ten tax years for which complete data are available; and

(B) For the report due in the 2027 calendar year and quadrennially thereafter, the personal income tax, the affected business entity tax, sales and excise taxes and the corporation business tax, for each of the most recent ten tax years for which complete data are available.

[(1)**]** (2) The report shall include incidence projections for each such tax and shall present information on the distribution of the tax burden as follows:

(A) For individuals:

(i) Income classes, including income distribution and population distribution expressed for (I) every ten percentage points, (II) the top five per cent of all income taxpayers, (III) the top one per cent of all

income taxpayers, and (IV) the top one-half of one per cent of all income taxpayers;

(ii) For each income class, the percentage of taxpayers who (I) are homeowners, (II) are single, (III) are married, (IV) are seniors, or (V) have children;

(iii) Effective tax rates by population distribution expressed as state taxes compared to local taxes;

(iv) Effective tax rates by population distribution expressed as taxes imposed on businesses compared to taxes imposed on individuals; and

(v) Other appropriate taxpayer characteristics, as determined by said commissioner.

(B) For businesses:

(i) Business size as established by gross receipts;

(ii) Legal organization; and

(iii) Industry by NAICS code.

[(2)**]** (3) In addition to the information required under subdivision **[**(1)**]** (2) of this subsection, the report shall include the following in the years in which such tax is required to be included under subdivision (1) of this subsection:

(A) For the personal income tax, information on the distribution of the property tax credit under section 12-704c, the earned income tax credit under section 12-704e, the affected business entity tax credit under section 12-699 and any other modification against the personal income tax that resulted in a revenue loss to the state of at least twenty-five million dollars in the most recent fiscal year prior to the submission of each report. Each such distribution shall be expressed for (i) every ten

percentage points, (ii) the top five per cent of all income taxpayers, (iii) the top one per cent of all income taxpayers, and (iv) the top one-half per cent of all income taxpayers;

(B) For property tax, to the extent available, information on the distribution of residential and commercial property and for residential property, the distribution of homeowners and renters; and

(C) For any other tax other than the personal income tax or property tax that generated at least one hundred million dollars in the most recent fiscal year prior to the submission of each report, information on the distribution of any modification against such tax that resulted in a revenue loss to the state of at least twenty-five million dollars in the most recent fiscal year prior to the submission of each report. Each such distribution shall be expressed for (i) every ten percentage points, (ii) the top five per cent of all taxpayers paying such tax, (iii) the top one per cent of all taxpayers paying such tax, and (iv) the top one-half per cent of all taxpayers paying such tax.

(b) The Commissioner of Revenue Services may enter into a contract with any public or private entity for the purpose of preparing the report required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided, if the commissioner enters into such contract, the commissioner shall include in such report the resources that the commissioner deems necessary to allow the Department of Revenue Services to prepare such report in-house.

Sec. 389. Section 13b-68 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a fund to be known as the "Special Transportation Fund". The fund may contain any moneys required or permitted by law to be deposited in the fund and any moneys recovered by the state for overpayments, improper payments or duplicate

payments made by the state relating to any transportation infrastructure improvements **[**which**]** that have been financed by special tax obligation bonds issued pursuant to sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, and shall be held by the Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Investment earnings credited to the assets of said fund shall become part of the assets of said fund. Any balance remaining in said fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in said fund for the fiscal year next succeeding.

(b) The Special Transportation Fund shall be a perpetual fund, the resources of which shall be expended solely for transportation purposes. Such purposes include the payment of debt service on obligations of the state incurred for transportation purposes. All sources of moneys, funds and receipts of the state required to be credited, deposited or transferred to said fund by state law on or after June 30, 2015, shall continue to be credited, deposited or transferred to said fund, so long as the sources of such moneys, funds and receipts are collected or received by the state or any officer thereof. No law shall be enacted authorizing the resources of said fund to be expended other than for transportation purposes.

(c) There is established a fund to be known as the "Transportation Grants and Restricted Accounts Fund". Upon certification by the Comptroller and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management that the CORE-CT project for fiscal services is operational, the fund shall contain all transportation moneys that are restricted, not available for general use and previously accounted for in the Special Transportation Fund as "Federal and Other Grants". The Comptroller is authorized to make such transfers as are necessary to provide that, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, all transportation moneys that are restricted and not available for general use are in the Transportation Grants and Restricted Accounts Fund.

(d) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, after the accounts for the Special Transportation Fund have

been closed for each fiscal year and the Comptroller has determined the balance remaining in said fund, after any amounts required by provision of law to be transferred for other purposes have been deducted, if the balance remaining exceeds eighteen per cent of the net Special Transportation Fund appropriations for the current fiscal year, the portion of the balance exceeding said eighteen per cent shall be deemed to be appropriated for the following, as selected by the Treasurer:

(A) Redeeming prior to maturity any outstanding special tax obligation indebtedness of the state selected by the Treasurer in the best interests of the state;

(B) Purchasing outstanding special tax obligation indebtedness of the state in the open market at such prices and on such terms and conditions as the Treasurer determines to be in the best interests of the state for the purpose of extinguishing or defeasing such debt;

(C) Providing for the defeasance of any outstanding special tax obligation indebtedness of the state selected by the Treasurer in the best interests of the state by irrevocably placing with an escrow agent in trust an amount used solely for, and sufficient to satisfy, scheduled payments of both interest and principal on such indebtedness; or

(D) Any combination of these methods.

(2) For any method or combination of methods selected by the Treasurer pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A) such method or combination of methods shall provide a reduction in projected debt service for the current fiscal year and each of the nine subsequent fiscal years, and (B) for the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the balance was used in accordance with the provisions of this subsection and each of the seven subsequent fiscal years, the amount of the reduction in projected debt service shall not vary by more

than (i) one million dollars, or (ii) ten per cent of the least amount by which projected debt service is reduced for the seven subsequent fiscal years, whichever is greater.

(3) The Treasurer shall include in the annual report required under section 3-37 information concerning the use of a portion of the balance of the Special Transportation Fund pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 390. Section 3-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Treasurer shall, annually, on or before December thirty-first, submit a final audited report to the Governor and a copy of such report to the Investment Advisory Council, which shall include the following information concerning the activities of the office of the State Treasurer for the immediately preceding fiscal year ending June thirtieth:

(1) Complete financial statements and accompanying footnotes for the combined investment funds prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, which financial statements shall be audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and supplementary schedules depicting the interests of the component retirement plans and trust funds;

(2) **[**complete**]** Complete financial statements and accompanying footnotes for the Short Term Investment Fund prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and supplementary schedules listing all assets held by the Short Term Investment Fund;

(3) **[**a**]** A discussion and review of the performance of the combined investment funds and Short Term Investment Fund for such fiscal year in accordance with recognized and appropriate performance presentation and disclosure, including an analysis of the return earned by the portfolio and each combined investment fund as well as the risk profile of the portfolio and each combined investment fund according

to investment industry standards;

(4) **[**the**]** The activities and transactions in such reasonable detail as is appropriate of the cash management division including information on the state's cash receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year, and the debt management division;

(5) **[**financial**]** Financial statements and accompanying footnotes as well as a summary of operating results for the Second Injury Fund for such fiscal year;

(6) **[**a**]** A financial summary and report on the activities of the state's unclaimed property program for such fiscal year;

(7) **[**a**]** For a fiscal year in which the Treasurer used a portion of the remaining balance of the Special Transportation Fund in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of section 13b-68 a report on the amount used and the method or methods selected pursuant to said subsection and the amount of the reduction in projected debt service for the specified fiscal years and including a statement that such reduction does not vary by more than the allowable amount set forth in said subsection;

(8) A listing of the companies from which state funds were divested based upon such companies' business in Sudan, pursuant to the provisions of section 3-21e, and any companies identified by the Treasurer as companies from which investment of state funds has been declared impermissible by the Treasurer, pursuant to the provisions of section 3-21e; and **[**(8) such**]**

(9) Such other information as the Treasurer deems of interest to the public.

(b) Commencing October 1, 2010, and monthly thereafter, the Treasurer shall submit a report to the chairpersons and ranking

members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and to the legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis. Such report shall include the following information for the month two months prior to the month in which the report is submitted: (1) A weekly list of the cash balance, with amount and percentage of sources, such as the common cash pool, bond fund investments and Special Transportation Fund investments, with accompanying footnotes; (2) a year-to-date total, on an ongoing basis, of authorized but unissued bonds, including assumptions in bond issuance, and any changes from month to month in such assumptions; (3) any other debt instruments or commercial paper issued, the types and amounts, with accompanying footnotes; and (4) the amounts in the common cash fund, with all components, such as bank and different investment accounts, and the amounts thereof separately listed.

(c) The reports required pursuant to this section shall be made available to the public in hard copy and accessible electronically by means of the Internet or other media or systems available to the public.

Sec. 391. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Commencing July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall track and record the source of the revenue received by the state each fiscal year from the tax imposed under chapters 208, 219 and 229 of the general statutes, for the purpose of accurately and fairly attributing to each municipality revenue received from each such tax. The commissioner shall determine the sourcing method for the revenue from the tax imposed under said chapters, provided the revenue from the taxes imposed under chapters 208 and 219 of the general statutes is sourced to each municipality in which the taxpayer has an office or facility in the state and the revenue from the tax imposed under chapter 229 of the general statutes from earned income shall be sourced, to the extent possible, to the municipality in which the employer's office or facility is located, for the

employees who work primarily at such location. Taxpayers paying a tax specified in this subsection shall provide disaggregated information and such other data the commissioner requests to carry out the provisions of this section. On or before October 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall post on the Department of Revenue Services' Internet web site a list of all municipalities and the amount of revenue from each such tax attributed to the municipality for the applicable fiscal year.

Sec. 392. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 12-218h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(3) For the thirty-year period beginning with a combined group's first income year that begins in 2026, a combined group entitled to a deduction under this subsection shall deduct from combined group net income an amount equal to one-thirtieth of the amount necessary to offset the increase in the valuation allowance against net operating losses and tax credits in the state, as computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, that resulted from the enactment of sections 12-218e and 12-218f. Such increase in valuation allowance shall be computed based on the change in valuation allowance that was reported in the combined group's financial statements for the income year commencing on or after January 1, **[**2016**]** 2015, but prior to January 1, **[**2017**]** 2016.

Sec. 393. Section 12-81oo of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Any municipality may, upon approval by its legislative body or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, by vote of the board of selectmen, provide an exemption from property tax of not less than five per cent and not more than thirty-five per cent of the assessed value, for owner-occupied dwellings, including

condominiums, as defined in section 47-68a, and units in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202, that are the primary residences of such owners and consist of not more than two units. Such municipality may also require a term of residency for owners to be eligible for an exemption under this section or an assessed value maximum for dwellings to be eligible for an exemption under this section, or both.

Sec. 394. Subsection (b) of section 12-285 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) As used in this part and part II only of this chapter:

(1) "Cigarette" means **[**and includes any roll for smoking made wholly or in part of tobacco, irrespective of size or shape, and irrespective of whether the tobacco is flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient, where such roll has a wrapper or cover made of paper or any other material**]** any product that contains nicotine, is intended to be burned or heated under ordinary conditions of use and consists of or contains (A) any roll of tobacco wrapped in paper or in any substance not containing tobacco, (B) tobacco, in any form, that is functional in the product, which, because of its appearance, the type of tobacco used in the filler or its packaging and labeling, is likely to be offered to or purchased by consumers as a cigarette, or (C) any roll of tobacco wrapped in any substance containing tobacco which, because of its appearance, the type of tobacco used in the filler or its packaging and labeling, is likely to be offered to, or purchased by, consumers as a cigarette described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, except where such wrapper is wholly or in the greater part made of tobacco and such roll weighs over three pounds per thousand, provided, if any roll **[**for smoking**]** has a wrapper made of homogenized tobacco or natural leaf tobacco **[**,**]** and the roll is a cigarette size so that it weighs three pounds or less per thousand, such roll is a cigarette and subject to

the tax imposed by this part and part II of this chapter. "Cigarette" includes any roll, stick or capsule of tobacco, regardless of shape or size, that is intended to be heated under ordinary conditions of use; and

(2) "Unstamped cigarette" means any package of cigarettes to which the proper amount of Connecticut cigarette tax stamps have not been affixed.

Sec. 395. Section 21a-418 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Person" means any individual, firm, fiduciary, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust or association, however formed;

(2) "Electronic nicotine delivery system" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-415; and

(3) "Vapor product" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-415.

[(b) A person with an electronic nicotine delivery system certificate of dealer registration, when selling and shipping an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product directly to a consumer in the state, shall: (1) Ensure that the shipping labels on all containers of an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product shipped directly to a consumer in the state conspicuously states the following: "CONTAINS AN ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEM OR VAPOR PRODUCT—SIGNATURE OF A PERSON AGE 21 OR OLDER REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY"; and (2) obtain the signature of a person age twenty-one or older at the shipping address prior to delivery, after requiring the signer to demonstrate that he or she is age twenty-one or older by providing a valid motor vehicle operator's license or a valid

identity card described in section 1-1h.**]**

(b) No person engaged in the business of selling electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products shall ship or transport or cause to be shipped or transported any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to any person in this state except to: (1) A person holding a dealer registration or a manufacturer registration, as those terms are defined in section 21a-415; or (2) a person who is an officer, employee or agent of the United States Government, this state or a department, agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of the United States or of this state, when such person is acting in accordance with such person's official duties. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall publish on the Internet web site of the Department of Consumer Protection a list of every person that holds a dealer registration or a manufacturer registration.

(c) No common or contract carrier shall knowingly transport electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products to a residential dwelling or to any person in this state who the common or contract carrier reasonably believes is not a person described in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of this section. No person other than a common or contract carrier shall knowingly transport electronic cigarette products to any person in this state who is not a described person. For purposes of this subsection and subsection (d) of this section, "described person" means a person described in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

(d) When a person engaged in the business of selling electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products ships or transports or causes to be shipped or transported any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to a described person in this state, other than in the electronic nicotine delivery system's or vapor product's original container or wrapping, the container or wrapping shall be plainly and visibly marked with the following: "CONTAINS AN ELECTRONIC

NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEM OR VAPOR PRODUCT—SIGNATURE OF A PERSON AGE 21 OR OLDER REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY". Any person engaged in the business of selling electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products who ships or causes to be shipped any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to any described person in this state (1) shall require, as a condition of delivery, the customer who is receiving the electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to sign an acknowledgment of receipt and provide proper proof of age, and (2) may not sell such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to such customer unless such proof of age is provided.

(e) Whenever any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product has been or is being shipped or transported in violation of this section, such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product is declared to be contraband goods and shall be subject to confiscation, storage and destruction. The costs of such confiscation, storage and destruction shall be charged to the person who shipped or transported or caused to be shipped or transported such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product.

(f) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b), (c) or (d) of this section shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor and, for a second or subsequent violation, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(g) The Commissioner of Revenue Services may impose a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation of subsection (b), (c) or (d) of this section. For purposes of this subsection, each shipment or transport of an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product shall constitute a separate violation.

Sec. 396. Section 53-344b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Electronic nicotine delivery system" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-415;

(2) "Cardholder" means any person who presents a driver's license, a passport or an identity card to a seller or seller's agent or employee, to purchase or receive an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product from such seller or seller's agent or employee;

(3) "Identity card" means an identification card issued in accordance with the provisions of section 1-1h;

(4) "Transaction scan" means the process by which a seller or seller's agent or employee checks, by means of a transaction scan device, the validity of a driver's license, a passport or an identity card;

(5) "Transaction scan device" means any commercial device or combination of devices used at a point of sale that is capable of deciphering in an electronically readable format the information encoded on the magnetic strip or bar code of a driver's license, a passport or an identity card;

(6) "Sale" or "sell" means an act done intentionally by any person, whether done as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee, of transferring, or offering or attempting to transfer, for consideration, an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product, including bartering or exchanging, or offering to barter or exchange, an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product;

(7) "Give" or "giving" means an act done intentionally by any person, whether done as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee, of transferring, or offering or attempting to transfer, without consideration, an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product;

(8) "Deliver" or "delivering" means an act done intentionally by any person, whether as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee, of transferring, or offering or attempting to transfer, physical possession or control of an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product;

(9) "Vapor product" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-415; and

(10) "Seller" means any person who sells, gives or delivers an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product.

(b) Any person who sells, gives or delivers to any person under twenty-one years of age an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product in any form shall be fined not more than **[**three hundred dollars for the first offense, not more than seven hundred fifty dollars for a second offense on or before twenty-four months after the date of the first offense and not more than**]** one thousand dollars for each **[**subsequent**]** offense. **[**on or before twenty-four months after the date of the first offense.**]** The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a person under twenty-one years of age who is delivering or accepting delivery of an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product (1) in such person's capacity as an employee, or (2) as part of a scientific study being conducted by an organization for the purpose of medical research to further efforts in tobacco use prevention and cessation, provided such medical research has been approved by the organization's institutional review board, as defined in section 21a-408.

(c) Any person under twenty-one years of age who misrepresents such person's age to purchase an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product in any form shall be fined not more than fifty dollars for the first offense and not less than fifty dollars or more than one hundred dollars for each subsequent offense.

(d) (1) A seller or seller's agent or employee shall request that each

person intending to purchase an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product present a driver's license, a passport or an identity card to establish that such person is twenty-one years of age or older.

[(d) (1)**]** (2) A seller or seller's agent or employee may perform a transaction scan to check the validity of a driver's license, a passport or an identity card presented by a cardholder as a condition for selling, giving or otherwise delivering an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product to the cardholder.

[(2)**]** (3) If the information deciphered by the transaction scan performed under subdivision **[**(1)**]** (2) of this subsection fails to match the information printed on the driver's license, passport or identity card presented by the cardholder, or if the transaction scan indicates that the information so printed is false or fraudulent, neither the seller nor any seller's agent or employee shall sell, give or otherwise deliver any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to the cardholder.

[(3) Subdivision (1) of this subsection does not preclude a seller or seller's agent or employee from using a transaction scan device to check the validity of a document other than a driver's license or an identity card, if the document includes a bar code or magnetic strip that may be scanned by the device, as a condition for selling, giving or otherwise delivering an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product to the person presenting the document.**]**

(e) (1) No seller or seller's agent or employee shall electronically or mechanically record or maintain any information derived from a transaction scan, except the following: (A) The name and date of birth of the person listed on the driver's license, passport or identity card presented by a cardholder; and (B) the expiration date and identification number of the driver's license, passport or identity card presented by a cardholder.

(2) No seller or seller's agent or employee shall use a transaction scan device for a purpose other than the purposes specified in subsection (d) of this section, subsection (d) of section 53-344 or subsection (c) of section 30-86.

(3) No seller or seller's agent or employee shall sell or otherwise disseminate the information derived from a transaction scan to any third party, including, but not limited to, selling or otherwise disseminating that information for any marketing, advertising or promotional activities, but a seller or seller's agent or employee may release that information pursuant to a court order.

(4) Nothing in subsection (d) of this section or this subsection relieves a seller or seller's agent or employee of any responsibility to comply with any other applicable state or federal laws or rules governing selling, giving or otherwise delivering electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products.

(5) Any person who violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars.

(f) (1) In any prosecution of a seller or seller's agent or employee for a violation of subsection (b) of this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that all of the following occurred: (A) A cardholder attempting to purchase or receive an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product presented a driver's license, a passport or an identity card; (B) a transaction scan of the driver's license, passport or identity card that the cardholder presented indicated that the driver's license, passport or identity card was valid and indicated that the cardholder was at least twenty-one years of age; and (C) the electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product was sold, given or otherwise delivered to the cardholder in reasonable reliance upon the identification presented and the completed transaction scan.

(2) In determining whether a seller or seller's agent or employee has proven the affirmative defense provided by subdivision (1) of this section, the trier of fact in such prosecution shall consider that reasonable reliance upon the identification presented and the completed transaction scan may require a seller or seller's agent or employee to exercise reasonable diligence and that the use of a transaction scan device does not excuse a seller or seller's agent or employee from exercising such reasonable diligence to determine the following: (A) Whether a person to whom the seller or seller's agent or employee sells, gives or otherwise delivers an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product is twenty-one years of age or older; and (B) whether the description and picture appearing on the driver's license, passport or identity card presented by a cardholder is that of the cardholder.

(g) Each seller of electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products or such seller's agent or employee shall require a person who is purchasing or attempting to purchase an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product and appears to be under the age of thirty to exhibit proper proof of age. If a person fails to provide such proof of age, such seller or seller's agent or employee shall not sell an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product to the person. As used in this subsection, "proper proof" means a motor vehicle operator's license, a valid passport or an identity card issued in accordance with the provisions of section 1-1h.

(h) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may suspend or revoke, pursuant to chapter 420g, the dealer registration of a person who violates any provision of this section.

Sec. 397. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall develop a pilot program to facilitate the collection of any unpaid taxes and penalties and interest thereon that are due to the state and unpaid from any person to which a state agency, as defined in section

4d-1 of the general statutes, makes payment. Such program shall be designed to minimize administrative burdens on the Department of Revenue Services and other state agencies. The secretary and the commissioner shall present such pilot program before the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding not later than January 1, 2026.

Sec. 398. Subsection (k) of section 8-395 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(k) The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority **[**, with the approval of the Commissioner of Revenue Services,**]** shall adopt written procedures in accordance with section 1-121 to implement the provisions of this section. Such procedures shall include provisions for issuing tax credit vouchers for cash contributions to housing programs or projects based on a system of ranking housing programs. In establishing such ranking system, the authority shall consider the following: (1) The readiness of the project to be built; (2) use of the funds to build or rehabilitate a specific housing project or to capitalize a revolving loan fund providing low-cost loans for housing construction, repair or rehabilitation to benefit persons of very low, low and moderate income; (3) the extent the project will benefit families at or below twenty-five per cent of the area median income and families with incomes between twenty-five per cent and fifty per cent of the area median income, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; (4) evidence of the general administrative capability of the nonprofit corporation to build or rehabilitate housing; (5) evidence that any funds received by the nonprofit corporation for which a voucher was issued were used to accomplish the goals set forth in the application; and (6) with respect to any income year commencing on or after January 1, 1998: (A) Use of the funds to provide housing opportunities in urban areas and the impact of such funds on

neighborhood revitalization; and (B) the extent to which tax credit funds are leveraged by other funds.

Sec. 399. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 12-586f of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "tribe" means the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and "compact" means the Tribal-State Compact between the tribe and the state of Connecticut, as incorporated and amended in the Final Mashantucket Pequot Gaming Procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior pursuant to Section 2710(d)(7)(B)(vii) of Title 25 of the United States Code and published in 56 Federal Register 24996 (May 31, 1991), as amended from time to time, and includes any new compact entered into between the state and the tribe pursuant to section 12-851.

(b) The expenses of administering the provisions of the compact shall be financed as provided in this section. Assessments for regulatory costs incurred by any state agency **[**which**]** that are subject to reimbursement by the tribe in accordance with the provisions of the compact shall be made by the Commissioner of **[**Revenue Services**]** Consumer Protection in accordance with the provisions of the compact, including provisions respecting adjustment of excess assessments. Any underassessment for a prior fiscal year may be included in a subsequent assessment but shall be specified as such. Payments made by the tribe in accordance with the provisions of the compact shall be deposited in the General Fund and shall be credited to the appropriation for the state agency incurring such costs.

Sec. 400. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 12-586g of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "tribe" means the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut and "compact" means the Tribal-State Compact between the tribe and the state of Connecticut, dated May 17, 1994, as amended from time to time, and includes any new compact entered into between the state and the tribe pursuant to section 12-851.

(b) The expenses of administering the provisions of the compact shall be financed as provided in this section. Assessments for regulatory costs incurred by any state agency **[**which**]** that are subject to reimbursement by the tribe in accordance with the provisions of the compact shall be made by the Commissioner of **[**Revenue Services**]** Consumer Protection in accordance with the provisions of the compact, including provisions respecting adjustment of excess assessments. Any underassessment for a prior fiscal year may be included in a subsequent assessment but shall be specified as such. Payments made by the tribe in accordance with the provisions of the compact shall be deposited in the General Fund and shall be credited to the appropriation for the state agency incurring such costs.

Sec. 401. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-705 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, each payer, as defined in section 12-707, of distributions from a profit-sharing plan, a stock bonus, a deferred compensation plan, an individual retirement arrangement, an endowment or a life insurance contract, or of pension payments or annuity distributions, that maintains an office or transacts business within this state and makes payment of any amounts taxable under this chapter to a resident individual, shall, upon request by such individual, deduct and withhold an amount from the taxable portion of any such distribution. Such request and the determination of the amount to be withheld shall be made in accordance with regulations promulgated by the commissioner

for pension payments and annuity distributions.

(B) (i) For the period commencing July 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026, the withholding requirement for a lump sum payment under clause (ii) of this subparagraph shall not apply, except that if a payee has requested an amount to be withheld from such distribution, the payer shall withhold such amount.

[(B)**]** (ii) With respect to a lump sum distribution, if a payee does not make a request to have an amount withheld from such distribution, the payer shall withhold from the taxable portion of the distribution at the highest marginal rate, except that no withholding shall be required if **[**(i)**]** (I) any portion of the lump sum distribution was previously subject to tax, or **[**(ii)**]** (II) the lump sum distribution is a rollover that is effected as a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer or as a direct rollover in the form of a check made payable to another qualified account.

(iii) For purposes of this **[**subdivision**]** subparagraph, "lump sum distribution" means a payment from a payer to a resident payee of an amount exceeding fifty per cent of such resident payee's entire account balance or more than five thousand dollars, whichever is less, exclusive of any other tax withholding and any administrative charges and fees.

Sec. 402. Section 32-7z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) It is hereby declared that there exists concentrated poverty in the state that exacts a critical toll on poor and nonpoor residents of communities that house areas of concentrated poverty, which create lifelong and persistent disadvantages across generations by lowering the quality of educational and employment opportunities, limiting health care access and diminishing health outcomes, increasing exposure to crime, reducing available choices for affordable and properly maintained housing and imposing obstacles to wealth-

building and economic mobility. It is further declared that the development and implementation of the ten-year plan under this section to eradicate concentrated poverty in the state are necessary and for the public benefit, as a matter of legislative determination.

(b) There is established an Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement within the Department of Economic and Community Development. Said office shall carry out the provisions of this section, overseeing the implementation of the ten-year plan developed pursuant to this subsection, monitoring the state's progress in reducing concentrated poverty in the state and serving as the facilitator to coordinate communication between the various parties and disseminate information in a timely and efficient manner.

(c) (1) There is established a pilot program to implement the provisions of the ten-year plan developed pursuant to this section for participating concentrated poverty census tracts. Any concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts (A) that is located in any of the four municipalities with the greatest number of concentrated poverty census tracts, and (B) for which community members have established a community development corporation pursuant to the provisions of section 32-7s to assist the municipality in which such census tract or group of tracts is located in carrying out the municipality's responsibilities under this section and the ten-year plan developed for such census tract or group of tracts, shall be eligible to apply to participate in the program. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, any municipality in which a concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts is located and for which a community development corporation has been established as described under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, or any such community development corporation, may apply to participate in the program. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall issue a request for proposals for participation in the

pilot program and select the applicant with the highest score. As used in this section, "concentrated poverty census tract" means a census tract identified as a high poverty-low opportunity census tract, as of January 1, 2024, by the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 32-7x of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes.

(2) (A) (i) The Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement shall develop a plan for the pilot participating concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts, as applicable, to eradicate, over ten years, the levels of concentrated poverty in the service area of the community development corporation, evidenced by a reduction, to twenty per cent or lower, in the percentage of households who reside in such concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts and have incomes below the federal poverty level, as well as sustained improvements in community infrastructure and other underlying conditions that serve to prolong concentrated poverty and economic inertia in such census tract or group of tracts.

(ii) In developing such plan, said office shall consult with the Office of Community Economic Development Assistance established under section 32-7s, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Office of Workforce Strategy established under section 4-124w, the regional workforce development board, established under section 31-3k, serving the participating concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts, the Office of Early Childhood, the Department of Education, the Department of Housing, the Office of Policy and Management, the applicable community development corporations serving the participating concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts and the applicable municipal chief elected officials and any other public or private entity the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development deems relevant or necessary to achieving the purposes of this subsection.

(B) The ten-year plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (i)

measurable steps to be taken for its implementation, the target date by which each such step is to be completed and the state or municipal official or state or municipal agency, department or division responsible for each such step, (ii) minimum state-wide averages for educational metrics, including, but not limited to, kindergarten-readiness, grade level reading and mathematics and college-readiness or career-readiness, to be used as benchmarks for improvements in such concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts, as applicable, and (iii) the list of possible projects determined pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(C) On or before June 1, 2025, and again not later than September 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall inform the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, in writing, of the progress made to date in the development of the ten-year plan. Not later than January 1, 2026, said commissioner shall submit such plan to the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and the Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement shall immediately commence overseeing the implementation of such plan.

(3) The Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement shall, jointly with the chief elected official of each applicable municipality and the community development corporation established to assist such municipality, develop a list of possible projects that will be included in the ten-year plan for the participating concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts, as applicable, located in such municipality. Said office, official and corporation shall (A) determine the types of projects they deem to be the most appropriate and effective for such census tract or group of tracts to eradicate concentrated poverty within such census tract or group of tracts, including, but not limited to, capital projects, workforce development

programs, housing development, community and neighborhood improvements and education initiatives to assist and support residents in meeting and surpassing the educational metrics described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) take into account the criteria for projects eligible for grants under sections 32-7s, 32-7x and 32-285a.

(4) Not later than February 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit a report to the General Assembly, the Office of Workforce Strategy, the Office of Early Childhood and the Office of Policy and Management, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, that summarizes the progress being made by the Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement in implementing the ten-year plan, the status of any projects pending or undertaken for the participating concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts and any other information the commissioner or the Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement deems relevant or necessary.

(5) (A) Commencing with the calendar year 2027, not later than March first of said year and annually thereafter for the next two years, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding shall hold an informational forum for the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to present the contents of the submitted report and for other state officials, municipal officials, representatives of community development corporations serving participating concentrated poverty census tracts or groups of tracts and other interested parties to provide oral and written comments on the submitted report and the pilot program.

(B) Commencing with the calendar year 2030, said committee shall hold such informational forum every two years.

(d) On and after the date the ten-year plan is submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, each state agency shall give priority to projects included in such ten-year plan with respect to any grants or funding programs such agency awards or administers and for which such projects may be eligible.

(e) Not later than January 1, 2029, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit a recommendation to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding of (1) whether the pilot program should be expanded to all concentrated poverty census tracts or groups of tracts in the state for which a community development corporation has been established as described under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, and (2) any additional or alternative criteria to be considered for expansion of the pilot program to other economically disadvantaged census tracts that do not fall within the definition of a concentrated poverty census tract. If the commissioner recommends expansion under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner and the Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement shall immediately undertake such expansion.

(f) On and after July 1, 2027, if any state or municipal official responsible for carrying out a requirement or responsibility under the provisions of this section or a ten-year plan fails to do so in a timely manner, any community development corporation established as described under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section that was (1) selected pursuant to the request for proposals under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, (2) can demonstrate good faith efforts to effectuate the ten-year plan, and (3) is aggrieved by such failure may bring an action against such official in the superior court for the judicial district in which such census tract or

group of tracts is located for a writ of mandamus to compel such official to carry out such requirement or responsibility.

Sec. 403. Section 119 of public act 24-151 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 404. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an account to be known as the "bottle bill escheats enforcement and assistance account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of (1) providing funds to the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to enforce the prohibition on persons tendering beverage containers in violation of subsection (g) of section 22a-245 of the general statutes, and (2) providing grants to taxpayers that file a return pursuant to section 22a-245a of the general statutes with the Department of Revenue Services as reimbursement for financial losses resulting from the overredemption of such containers due to violations of subsection (g) of section 22a-245 of the general statutes.

(b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Treasurer shall transfer two million dollars from the General Fund to the bottle bill escheats enforcement and assistance account. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall disburse two hundred fifty thousand dollars of such amount to said division to be used for the purpose set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section. The remainder shall be used for reimbursement grants in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) Any taxpayer that has filed returns pursuant to section 22a-245a of the general statutes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, of which two consecutive calendar quarters show financial losses resulting from the overredemption of beverage containers, may apply to the secretary

for a reimbursement grant. The amount of a reimbursement grant payable to such taxpayer shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total amount of reimbursement grants requested exceeds the amount available in the bottle bill escheats enforcement and assistance account.

Sec. 405. Section 22a-245 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person shall establish a redemption center without registering with the commissioner on a form provided by the commissioner with such information as the commissioner deems necessary including (1) the name of the business principals of the redemption center and the address of the business; (2) the name and address of the sponsors and dealers to be served by the redemption center; (3) the types of beverage containers to be accepted; (4) the hours of operation; and (5) whether beverage containers will be accepted from consumers. The operator of the redemption center shall report any change in procedure to the commissioner within forty-eight hours of such change. Any person establishing a redemption center shall have the right to determine what kind, size and brand of beverage container shall be accepted. Any redemption center may be established to serve all persons or to serve certain specified dealers.

(b) A dealer shall not refuse to accept at such dealer's place of business, from any person any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the dealer, or refuse to pay to such person the refund value of a beverage container unless (1) such container contains materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container; (2) such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244; (3) such dealer sponsors, solely or with others, a redemption center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by such dealer at such place of business; or (4) there is

established by others, a redemption center which is located within a one-mile radius of such place of business and which accepts beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by such dealer at such place of business. A dealer shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand the sale of which has been discontinued by such dealer for not less than sixty days after the last sale by the dealer of such kind, size or brand of beverage container. Sixty days before such date, the dealer shall post, at the point of sale, notice of the last date on which the discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container shall be redeemed.

(c) A distributor shall not refuse to accept from a dealer or from an operator of a redemption center, located and operated exclusively within the territory of the distributor or whose operator certifies to the distributor that redeemed containers were from a dealer located within such territory, any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the distributor, or refuse to pay to such dealer or redemption center operator the refund value of a beverage container unless such container contains materials which are foreign to the normal contents of the container or unless such container is not labeled in accordance with subsection (b) of section 22a-244. A distributor shall remove any empty beverage container from the premises of a dealer serviced by the distributor or from the premises of a redemption center sponsored by dealers serviced by the distributor, provided such premises are located within the territory of the distributor. The distributor shall pay the refund value to dealers in accordance with the schedule for payment by the dealer to the distributor for full beverage containers and shall pay such refund value to operators of redemption centers not more than twenty days after receipt of the empty container. For the purposes of this subsection, a redemption center shall be considered to be sponsored by a dealer if (1) the dealer refuses to redeem beverage containers and refers consumers to the redemption center, or (2) there is an agreement between the dealer and the operator of the

redemption center requiring the redemption center to remove empty beverage containers from the premises of the dealer. A distributor shall redeem an empty container of a kind, size or brand of beverage container the sale of which has been discontinued by the distributor for not less than one hundred fifty days after the last delivery of such kind, size or brand of beverage container. Not less than one hundred twenty days before the last date such containers may be redeemed, the distributor shall notify such dealer who bought the discontinued kind, size or brand of beverage container that such distributor shall not redeem an empty beverage container of such kind, size or brand of beverage containers.

(d) In addition to the refund value of a beverage container, a distributor shall pay to any dealer or operator of a redemption center a handling fee of at least two and one-half cents for each container of beer, hard seltzer, hard cider or other malt beverage and three and one-half cents for each beverage container of mineral waters, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks or noncarbonated beverage returned for redemption. A distributor shall not be required to pay to a manufacturer the refund value of a nonrefillable beverage container.

(e) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of sections 22a-243 to 22a-245, inclusive. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for the redemption of beverage containers dispensed through automatic reverse vending machines, the use of vending machines that reimburse consumers for the redemption value of beverage containers, scheduling for redemption by dealers and distributors and for exemptions or modifications to the labeling requirement of section 22a-244.

(f) For the purposes of this section, "refund value" means the refund value established by subsection (a) of section 22a-244.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section, no person shall tender to a dealer, redemption center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator for the purpose of obtaining a refund value or handling fee for any empty beverage container that the person knows or has reason to know was not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container or that was previously redeemed through a dealer, redemption center, reverse vending machine, distributor or deposit initiator.

(h) Each dealer, redemption center or reverse vending machine operator shall post where empty containers are redeemed a conspicuous "Redemption Warning" sign using at least a one-inch font that states the following: "Returning empty beverage containers for refund that were not purchased in Connecticut or that were previously redeemed is illegal. Any person who returns empty beverage containers that the person knows or has reason to know were not originally sold in this state as filled beverage containers or that were previously redeemed shall be subject to fines and state enforcement action. Connecticut General Statutes section 22a-245.".

(i) (1) The Attorney General may, independently or upon complaint of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection or the Commissioner of Revenue Services, investigate the facts and circumstances concerning any alleged violation of a provision of this section. The Attorney General may issue subpoenas and written interrogatories in connection with such investigation, in the same manner and to the same extent as provided in section 35-42, provided no information obtained pursuant to the provisions of this subsection may be used in a criminal proceeding.

(2) If the Attorney General finds that a person has violated a provision of this section, the Attorney General may bring a civil action in the superior court for the judicial district in which such violation was committed.

Sec. 406. Subsection (a) of section 13b-50c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established an account to be known as the "Connecticut airport and aviation account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the Grants and Restricted Accounts Fund established pursuant to section 4-31c. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, with the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, for airport and aviation-related purposes, provided one million dollars in said account shall be expended each fiscal year by said executive director to be used by Tweed-New Haven Airport for noise mitigation purposes in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations.

Sec. 407. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "provider" means a telephone or telecommunications company providing local telephone service, provider of commercial mobile radio service, as defined in 47 CFR Section 20.3, as amended from time to time, and voice over Internet protocol service provider, as defined in section 28-30b of the general statutes.

(b) On and after January 1, 2026, each provider shall assess against each subscriber a fee in an amount equal to five cents per month per access line, unless the subscriber has opted out of such fee in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. Each fee assessed under this subsection shall be remitted to the office of the State Treasurer for deposit into the firefighters cancer relief account established pursuant to section 7-313h of the general statutes, not later than the fifteenth day of each month. No part of any fee assessed under this subsection shall be subject to a refund.

(c) Not later than sixty days before a provider first assesses the fee

described in subsection (b) of this section against a subscriber, the provider shall provide written notice to such subscriber disclosing (1) the amount and frequency of such fee, (2) that the subscriber may opt out of such fee prior to the first assessment of such fee or a subsequent assessment of such fee, (3) that such fee will be assessed against the subscriber if the subscriber does not opt out of such fee, (4) the process to opt out of the first assessment of such fee or a subsequent assessment of such fee, and (5) the date when such fee will be assessed against the subscriber if the subscriber does not opt out of such fee.

(d) The fee described in subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to any prepaid wireless telecommunications service, as defined in section 28-30b of the general statutes.

Sec. 408. Section 7-313p of the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of public act 25-4, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) For purposes of this section and section 7-313h:

(1) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-313g;

(2) "Compensation" has the same meaning as provided in section 31-275;

(3) "Municipal employer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-467;

(4) "Interior structural firefighter" means an individual who performs fire suppression, fire rescue, or both, either inside of buildings or in closed structures that are involved in a fire station beyond the incident stage;

(5) "State employer" means the state of Connecticut, including any agency or department of the state**,** **[**and**]** any board of trustees of a state-

owned or supported college or university and branches thereof, the Connecticut Airport Authority, the Tweed-New Haven Airport and any entity that contracts with the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority; and

(6) "Administrative law judge" has the same meaning as provided in section 31-275.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 568, a firefighter diagnosed with any condition of cancer affecting the skin, brain, skeletal system, digestive system, endocrine system, respiratory system, lymphatic system, reproductive system, urinary system or hematological system resulting in such firefighter's death or temporary or permanent total or partial disability, or such firefighter's dependents, as the case may be, shall receive (1) compensation and benefits from the account, established pursuant to section 7-313h, in the same amount and in the same manner that would be provided under chapter 568 if such death or disability was caused by an occupational disease which arose out of and in the course of such firefighter's employment and was suffered in the line of duty and within the scope of such firefighter's employment, and (2) (A) the same retirement or survivor benefits, from the municipal or state retirement system under which such firefighter is covered, or (B) the disability benefits available from the Connecticut State Firefighters Association pursuant to section 3-123, that would have been paid under such system if such death or disability was caused by an occupational disease which arose out of and in the course of such firefighter's employment and was suffered in the line of duty and within the scope of such firefighter's employment, provided such firefighter has:

(i) Submitted to a physical examination subsequent to such member's entry into service that failed to reveal any evidence of such cancer;

(ii) Has not used cigarettes, as defined in section 12-285, during the

fifteen-year period prior to such diagnosis;

(iii) Was employed for at least five years in any combination as (I) an interior structural firefighter **[**at a paid municipal, state or**]** by a municipal employer or state employer or by a volunteer fire department, or (II) a local fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector or such other class of inspectors or investigators for whom the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee, acting jointly, have adopted minimum standards of qualification pursuant to section 29-298; and

(iv) Has submitted to annual medical health screenings as recommended by such firefighter's medical provider.

(c) Any individual who is no longer actively serving as a firefighter but who otherwise would be eligible for compensation or benefits pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section may apply for such benefits or compensation not more than five years from the date such individual last served as a firefighter.

(d) To apply for compensation or benefits pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, a firefighter shall provide notice to the Workers' Compensation Commission and the municipal employer or state employer of such firefighter, in the same manner as workers' compensation claims under chapter 568.

(e) (1) The municipal employer or state employer that employs the firefighter applying for compensation and benefits shall administer claims submitted pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section in the same manner as workers' compensation claims under chapter 568. Such municipal employer or state employer shall (A) pay to the firefighter the compensation or benefits such firefighter is entitled to, and (B) submit, in a form and manner provided by the State Treasurer, an application for reimbursement from the firefighters cancer relief

account. Payments for reimbursement shall be processed not later than forty-five days after such application is received.

(2) Any costs associated with a firefighter's treatment of cancer that are not covered by such firefighter's personal or group health insurance shall be reimbursed, pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, **[**by**]** from the firefighters cancer relief account to the municipal employer or state employer who applied for reimbursement pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, provided such treatment complies with the provisions of section 31-294d.

(3) If the firefighters cancer relief account becomes insolvent, no municipal employer or state employer shall be obligated to continue providing compensation and benefits pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and subsection (c) of this section.

(f) A firefighter may request that a denial of compensation or benefits made pursuant to subsection (e) of this section be reconsidered, and an administrative law judge shall have the authority to adjudicate such claim in accordance with the provisions of section 31-278, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 25-4, in the same manner as workers' compensation claims under chapter 568.

(g) If a physical examination was required by an employer at the time of the firefighter's employment, as a condition for such employment, or required annually for means of continued employment, a firefighter shall not be required to show proof of such examination in the maintenance of a claim under subsection (b) or (c) of this section or under such municipal or state retirement system.

(h) Any benefits provided under subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be offset by any other benefits a firefighter or such firefighter's dependents may be entitled to receive from such firefighter's municipal employer or state employer under the provisions of chapter 568 or the

municipal or state retirement system under which they are covered as a result of any condition or impairment of health caused by occupational cancer resulting in such firefighter's death or permanent total or partial disability.

(i) The State Treasurer shall have the authority to audit reimbursements provided by the account pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

(j) No payment of compensation made under this section shall be used as evidence in support of any future claim under chapter 568.

(k) Except as provided in subsections (l) and (m) of this section, any firefighter that receives compensation under this section shall be prohibited from filing a claim under chapter 568 for a diagnosis of cancer.

(l) If the firefighters cancer relief account becomes insolvent, a firefighter that was receiving compensation under this section may file a claim under chapter 568, within one year of receiving notice from such firefighter's municipal employer or state employer of the firefighters cancer relief account becoming insolvent, for continuation of compensation.

(m) (1) Any surviving dependents of a firefighter who has died from cancer and was receiving compensation or benefits or has applied for compensation or benefits under this section may file a claim under chapter 568 within one year of such firefighter's death. Until such claim is approved, such survivor shall continue to receive benefits from the firefighters cancer relief account.

(2) If the surviving dependents of a firefighter who has died from cancer and was receiving compensation or benefits or has applied for compensation or benefits under this section do not file a claim under chapter 568 within one year of such firefighter's death, such survivors

may continue to receive benefits from the firefighters cancer relief account.

Sec. 409. Section 7-313h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) There is established an account to be known as the "firefighters cancer relief account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by (1) the cancer relief subcommittee of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, established pursuant to section 7-313i, for the purposes of providing wage replacement benefits to firefighters who are diagnosed with a condition of cancer described in section 7-313j, and (2) by the State Treasurer for purposes of providing reimbursement to **[**municipalities**]** municipal employers and state employers that provide compensation and benefits to firefighters diagnosed with a condition of cancer in accordance with section 7-313p.

(b) The State Treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited in the firefighters cancer relief account in a manner reasonable and appropriate to achieve the objectives of such account, exercising the discretion and care of a prudent person in similar circumstances with similar objectives. The State Treasurer shall give due consideration to rate of return, risk, term or maturity, diversification of the total portfolio within such account, liquidity, the projected disbursements and expenditures, and the expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received. The moneys in such account shall be continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent with the objectives of such account until disbursed in accordance with sections 3-123, 7-313i and 7-313p.

(c) The moneys in the firefighters cancer relief account shall be used solely for the purposes of (1) providing wage replacement benefits to

firefighters who are diagnosed with a condition of cancer described in section 7-313j, (2) providing reimbursement to **[**municipalities**]** municipal employers and state employers for payment of compensation and benefits as described in section 7-313p, and (3) to fund the expenses of administering the firefighters cancer relief program established pursuant to sections 7-313j and 7-313p.

Sec. 410. Section 7-313g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

For purposes of this section and sections 3-123, 7-313h to 7-313k inclusive, and 29-303, "firefighter" shall include any (1) local fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector and such other classes of inspectors and investigators for whom the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee, acting jointly, have adopted minimum standards of qualification pursuant to section 29-298; and (2) uniformed member of a paid municipal, state or volunteer fire department or of the Connecticut Airport Authority, the Tweed-New Haven Airport and any entity that contracts with the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority.

Sec. 411. Section 4-66aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

[(a)**]** There is established, within the General Fund, a separate, nonlapsing account to be known as the **[**"community investment account"**]** "Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account". The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The funds in the account shall be distributed every three months as follows: (1) **[**Ten**]** Twelve dollars of each fee credited to said account shall be deposited into the agriculture sustainability account established pursuant to section 4-66cc and, then, of the remaining funds, (2) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Economic and Community Development to use as follows: (A) **[**Three hundred eighty**]** Four

hundred seventy-five thousand dollars, annually, to supplement the technical assistance and preservation activities of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-93, and (B) the remainder to supplement historic preservation activities as provided in sections 10-409 to 10-415, inclusive; (3) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Housing to supplement new or existing affordable housing programs; (4) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for municipal open space grants; and (5) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Agriculture to use as follows: (A) **[**Five hundred**]** Six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars annually for the agricultural viability grant program established pursuant to section 22-26j; (B) **[**five hundred**]** six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars annually for the farm transition program established pursuant to section 22-26k; (C) one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars annually to encourage the sale of Connecticut-grown food to schools, restaurants, retailers and other institutions and businesses in the state; (D) **[**seventy-five**]** ninety-three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars annually for the Connecticut farm link program established pursuant to section 22-26*l*; (E) **[**forty-seven thousand five hundred**]** fifty-nine thousand three hundred seventy-five dollars annually for the Seafood Advisory Council established pursuant to section 22-455; (F) **[**forty-seven thousand five hundred**]** fifty-nine thousand three hundred seventy-five dollars annually for the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council established pursuant to section 22-26c; (G) **[**twenty-five**]** thirty-one thousand two hundred fifty dollars annually to the Connecticut Food Policy Council established pursuant to section 22-456; and (H) the remainder for farmland preservation programs pursuant to chapter 422. Each agency receiving funds under this section may use not more than ten per cent of such funds for administration of the programs for which the funds were provided.

[(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, fifty per cent of the moneys deposited in the community investment

account from January 1, 2016, until June 30, 2017, shall be credited every three months to the resources of the General Fund, provided the funds remaining in the account shall be distributed as provided in subsection (a) of this section.**]**

Sec. 412. Section 7-34a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Town clerks shall receive, for recording any document, ten dollars for the first page and five dollars for each subsequent page or fractional part thereof, a page being not more than eight and one-half by fourteen inches. Town clerks shall receive, for recording the information contained in a certificate of registration for the practice of any of the healing arts, five dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for recording documents conforming to, or substantially similar to, section 47-36c, which are clearly entitled "statutory form" in the heading of such documents, as follows: For the first page of a warranty deed, a quitclaim deed, a mortgage deed, or an assignment of mortgage, ten dollars; for each additional page of such documents, five dollars; and for each assignment of mortgage, subsequent to the first two assignments, two dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for recording any document with respect to which certain data must be submitted by each town clerk to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with section 10-261b, two dollars in addition to the regular recording fee. Any person who offers any written document for recording in the office of any town clerk, which document fails to have legibly typed, printed or stamped directly beneath the signatures the names of the persons who executed such document, the names of any witnesses thereto and the name of the officer before whom the same was acknowledged, shall pay one dollar in addition to the regular recording fee. Town clerks shall receive, for recording any deed, except a mortgage deed, conveying title to real estate, which deed does not contain the current mailing address of the grantee, five dollars in addition to the regular recording fee. Town

clerks shall receive, for filing any document, ten dollars; for receiving and keeping a survey or map, legally filed in the town clerk's office, ten dollars; and for indexing such survey or map, in accordance with section 7-32, ten dollars, except with respect to indexing any such survey or map pertaining to a subdivision of land as defined in section 8-18, in which event town clerks shall receive twenty dollars for each such indexing. Town clerks shall receive, for a copy, in any format, of any document either recorded or filed in their offices, one dollar for each page or fractional part thereof, as the case may be; for certifying any copy of the same, two dollars; for making a copy of any survey or map, the actual cost thereof; and for certifying such copy of a survey or map, two dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for recording the commission and oath of a notary public and for a trade name application, renewal, amendment, cancellation or other filing, twenty dollars; and for certifying under seal to the official character of a notary, five dollars.

(2) (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection and in accordance with subsection (h) of section 49-10, town clerks shall receive from a nominee of a mortgagee for the recording of any document, including, but not limited to, a warranty deed, a quitclaim deed, a mortgage deed, or an assignment of mortgage, except (i) an assignment of mortgage in which the nominee of a mortgagee appears as assignor, and (ii) a release of mortgage, as described in section 49-8, by a nominee of a mortgagee, as follows: For the first page of such warranty deed, quitclaim deed, mortgage deed, or assignment of mortgage, one hundred sixteen dollars; for each additional page of such deed or assignment, five dollars; and for each assignment of mortgage, subsequent to the first two assignments, two dollars.

(B) In accordance with subsection (h) of section 49-10, and in addition to any fees received pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for the recording of (i) an assignment of mortgage in which a nominee of a mortgagee appears as assignor, or (ii) a release of mortgage by the

nominee of a mortgagee, town clerks shall receive from a nominee of a mortgagee for the recording of such an assignment, as follows: For the entire such assignment of mortgage or release, one hundred **[**fifty-nine**]** sixty dollars. No other fees shall be collected from the nominee for such recording.

(C) For purposes of this subdivision, "nominee of a mortgagee" means any person who (i) serves as mortgagee in the land records for a mortgage loan registered on a national electronic database that tracks changes in mortgage servicing and beneficial ownership interests in residential mortgage loans on behalf of its members, and (ii) is a nominee or agent for the owner of the promissory note or the subsequent buyer, transferee or beneficial owner of such note.

(b) The fees set forth in subsection (a) of this section received by town clerks for recording documents include therein payment for the return of each document which shall be made by the town clerk to the designated addressee.

(c) Compensation for all services other than those enumerated in subsection (a) of this section which town clerks are required by the general statutes to perform and for which compensation is not fixed by statute shall be fixed and paid by the selectmen or other governing body of the town or city in which such services are performed.

(d) In addition to the fees for recording a document under subsection (a) of this section, town clerks shall receive a fee of ten dollars for each document recorded in the land records of the municipality. Not later than the fifteenth day of each month, town clerks shall remit two-fifths of the fees paid pursuant to this subsection during the previous calendar month to the State Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund and two-fifths of the fees paid pursuant to this subsection during the previous calendar month to the State Librarian for deposit in a bank account of the State Treasurer and crediting to the historic documents preservation

account established under section 11-8i. One-fifth of the amount paid for fees pursuant to this subsection shall be retained by town clerks and used for the preservation and management of historic documents. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any document recorded on the land records by an employee of the state or of a municipality in conjunction with the employee's official duties. As used in this section "municipality" includes each town, consolidated town and city, city, consolidated town and borough, borough, district, as defined in chapter 105 or chapter 105a, and each municipal board, commission and taxing district not previously mentioned.

(e) In addition to the fees for recording a document under subsection (a) of this section, town clerks shall receive a fee of **[**forty**]** fifty dollars for each document recorded in the land records of the municipality. The town clerk shall retain **[**one dollar**]** two dollars of any fee paid pursuant to this subsection and three dollars of such fee shall become part of the general revenue of the municipality and be used to pay for local capital improvement projects, as defined in section 7-536. Not later than the fifteenth day of each month, town clerks shall remit **[**thirty-six**]** forty-five dollars of the fees paid pursuant to this subsection during the previous calendar month to the State Treasurer. Upon deposit in the General Fund, such amount shall be credited to the Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account established pursuant to section 4-66aa. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any document recorded on the land records by an employee of the state or of a municipality in conjunction with such employee's official duties. As used in this subsection, "municipality" includes each town, consolidated town and city, city, consolidated town and borough, borough, and district, as defined in chapter 105 or 105a, any municipal corporation or department thereof created by a special act of the General Assembly, and each municipal board, commission and taxing district not previously mentioned.

(f) Any town clerk who receives a fee pursuant to this section may permit the payment of such fee on an Internet web site designated by the clerk, in a manner prescribed by the clerk.

Sec. 413. Subsection (h) of section 49-10 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions concerning remittance and retention of fees set forth in section 7-34a, the recording fees paid in accordance with subsections (a), (d) and (e) of **[**said**]** section 7-34a by a nominee of a mortgagee, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of **[**said**]** section 7-34a, shall be allocated as follows: (1) For fees collected upon a recording by a nominee of a mortgagee, except for the recording of (A) an assignment of mortgage in which the nominee of a mortgagee appears as assignor, and (B) a release of mortgage, as described in section 49-8, by a nominee of a mortgagee, the town clerk shall remit one hundred ten dollars of such fees to the state, such fees shall be deposited into the General Fund and, upon deposit in the General Fund, **[**thirty-six**]** forty-five dollars of such fees shall be credited to the Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account established pursuant to section 4-66aa; the town clerk shall retain **[**forty-nine**]** fifty dollars of such fees, thirty-nine dollars of which shall become part of the general revenue of such municipality and **[**ten**]** eleven dollars of which shall be deposited into the town clerk fund; and the town clerk shall retain any fees for additional pages beyond the first page in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of **[**said**]** section 7-34a; and (2) for the fee collected upon a recording of (A) an assignment of mortgage in which the nominee appears as assignor, or (B) a release of mortgage by a nominee of a mortgagee, the town clerk shall remit one hundred twenty-seven dollars of such fee to the state, such fee shall be deposited into the General Fund and, upon deposit in the General Fund, **[**thirty-six**]** forty-five dollars of such fee shall be credited to the Donald

E. Williams, Jr. community investment account, **[**and, until October 1, 2014, sixty dollars of such fee shall be credited to the State Banking Fund for purposes of funding the foreclosure mediation program established by section 49-31m;**]** and the town clerk shall retain **[**thirty-two**]** thirty-three dollars of such fee, which shall become part of the general revenue of such municipality.

Sec. 414. Section 22-38a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Commissioner of Agriculture shall establish and administer a program to promote the marketing of farm products grown and produced in Connecticut for the purpose of encouraging the development of agriculture in the state. The commissioner may, within available appropriations, provide a grant-in-aid to any person, firm, partnership or corporation engaged in the promotion and marketing of such farm products, provided the words "CONNECTICUT-GROWN" or "CT-Grown" are clearly incorporated in such promotional and marketing activities. The commissioner shall (1) provide for the design, plan and implementation of a multiyear, state-wide marketing and advertising campaign, including, but not limited to, television and radio advertisements, promoting the availability of, and advantages of purchasing, Connecticut-grown farm products, (2) establish and continuously update a web site connected with such advertising campaign that includes, but is not limited to, a comprehensive listing of Connecticut farmers' markets, pick-your-own farms, roadside and on-farm markets, farm wineries, garden centers and nurseries selling predominantly Connecticut-grown horticultural products and agri-tourism events and attractions, and (3) conduct efforts to promote interaction and business relationships between farmers and restaurants, grocery stores, institutional cafeterias and other potential institutional purchasers of Connecticut-grown farm products, including, but not limited to, (A) linking farmers and potential purchasers through a

separate feature of the web site established pursuant to this section, and (B) organizing state-wide or regional events promoting Connecticut-grown farm products, where farmers and potential institutional customers are invited to participate. The commissioner shall use his best efforts to solicit cooperation and participation from the farm, corporate, retail, wholesale and grocery communities in such advertising, Internet-related and event planning efforts, including, but not limited to, soliciting private sector matching funds. The commissioner shall use all of the funds provided to the Department of Agriculture pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (5) of **[**subsection (a) of**]** section 4-66aa for the purposes of this section. The commissioner shall report annually to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on issues with respect to efforts undertaken pursuant to the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to, the amount of private matching funds received and expended by the department. The commissioner may adopt, in accordance with chapter 54, such regulations as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. 415. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 20-12b of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The department may **[**, upon receipt of a fee of one hundred ninety dollars,**]** issue a physician assistant license to an applicant who: (1) Holds a baccalaureate or higher degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution of higher education; (2) has graduated from an accredited physician assistant program; (3) has passed the certification examination of the national commission; (4) has satisfied the mandatory continuing medical education requirements of the national commission for current certification by such commission and has passed any examination or continued competency assessment the passage of which may be required by the national commission for maintenance of current

certification by such commission; and (5) has completed not less than sixty hours of didactic instruction in pharmacology for physician assistant practice approved by the department.

(b) The department may **[**, upon receipt of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars,**]** issue a temporary permit to an applicant who (1) is a graduate of an accredited physician assistant program; (2) has completed not less than sixty hours of didactic instruction in pharmacology for physician assistant practice approved by the department; and (3) if applying for such permit on and after September 30, 1991, holds a baccalaureate or higher degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Such temporary permit shall authorize the holder to practice as a physician assistant only in those settings where the supervising physician is physically present on the premises and is immediately available to the physician assistant when needed, but shall not authorize the holder to prescribe or dispense drugs. Such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days after the date of graduation and shall not be renewable. Such permit shall become void and shall not be reissued in the event that the applicant fails to pass a certification examination scheduled by the national commission following the applicant's graduation from an accredited physician assistant program. Violation of the restrictions on practice set forth in this subsection may constitute a basis for denial of licensure as a physician assistant.

(c) No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license or a temporary permit under this section.

Sec. 416. Section 20-86c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The Department of Public Health may issue a license to practice nurse-midwifery **[**upon receipt of a fee of one hundred dollars,**]** to an applicant who (1) is eligible for registered nurse licensure in this state,

under **[**sections**]** section 20-93 or 20-94; (2) holds and maintains current certification from the American Midwifery Certification Board; and (3) has completed thirty hours of education in pharmacology for nurse-midwifery. No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license under this section. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

Sec. 417. Section 20-93 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person who shows to the satisfaction of the department that he or she holds a degree, diploma or certificate from an accredited institution evidencing satisfactory completion of a nursing program approved by said board with the consent of the Commissioner of Public Health shall be eligible for examination for licensure as a registered nurse**,** **[**upon payment of a fee of one hundred eighty dollars,**]** the subjects of which examination shall be determined by said department with the advice and consent of the board. No fee shall be required for such examination. If such applicant passes such examination said department shall issue to such applicant a license to practice nursing in this state.

Sec. 418. Section 20-94 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) **[**(1)**]** Any registered nurse who is licensed at the time of application in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United States, which has licensure requirements that are substantially similar to or higher than those of this state shall be eligible for licensure in this state and entitled to a license without examination. **[**upon payment of a fee of one hundred eighty dollars.**]** No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action

is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint. The department shall inform the board annually of the number of applications it receives for licenses under this section.

[(2) For the period from October 1, 2004, to one year after said date, any advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to section 20-94a whose license as a registered nurse pursuant to section 20-93 has become void pursuant to section 19a-88, shall be eligible for licensure and entitled to a license without examination upon receipt of a completed application form and payment of a fee of one hundred eighty dollars.**]**

(b) The Department of Public Health may issue a temporary permit to an applicant for licensure without examination or to an applicant previously licensed in Connecticut whose license has become void pursuant to section 19a-88, upon receipt of a completed application form, **[**accompanied by the fee for licensure without examination,**]** a copy of a current license from another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United States **[**,**]** and a notarized affidavit attesting that **[**said**]** <u>such</u> license is valid and belongs to the person requesting notarization. Such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days and shall not be renewable. No temporary permit shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

<u>(c) No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license or a temporary permit under this section.</u>

Sec. 419. Section 20-94a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Department of Public Health may issue an advanced practice

registered nurse license to a person seeking to perform the activities described in subsection (b) of section 20-87a, **[**upon receipt of a fee of two hundred dollars,**]** to an applicant who: (1) Maintains a license as a registered nurse in this state, as provided by section 20-93 or 20-94; (2) holds and maintains current certification as a nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist or a nurse anesthetist from one of the following national certifying bodies that certify nurses in advanced practice: The American Nurses' Association, the Nurses' Association of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Certification Corporation, the National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates or the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, their successors or other appropriate national certifying bodies approved by the Board of Examiners for Nursing; (3) has completed thirty hours of education in pharmacology for advanced nursing practice; and (4) (A) holds a graduate degree in nursing or in a related field recognized for certification as either a nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist, or a nurse anesthetist by one of the foregoing certifying bodies, or (B) (i) on or before December 31, 2004, completed an advanced nurse practitioner program that a national certifying body identified in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section recognized for certification of a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or nurse anesthetist, and (ii) at the time of application, holds a current license as an advanced practice registered nurse in another state that requires a master's degree in nursing or a related field for such licensure. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

(b) During the period commencing January 1, 1990, and ending January 1, 1992, the Department of Public Health may in its discretion allow a registered nurse, who has been practicing as an advanced practice registered nurse in a nurse practitioner role and who is unable to obtain certification as a nurse practitioner by one of the national

certifying bodies specified in subsection (a) of this section, to be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse provided the individual:

(1) Holds a current Connecticut license as a registered nurse pursuant to this chapter;

(2) Presents the department with documentation of the reasons one of such national certifying bodies will not certify him as a nurse practitioner;

(3) Has been in active practice as a nurse practitioner for at least five years in a facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-491;

(4) Provides the department with documentation of his preparation as a nurse practitioner;

(5) Provides the department with evidence of at least seventy-five contact hours, or its equivalent, of continuing education related to his nurse practitioner specialty in the preceding five calendar years;

(6) Has completed thirty hours of education in pharmacology for advanced nursing practice;

(7) Has his employer provide the department with a description of his practice setting, job description, and a plan for supervision by a licensed physician; and

(8) Notifies the department of each change of employment to a new setting where he will function as an advanced practice registered nurse and will be exercising prescriptive and dispensing privileges.

(c) Any person who obtains a license pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be eligible to renew such license annually provided he presents the department with evidence that he received at least fifteen contact hours, or its equivalent, eight hours of which shall be in pharmacology, of continuing education related to his nurse practitioner

specialty in the preceding licensure year. If an individual licensed pursuant to subsection (b) of this subsection becomes eligible at any time for certification as a nurse practitioner by one of the national certifying bodies specified in subsection (a) of this section, the individual shall apply for certification, and upon certification so notify the department, and apply to be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

(d) On and after October 1, 2023, a person, who is not eligible for licensure under subsection (a) of this section, may apply for licensure by endorsement as an advanced practice registered nurse. Such applicant shall **[**(1)**]** present evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner of Public Health that the applicant has acquired three years of experience as an advanced practice registered nurse, or as a person entitled to perform similar services under a different designation, in another state or jurisdiction that has requirements for practicing in such capacity that are substantially similar to, or higher than, those of this state and that there are no disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending against such person. **[**, and (2) pay a fee of two hundred dollars to the commissioner.**]**

(e) No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license or an endorsement under this section.

[(e)**]** (f) A person who has received a license pursuant to this section shall be known as an "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" and no other person shall assume such title or use the letters or figures which indicate that the person using the same is a licensed advanced practice registered nurse.

Sec. 420. Section 20-96 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Any person who holds a certificate from a nursing program

approved by said board with the consent of the Commissioner of Public Health, which program consists of not less than twelve months' instruction in the care of the sick as prescribed by said board, or its equivalent as determined by said board, shall be eligible for examination for licensure as a licensed practical nurse. **[**upon payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars.**]** Such examination shall include such subjects as the department, with the advice and consent of the board, determines. No fee shall be required for such examination. If such applicant passes such examination said department shall issue to such applicant a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state.

Sec. 421. Section 20-97 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person who is licensed at the time of application as a licensed practical nurse, or as a person entitled to perform similar services under a different designation, in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United States, **[**whose**]** which requirements for licensure in such capacity are equivalent to or higher than those of this state, shall be eligible for licensure in this state and entitled to a license without examination. **[**upon payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars.**]** If such other state, district, commonwealth or territory issues licenses based on completion of a practical nursing education program that is shorter in length than the minimum length for this state's practical nursing education programs or based on partial completion of a registered nursing education program, an applicant for licensure under this section may substitute licensed clinical work experience that: (1) Is performed under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse; (2) occurs following the completion of a nursing education program; and (3) when combined with the applicant's educational program, equals or exceeds the minimum program length for licensed practical nursing

education programs approved in this state. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint. The department shall inform the board annually of the number of applications it receives for licenses under this section.

(b) The Department of Public Health may issue a temporary permit to an applicant for licensure without examination or to an applicant previously licensed in Connecticut whose license has become void pursuant to section 19a-88, upon receipt of a completed application form, **[**accompanied by the appropriate fee for licensure without examination,**]** a copy of a current license from another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United States and a notarized affidavit attesting that the license is valid and belongs to the person requesting notarization. Such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days and shall not be renewable. No temporary permit shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

(c) No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license or a temporary permit under this section.

Sec. 422. Section 20-126i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each application for a license to practice dental hygiene shall be in writing and signed by the applicant and accompanied by satisfactory proof that such person has received a diploma or certificate of graduation from a dental hygiene program with a minimum of two academic years of curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education the program of which is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or such other national professional accrediting

body as may be recognized by the United States Department of Education. **[**, and a fee of one hundred fifty dollars.**]**

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, each application for a license to practice dental hygiene from an applicant who holds a diploma from a foreign dental school shall be in writing and signed by the applicant and accompanied by satisfactory proof that such person has (1) graduated from a dental school located outside the United States and received the degree of doctor of dental medicine or surgery, or its equivalent; (2) passed the written and practical examinations required in section 20-126j; and (3) enrolled in a dental hygiene program in this state that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor organization and successfully completed not less than one year of clinical training in a community health center affiliated with and under the supervision of such dental hygiene program.

(c) No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license under this section.

Sec. 423. Section 20-126k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The Department of Public Health may, without examination, issue a license to any dental hygienist who has provided evidence of professional education not less than that required in this state and who is licensed in some other state or territory, if such other state or territory has requirements of admission determined by the department to be similar to or higher than the requirements of this state, upon certification from the board of examiners or like board of the state or territory in which such dental hygienist was a practitioner certifying to his competency. **[**and upon payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars to said department.**]** No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license under this section. No license shall be issued under this section to any

applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

Sec. 424. Subsection (a) of section 20-206*ll* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The commissioner shall issue a license as a paramedic to any applicant who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant has met the requirements of section 20-206mm. The commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. **[**The application fee shall be one hundred fifty dollars.**]** The license may be renewed annually pursuant to section 19a-88. **[**for a fee of one hundred fifty-five dollars.**]** No fee shall be required for the application or the issuance or renewal of a license under this section.

Sec. 425. Subsection (a) of section 20-70 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Any person who is a graduate of a school of physical therapy approved by the Board of Examiners for Physical Therapists, with the consent of the Commissioner of Public Health, or has successfully completed requirements for graduation from such school, shall be eligible for examination for licensure as a physical therapist. **[**upon the payment of a fee of two hundred eighty-five dollars.**]** The Department of Public Health, with the consent of the board, shall determine the subject matter of such examination, which shall be designed to show proficiency in physical therapy and related subjects, and shall determine whether such examination shall be written, oral or practical, or a combination thereof. Passing scores shall be established by the department with the consent of the board. Warning of such examination shall be given by the department not less than two weeks in advance of the date set for the examination. If the applicant passes such

examination, the department shall issue to such applicant a license to practice physical therapy.

(2) Any person who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapy assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy shall be eligible for examination for licensure as a physical therapist assistant. **[**upon the payment of a fee of one hundred ninety dollars.**]** The department, with the consent of the board, shall determine the subject matter of such examination, which shall be designed to show proficiency in physical therapy and related subjects, and shall determine whether such examination shall be written, oral or practical, or a combination thereof. Passing scores shall be established by the department with the consent of the board. Warning of such examination shall be given by the department not less than two weeks in advance of the date set for the examination. If the applicant passes such examination, the department shall issue to such applicant a physical therapist assistant license. Any applicant for examination for licensure as a physical therapy assistant whose application is based on a diploma issued to such applicant by a foreign physical therapy school shall furnish documentary evidence, satisfactory to the department, that the requirements for graduation are similar to or higher than those required of graduates of approved United States schools of physical therapy.

(3) No fee shall be required for an examination under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection.

Sec. 426. Section 20-71 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Department of Public Health may issue a license to practice physical therapy without examination **[**, on payment of a fee of two hundred twenty-five dollars,**]** to an applicant who is a physical therapist registered or licensed under the laws of any other state or territory of

the United States, any province of Canada or any other country, if the requirements for registration or licensure of physical therapists in such state, territory, province or country are deemed by the department to be equivalent to, or higher than those prescribed in this chapter.

(b) The department may issue a physical therapist assistant license without examination **[**, on payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars,**]** to an applicant who is a physical therapist assistant registered or licensed under the laws of any other state or territory of the United States, any province of Canada or any other country, if the requirements for registration or licensure of physical therapist assistants in such state, territory, province or country are deemed by the department to be equivalent to, or higher than those prescribed in this chapter.

(c) No fee shall be required for the issuance of a license under this section.

[(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-70, prior to April 30, 2007, the commissioner may issue a physical therapist assistant license to any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having completed twenty years of employment as a physical therapist assistant prior to October 1, 1989, on payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-70, the commissioner may issue a physical therapist assistant license to any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having registered as a physical therapist assistant with the Department of Public Health on or before April 1, 2006, on payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-70, prior to July 1, 2015, the commissioner may issue a physical therapist assistant license to any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner

of having been eligible to register as a physical therapist assistant with the Department of Public Health on or before April 1, 2006, on payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars.**]**

Sec. 427. Section 20-74d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The department may issue a temporary permit to an applicant who is a graduate of an educational program in occupational therapy who meets the educational and field experience requirements of section 20-74b and has not yet taken the licensure examination. Such temporary permit shall authorize the holder to practice occupational therapy only under the direct supervision of a licensed occupational therapist and in a public, voluntary or proprietary facility. Such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days after the date of application and shall not be renewable. Such permit shall become void and shall not be reissued in the event that the applicant fails to pass such examination. **[**The fee for a limited permit shall be fifty dollars**]** No fee shall be required for the issuance of a temporary permit under this section.

Sec. 428. Subsection (a) of section 20-74f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) The department shall issue a license to any person who meets the requirements of this chapter. **[**upon payment of a license fee of two hundred dollars**]** No fee shall be required for the issuance of such license.

(2) Any person who is issued a license as an occupational therapist under the terms of this chapter may use the words "occupational therapist", "licensed occupational therapist", or "occupational therapist registered" or such person may use the letters "O.T.", "L.O.T.", or

"O.T.R." in connection with such person's name or place of business to denote such person's registration hereunder.

(3) Any person who is issued a license as an occupational therapy assistant under the terms of this chapter may use the words "occupational therapy assistant", or such person may use the letters "O.T.A.", "L.O.T.A.", or "C.O.T.A." in connection with such person's name or place of business to denote such person's registration thereunder.

(4) No person shall practice occupational therapy or hold himself or herself out as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant, or as being able to practice occupational therapy or to render occupational therapy services in this state unless such person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 429. Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education; (3) completed twenty-four months of relevant postgraduate experience, including (A) a minimum of one thousand hours of direct client contact offering marital and

family therapy services subsequent to being awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination prescribed by the department. **[**The fee shall be two hundred dollars for each initial application.**]**

(b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist associate shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such applicant has completed a graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education. **[**The fee shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars for each initial application.**]**

(c) The department may grant licensure without examination **[**, subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application,**]** to any applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, provided such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

(d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family therapist issued under this section may be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having

participated in continuing education programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (A) define basic requirements for continuing education programs, which shall include not less than one contact hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, (B) delineate qualifying programs, (C) establish a system of control and reporting, and (D) provide for waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

(2) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate (A) prior to July 1, 2023 shall expire on or before twenty-four months after the date on which such license was issued and, (B) on or after July 1, 2023 shall expire on or before twelve months after the date on which such license was issued. Such license may be renewed not more than two times if issued prior to July 1, 2023, and not more than three times if issued on or after July 1, 2023, for twelve months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having satisfied the continuing education requirements prescribed in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or certification that

are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in section 20-195a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section.

(f) No fee shall be required for an application for licensure under subsection (a) or (b) of this section.

[(f)**]** (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a person who is a graduate of a graduate degree program or a postgraduate clinical training program described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section may practice marital and family therapy for a period not greater than one hundred twenty calendar days after the date such person completed such program, provided such person works under the clinical supervision of a licensed marital family therapist.

Sec. 430. Section 20-195o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Application for licensure shall be on forms prescribed and furnished by the commissioner. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that he or she has met the requirements of section 20-195n. **[**The application fee for a clinical social worker license shall be two hundred dollars. The application fee for a master social worker license shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars.**]**

(b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-195n concerning examinations, on or before October 1, 2015, the commissioner may issue a license without examination, to any master social worker applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that, on or before October 1, 2013, he or she held a master's degree from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or, if educated outside the United States or its territories, completed an

educational program deemed equivalent by the council.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-195n concerning examinations, the commissioner shall waive the requirement to pass the masters level examination of the Association of Social Work Boards or any other examination prescribed by the commissioner, as described in subsection (b) of section 20-195n until January 1, 2026, at which time such requirement shall be reinstituted. Not later than July 1, 2025, the commissioner shall notify institutions of higher education offering social work programs about the reinstitution of the examination for all persons graduating after January 1, 2026.

(c) Each person licensed pursuant to this chapter may apply for renewal of such licensure in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 19a-88. A fee of two hundred dollars shall accompany each renewal application for a licensed clinical social worker and a fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars shall accompany each renewal application for a licensed master social worker. Each such applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having satisfied the continuing education requirements prescribed in section 20-195u.

(d) No fee shall be required for an application for licensure under subsection (a) of this section.

[(d)**]** (e) (1) An individual who has been convicted of any criminal offense may request, in writing, at any time, that the commissioner determine whether such individual's criminal conviction disqualifies the individual from obtaining a license issued or conferred by the commissioner 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 license, (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 commissioner 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 provided, such individual is disqualified from receiving or holding a license issued or conferred pursuant to this chapter.

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

Sec. 431. Section 20-195t of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The department may issue a temporary permit to an applicant for licensure as a master social worker who holds a master's degree from a social work educational program, as described in section 20-195n, but who has not yet taken the licensure examination prescribed in section 20-195n,. Such temporary permit shall authorize the holder to practice as a master social worker as provided for in section 20-195s. Prior to June 30, 2024, such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year after the date of issuance, shall not be renewable and shall not become void solely because the applicant fails to pass such examination. On and after July 1, 2024, such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days after the date of issuance, shall not be renewable and, if the applicant fails to pass such

examination, shall become void and shall not be reissued. **[**The fee for a temporary permit shall be fifty dollars**]** No fee shall be required for the issuance of a temporary permit under this section.

Sec. 432. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 20-195cc of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license (1) as a professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the requirements of section 20-195dd, and (2) as a professional counselor associate to any applicant who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the requirements of section 20-195dd. The commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. **[**The application fee for a professional counselor shall be two hundred dollars. The application fee for a professional counselor associate shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars.**]**

(b) Licenses issued to professional counselors and professional counselor associates under this section may be renewed annually pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred dollars for a professional counselor and one hundred twenty-five dollars for a professional counselor associate. Each licensed professional counselor and professional counselor associate applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having participated in continuing education programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing education programs that shall include (A) not less than one contact hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency, (B) on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years

thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, and (C) on and after January 1, 2018, not less than three contact hours of training or education each registration period on the topic of professional ethics, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for a waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

(c) No fee shall be required for an application for licensure under subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 433. Subsection (l) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(l) Upon application to the State Board of Education for the issuance of any certificate in accordance with this section and section 10-145d, there shall be paid to the board by or on behalf of the applicant **[**a nonreturnable fee of two hundred dollars in the case of an applicant for an initial educator certificate,**]** two hundred fifty dollars in the case of an applicant for a provisional educator certificate and three hundred seventy-five dollars in the case of an applicant for a professional educator certificate, except that applicants for certificates for teaching adult education programs mandated under subparagraph (A) of subsection (a) of section 10-69 shall pay a fee of one hundred dollars; persons eligible for a certificate or endorsement for which the fee is less than that applied for shall receive an appropriate refund; persons not eligible for any certificate shall receive a refund of the application fee minus fifty dollars; and persons holding standard or permanent certificates on July 1, 1989, who apply for professional certificates to replace the standard or permanent certificates, shall not be required to

pay such a fee. Upon application to the State Board of Education for the issuance of a subject area endorsement there shall be paid to the board by or on behalf of such applicant a nonreturnable fee of one hundred dollars. No fee shall be required for an application to the State Board of Education in the case of an initial educator certificate. With each request for a duplicate copy of any such certificate or endorsement there shall be paid to the board a nonreturnable fee of fifty dollars.

Sec. 434. Section 12-81 of the general statutes is amended by adding subdivision (84) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

(NEW) (84) Real property and tangible personal property located on reservation land held in trust for a federally recognized Indian tribe.

Sec. 435. (NEW) (*Effective June 30, 2025*) (a) The Capital Region Development Authority shall constitute a successor authority to the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, and (f) of section 4-38d and section 4-38e of the general statutes with respect to the ownership, functions, powers and duties of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority pertaining to the South Meadows site. As used in this section, "South Meadows site" means the properties located at 300 Maxim Road in Hartford and 100 Reserve Road in Hartford.

(b) On June 30, 2025, the South Meadows site and any tangible or intangible personal property associated therewith shall be transferred from the MIRA Dissolution Authority to the Capital Region Development Authority and the balance of the resources of the MIRA Dissolution Authority, after the transfer under section 436 of this act has been made, shall be transferred to the Capital Region Development Authority. The transferred funds shall be deposited in a separate bank account or accounts from all other funds of the Capital Region Development Authority and shall be used in such amounts and at such

times as determined by the Capital Region Development Authority for the purposes of maintaining, remediating, developing, redeveloping or taking any other action associated with the South Meadows site that is deemed necessary by the Capital Region Development Authority. The Capital Region Development Authority may hire individuals previously employed by the MIRA Dissolution Authority to carry out any activity the Capital Region Development Authority is authorized or required to undertake with respect to the South Meadows site.

(c) Any state tax revenue generated within the South Meadows site by any completed project under section 438 of this act shall be retained by the Capital Region Development Authority to be reinvested in said site.

(d) The Capital Region Development Authority may enter into one or more memoranda of understanding with any state agency to facilitate said authority's functions, powers and duties with respect to the South Meadows site.

(e) Commencing June 30, 2025, the South Meadows site and any personal property located thereon shall not be subject to the tax imposed by chapter 203 of the general statutes until the commencement of a development or redevelopment project under section 438 of this act.

Sec. 436. (*Effective June 30, 2025*) On June 30, 2025, five million dollars of the resources of the MIRA Dissolution Authority shall be transferred to and deposited in the account established pursuant to section 12 of public act 23-170.

Sec. 437. Section 12 of public act 23-170 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the sum of two million dollars shall be transferred from the resources of the MIRA Dissolution Authority and shall be deposited into a nonlapsing account

of the General Fund established by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Moneys in the account shall be allocated in such amounts and at such times as determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management **[**to fund activities related to the provisions of sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this act**]** for the purposes of operating, maintaining, remediating or taking any other action associated with the activities formerly conducted by or properties formerly owned by said authority, other than the activities associated with and the properties comprising the South Meadows site, as defined in section 435 of this act.

Sec. 438. (NEW) (*Effective June 30, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner that has jurisdiction over the specific subject matter and such commissioner's designee or, if more than one commissioner has jurisdiction, each commissioner that has jurisdiction over the specific subject matter and their designees;

(2) "Project" means the development, redevelopment, remediation or any other work performed by the Capital Region Development Authority at the South Meadows site; and

(3) "South Meadows site" has the same meaning as provided in section 435 of this act.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes other than section 22a-284c of the general statutes, any license, permit or approval required or permitted to be issued and any administrative action required or permitted to be taken, in connection with any work concerning a project under this section that is supervised by a state agency, as defined in section 1-79 of the general statutes, shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section, to the extent not inconsistent with the state's delegated authority under federal law. Any agreement or memorandum of understanding entered into by the

Capital Region Development Authority with a state agency or a political subdivision of the state for work to be performed for any part of a project under this section, including, but not limited to, licensing, permitting, receiving governmental approvals and the construction of sewer, water, steam or other utility connections, shall be in accordance with the provisions of this section, to the extent not inconsistent with the state's delegated authority under federal law or with any contract by which such agency or political subdivision is bound.

(c) For a project under this section:

(1) Each license, permit or approval required or permitted to be issued and each administrative action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to the general statutes shall be issued or taken upon application to the commissioner. Such commissioner or commissioners, as applicable, shall have sole jurisdiction over any licenses, permits, approvals or administrative action concerning such project.

(2) No notice of any tentative or final determination regarding any such license, permit, approval or administrative action shall be required except as expressly provided under this section. No ordinance or regulation adopted by, nor authority granted to, a municipality or other political subdivision of the state shall apply to a project under this section. No municipality shall impose, as a condition of the availability of state or federal funds under a program administered by such municipality, any requirement that such municipality would not have the authority to impose directly under the provisions of this section, except as otherwise required by federal law.

(3) All applications, supporting documentation and other records submitted to the commissioner that pertain to any license, permit, approval or administrative action, together with all records of proceedings related to such license, permit, approval or administrative action, shall be made available for public inspection in accordance with

the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes.

(d) (1) Each commissioner having jurisdiction over any license, permit, approval or administrative action for a project under this section shall adopt a master process to consider multiple licenses, permits, approvals and administrative actions for any such project, to the extent practicable. Except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, licenses, permits, approvals and administrative actions under this section shall be issued or taken not later than ten business days after the date of submission of any application to the commissioner for such license, permit, approval or administrative action. If such license, permit, approval or administrative action has not been issued or taken by the close of business on such tenth business day, such application shall be deemed approved unless such application has been denied or conditionally issued or a hearing held on such application prior to the close of business on such tenth business day. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to require that applications for licenses, permits, approvals or administrative action connected with all aspects of a project under this section be submitted or acted upon at the same time if not otherwise required by law.

(2) Any requirement for a permit or an inspection by the State Building Inspector or the State Fire Marshal shall be satisfied if the Capital Region Development Authority obtains a certification from an engineer or other appropriate professional duly certified or licensed in the state that such work, to the extent such work is subject to approval by the State Building Inspector or the State Fire Marshal, complies with state building codes or fire laws and regulations, as applicable.

(e) Any hearing regarding all or any part of a project under this section shall be conducted by the particular commissioner having jurisdiction over the applicable license, permit, approval or administrative action. The commissioner shall publish notice of such

hearing, not more than ten days and not less than five days in advance of such hearing, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city of Hartford.

(f) The commissioner shall, in rendering any decision in connection with a project under this section, weigh all competent material and substantial evidence presented by the applicant and the public in accordance with procedures specified by the commissioner. The commissioner shall issue written findings and determinations on which the decision is based. Such findings and determinations shall consist of the evidence presented, including such matters the commissioner deems appropriate and that are related to the nature of any major adverse health effect or environmental impact of the project, to the extent applicable to a particular license, permit, approval or administrative action. The commissioner may reverse or modify an order or action of the commissioner at any time, in the same manner as the original proceeding.

(g) (1) Any party aggrieved by any administrative action taken by a commissioner in connection with a project under this section may appeal to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183 of the general statutes. Such appeal shall be brought not later than ten days after the date of mailing to the parties to the proceeding of a notice of such action by certified mail, return receipt requested, and the appellant shall serve a copy of the appeal on each party listed in the final decision at the address shown in such decision. Failure to make such service within the period specified on parties other than the commissioner who rendered the final decision shall not deprive the court of jurisdiction over the appeal.

(2) Not later than ten days after the service of such appeal, or within such further time as may be allowed by the court, the commissioner who rendered such decision shall transcribe any portion of the record that

had not been transcribed and shall transmit the original or a certified copy of the entire record of the proceeding appealed from to the court. Such record shall include the commissioner's findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated. If more than one commissioner has jurisdiction over the matter, such commissioners shall issue joint findings of fact and conclusions of law. Such appeal shall state the reasons upon which it is predicated and, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, shall not stay the development of the project.

(3) The commissioner who rendered the final decision shall appear as the respondent. Appeals to the Superior Court shall each be a privileged matter and shall be heard as soon after the return date as practicable. A court shall render its decision not later than twenty-one days after the date the entire record, with the transcript, is filed with the court by the commissioner who rendered the decision.

(4) The court shall not substitute its judgment for that of the commissioner as to the weight of the evidence presented on a question of fact. The court shall affirm the decision of the commissioner unless the court finds that substantial rights of the party appealing the decision have been materially prejudiced because the findings, inferences, conclusions or decisions of the commissioner are (A) in violation of constitutional or statutory provisions, (B) in excess of the statutory authority of the commissioner, (C) made upon unlawful procedure, (D) affected by an error of law, (E) clearly erroneous in view of the reliable, probative and substantial evidence on the whole record, or (F) arbitrary, capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion.

(5) If the court finds material prejudice, it may sustain the appeal and, upon sustaining an appeal, may render a judgment that modifies the decision of the commissioner, orders particular action of the commissioner or orders the commissioner to take such action as may be necessary to effect a particular action and the commissioner may issue a

license, permit or approval or take an administrative action consistent with such judgment. An applicant may file an amended application and the commissioner may consider an amended application for a license, a permit, an approval or an administrative action following court action.

(h) (1) The Capital Region Development authority shall be considered the state agency responsible for preparing any required written evaluation of the impact of a project under this section on the environment in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 22a-1b of the general statutes and regulations adopted thereunder. Said authority shall hold a public hearing on the evaluation and shall publish notice of such hearing, not more than ten days and not less than five days in advance of such hearing, and of the availability of such evaluation, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city of Hartford. Any person may comment at the public hearing or in writing not later than the second day following the close of the public hearing. All public comments received by said authority shall be promptly forwarded to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and shall be made available for public inspection. Nothing in subsection (b) of section 22a-1b of the general statutes shall be deemed to require that such written evaluations be completed prior to (A) the awarding of contracts, (B) the incurrence of obligations or the expenditure of funds in connection with planning and engineering studies for site preparation, or (C) preliminary site preparation work not requiring licenses, permits or approvals not yet obtained.

(2) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall review the evaluation and the public comments submitted and shall make a written determination as to whether such evaluation satisfies the requirements of sections 22a-1a to 22a-1c, inclusive, of the general statutes. Such determination shall be made public and forwarded to the Capital Region Development Authority not later than ten days after the

date said authority forwarded the public comments pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. The secretary may require the revision of the evaluation if, after taking into account all public and state agency comments, the secretary finds that the evaluation does not satisfy the requirement of said sections.

(i) (1) In exercising jurisdiction over any licenses, permits or approvals required in connection with a project under this section, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall take into consideration all public comments submitted by the Capital Region Development Authority pursuant to subsection (h) of this section if and to the extent such public comments are available at such time. Said commissioner shall make written findings with respect to any such comments that are relevant to the issuance or denial of any such license, permit or approval. For any applications submitted under this section that require a public hearing, said commissioner shall adopt a master administrative process that shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes and shall provide for a single public hearing at which public comments on all pending applications shall be heard. Any such public hearing shall be limited to the consideration of issues or factors not included in the related environmental evaluation. The provisions of subsection (d) of this section regarding deadlines for licenses, permits, approvals or administrative action shall not apply to licenses, permits, approvals or administrative actions issued or taken by said commissioner.

(2) Said commissioner and said authority shall enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding a master administrative process for a project under this section. Such memorandum of understanding shall (A) identify the proposed use after the development, redevelopment or remediation associated with such project and the license, permit, approval or administrative action necessary for such project, with the goal of expediting the process of

issuing each such license, permit or approval or taking each such administrative action as soon as is reasonably practicable, and (B) provide (i) timelines for said commissioner to issue a notice of sufficiency concerning the completeness of any application, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection review, the holding of a public hearing and receiving of public comments and the issuance of a decision by said commissioner, or (ii) for applications for which a public hearing is not required, timelines for said commissioner to issue a decision or take administrative action.

(j) All municipal corporations, including the Metropolitan District of Hartford County, that exercise jurisdiction over the planning, environmental testing and assessment, permitting, engineering, site preparation and private and public infrastructure improvements related to a project under this section, shall cooperate with the Capital Region Development Authority in carrying out the provisions of this section, including expedited consideration for licenses, permits, approvals and administrative action.

(k) (1) The state shall hold harmless and indemnify the Capital Region Development Authority and any employee and any director of said authority from any liability, financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, if any, arising out of any claim, demand, order, penalty, lien, assessment, suit or judgment by reason of any title defects relating to, or any pollution, contamination, hazardous waste, hazardous substance or hazardous building material, including, but not limited to, asbestos, asbestos-containing materials, lead or lead-containing materials, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), mold, fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps, mercury, PCB ballasts, lead-acid battery electrolytes, fluorocarbons, equipment coolant, hydraulic fluids, radioactive materials, explosives, military ordinance, gasoline and petroleum products or any other environmental condition existing at, originating

or emanating from or relating to, the real property, facilities and other improvements at the South Meadows site, to the extent such title defect or environmental issues were in existence on June 30, 2025. The state shall not hold harmless nor indemnify said authority for any title defects or environmental issues, arising after the date of any lease, assignment, transfer, sale or other disposition concerning the South Meadows site, that are not related to or attributable to any preexisting title defects or environmental issues. Said authority shall use funds transferred pursuant to subsection (b) of section 435 of this act prior to seeking indemnification under this subsection.

(2) Said authority or any such employee or director may bring an action in the Superior Court against the state to enforce the provisions of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, "pollution", "contamination", "hazardous waste", "hazardous substance" and "environmental condition" have the same meanings as in applicable federal, state or local laws pertaining to public health or the environment and including, without limitation, title 22a of the general statutes and any regulations or guidance promulgated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1987, as each may be amended from time to time, and "hazardous building material" has the same meaning commonly ascribed to it in the environmental remediation context and in any regulations or guidance promulgated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the Department of Administrative Services.

Sec. 439. Section 22a-284c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the provisions of sections 22a-261, 22a-262, 22a-284a to 22a-284e, inclusive, **[**and**]** section 12 of public act 23-170 and sections 435 and 436 of this act shall not be construed to modify the liability of any person who: (1) Established a resources recovery facility, (2) created a condition or who is maintaining any such facility or condition that may reasonably be expected to create a source of pollution to the waters of the state, or (3) is the certifying party to the transfer of such a facility.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 22a-134a to 22a-134e, inclusive, 22a-134h and 22a-134i, any conveyance of real property or business operations authorized or required by the provisions of sections 22a-261, 22a-262, 22a-284a to 22a-284e, inclusive, **[**and**]** section 12 of public act 23-170 and sections 435 and 436 of this act from the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority to the MIRA Dissolution Authority, **[**or**]** from the MIRA Dissolution Authority to the Department of Administrative Services or from the MIRA Dissolution Authority to the Capital Region Development Authority, shall not constitute the transfer of an establishment for purposes of chapter 445.

(c) **[**(1)**]** Notwithstanding the requirements of section 22a-6o: **[**, upon**]**

(1) Upon transfer of ownership or oversight of a permitted facility owned or operated by the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority to the MIRA Dissolution Authority any permits or licenses held by the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority shall be deemed to be transferred to the MIRA Dissolution Authority and shall continue in full force and effect; **[**.**]**

(2) **[**Notwithstanding the requirements of section 22a-6o, upon**]** Upon transfer of ownership or oversight of a permitted facility **[**owner**]** owned or operated by the MIRA Dissolution Authority to the Department of Administrative Services, any permits or licenses held by the MIRA Dissolution Authority shall be deemed to be transferred to the

Department of Administrative Services and shall continue in full force and effect; and

(3) Upon transfer of ownership or oversight of a permitted facility owned or operated by the MIRA Dissolution Authority to the Capital Region Development Authority, any permits of licenses held by the MIRA Dissolution Authority shall be deemed to be transferred to the Capital Region Development Authority and shall continue in full force and effect.

Sec. 440. Section 22a-284e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

The Department of Administrative Services shall constitute a successor agency to the MIRA Dissolution Authority in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, and **[**subsection**]** (f) of section 4-38d and section 4-38e, except with respect to the ownership, functions, powers and duties of the MIRA Dissolution Authority that are assigned or transferred to the Capital Region Development Authority pursuant to section 435 of this act.

Sec. 441. Subsection (i) of section 22a-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 30, 2025*):

(i) The authority shall terminate on July 1, **[**2026**]** 2025. Upon the termination of the authority, all of such authority's rights and properties shall pass to and be vested in the state of Connecticut in accordance with the provisions of section 22a-284e.

Sec. 442. (NEW) (*Effective June 30, 2025*) There is hereby established a South Meadows development district as follows: The area bounded and described as follows: The intersection of the Hartford-Wethersfield town line and Wethersfield Avenue, proceeding northerly along Wethersfield Avenue to Wawarme Avenue, proceeding easterly along

Wawarme Avenue to Curcombe Street, proceeding on Curcombe Street to Hendricxson Avenue then northwest on Hendricxson Avenue to Masseek Street, proceeding northeasterly along Masseek Street to Van Block Avenue, proceeding along Van Block Avenue to Sequassen Street, proceeding on Sequassen Street to the Connecticut River then proceeding south along the Connecticut River to the Hartford-Wethersfield town line and proceeding westerly along the Hartford-Wethersfield town line to the intersection with Wethersfield Avenue.

Sec. 443. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Connecticut precious metals working group to monitor (1) economic conditions, (2) inflation expectations, (3) precious metals prices and activities, including the market activities of leading commodities exchanges and bullion market associations, and (4) precious metals legislation proposed in or enacted by other states.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members: (1) Members of the General Assembly, as designated by the chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to banking, finance, revenue and bonding and commerce; (2) the Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee; and (3) any individuals such chairpersons deem relevant and necessary to carry out the duties of the working group, including, but not limited to, economists, bankers and residents who are precious metals investors.

(c) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(d) Commencing in calendar year 2026, and annually thereafter, the working group shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to banking, finance, revenue and bonding and commerce, summarizing the

working group's findings from its monitoring activities and including any recommendations to improve the precious metals market in the state.

Sec. 444. Subdivision (45) of section 12-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027, and applicable to sales occurring on or after July 1, 2027*):

(45) Sales of and the storage or use of (A) rare or antique coins, (B) gold bullion or silver bullion, with a purity level of at least ninety per cent, (C) palladium bullion, (D) platinum, and (E) gold or silver legal tender of any nation, traded according to its value as precious metal. **[**, provided such exemption shall not be applicable with respect to any such sale, storage or use in which the total value of such bullion or legal tender sold by the retailer is less than one thousand dollars.**]**

Sec. 445. Sections 16-331bb and 16-331hh of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

Sec. 446. Section 12-195h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any municipality, by resolution of its legislative body, as defined in section 1-1, may assign, for consideration, any and all liens filed by the tax collector to secure unpaid taxes on real property as provided under the provisions of this chapter. The consideration received by the municipality shall be negotiated between the municipality and the assignee.

(b) The assignee or assignees of such liens shall have and possess the same powers and rights at law or in equity that such municipality and municipality's tax collector would have had if the lien had not been assigned with regard to the precedence and priority of such lien, the accrual of interest and the fees and expenses of collection and of preparing and recording the assignment, except that any such assignee

(1) shall be treated as a consumer collection agency, as defined in section 36a-800, (2) shall not charge the owner of the real property that is the subject of the assignment any post-charge-off charge or fee for cost of collection, as set forth in subdivision (11) of subsection (a) of section 36a-805, (3) shall not be insulated from liability for its conduct by virtue of the provisions of section 42-110c, and **[**(2)**]** (4) shall be obligated to provide a payoff statement, as defined in section 49-8a, in the same manner as a mortgagee in accordance with the requirements of section 49-10a. The assignee shall have the same rights to enforce such liens as any private party holding a lien on real property including, but not limited to, foreclosure and a suit on the debt.

(c) No such assignment executed on or after July 1, 2022, shall be valid or enforceable unless memorialized in a contract executed by the municipality and the assignee that is in writing and provides: (1) The manner in which the assignee will provide to the owner of the real property that is the subject of the assignment one or more addresses and telephone numbers that may be used for correspondence with the assignee about the debt and payment thereof; (2) the earliest and latest dates by which the assignee shall commence any foreclosure or suit on the debt or the manner for determining such dates, except as may be impacted by any payment arrangement, bankruptcy petition or other circumstance, provided in no event shall the assignee commence a foreclosure suit before one year has elapsed since the assignee's purchase of the lien; (3) the structure and rates of attorney's fees that the assignee may claim against the owner or owners of such real property in any foreclosure, suit on the debt or otherwise, and a prohibition from using as foreclosure counsel any attorney or law office that is owned by, employs or contracts with any person having an interest in such assignee; (4) confirmation that the owner of the real property for which the lien has been filed shall be a third-party beneficiary entitled to enforce the covenants and responsibilities of the assignee as contained in the contract; (5) a prohibition on the assignee assigning the lien

without the municipality's prior written consent; (6) the detail and frequency of reports provided to the municipality's tax collector regarding the status of the assigned liens; (7) confirmation that the assignee is not ineligible, pursuant to section 31-57b, to be assigned the lien because of occupational safety and health law violations; (8) disclosure of (A) all resolved and pending arbitrations and litigation matters in which the assignee or any of its principals have been involved within the last ten years, except foreclosure actions involving liens purchased from or assigned by governmental entities, (B) all criminal proceedings that the assignee or any of its principals has ever been the subject, (C) any interest in the subject property held by the assignee or any of its principals, officers or agents, and (D) each instance in which the assignee or any of its principals was found to have violated any state or local ethics law, regulation, ordinance, code, policy or standard, or to have committed any other offense arising out of the submission of proposals or bids or the performance of work on public contract; and (9) such additional terms to which the municipality and the assignee mutually agree, consistent with applicable law.

(d) The assignee, or any subsequent assignee, shall provide written notice of an assignment, not later than sixty days after the date of such assignment, to the owner and any holder of a mortgage, on the real property that is the subject of the assignment, provided such owner or holder is of record as of the date of such assignment. Such notice shall include information sufficient to identify (1) the property that is subject to the lien and in which the holder has an interest, (2) the name and addresses of the assignee, and (3) the amount of unpaid taxes, interest and fees being assigned relative to the subject property as of the date of the assignment<u>, which amount shall not include any post-charge-off charge or fee for cost of collection</u>.

(e) Not less than sixty days prior to commencing an action to foreclose a lien under this section, the assignee shall provide a written notice, by

first-class mail, to the holders of all first or second security interests on the property subject to the lien that were recorded before the date the assessment the lien sought to be enforced became delinquent. Such notice shall set forth: (1) The amount of unpaid debt owed to the assignee as of the date of the notice; (2) the amount of any attorney's fees and costs incurred by the assignee in the enforcement of the lien as of the date of the notice, which amount shall not include any post-charge-off charge or fee for cost of collection; (3) a statement of the assignee's intention to foreclose the lien if the amounts set forth pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection are not paid to the assignee on or before sixty days after the date the notice is provided; (4) the assignee's contact information, including, but not limited to, the assignee's name, mailing address, telephone number and electronic mail address, if any; and (5) instructions concerning the acceptable means of making a payment on the amounts owed to the assignee as set forth pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection. Any notice required under this subsection shall be effective upon the date such notice is provided.

(f) When providing the written notice required under subsection (e) of this section, the assignee may rely on the last recorded security interest of record in identifying the name and mailing address of the holder of such interest, unless the holder of such interest is the plaintiff in an action pending in Superior Court to enforce such interest, in which case the assignee shall provide the written notice to the attorney appearing on behalf of the plaintiff.

(g) Each aspect of a foreclosure, sale or other disposition under this section, including, but not limited to, the costs, attorney fees, method, advertising, time, date, place and terms, shall be commercially reasonable.

Sec. 447. Section 36a-800 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

As used in this section and sections 36a-801 to 36a-814, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Advertise" or "advertising" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-485;

(2) "Branch office" means a location other than the main office at which a licensee or any person on behalf of a licensee acts as a consumer collection agency;

(3) "Consumer collection agency" means any person (A) engaged as a third party in the business of collecting or receiving payment for others on any account, bill or other indebtedness from a consumer debtor, (B) engaged in the business of debt buying, including, but not limited to, buying property tax debt in accordance with section 12-195h, or (C) engaged in the business of collecting or receiving tax payments, including, but not limited to, property tax and federal income tax payments, from a property tax debtor or federal income tax debtor on behalf of a municipality or the United States Department of the Treasury, including, but not limited to, any person who, by any device, subterfuge or pretense, makes a pretended purchase or takes a pretended assignment of accounts from any other person, municipality or taxing authority of such indebtedness for the purpose of evading the provisions of this section and sections 36a-801 to 36a-814, inclusive. "Consumer collection agency" includes persons who furnish collection systems carrying a name which simulates the name of a consumer collection agency and who supply forms or form letters to be used by the creditor, even though such forms direct the consumer debtor, property tax debtor or federal income tax debtor to make payments directly to the creditor rather than to such fictitious agency. "Consumer collection agency" further includes any person who, in attempting to collect or in collecting such person's own accounts or claims from a consumer debtor, uses a fictitious name or any name other than such person's own name which would indicate to the consumer debtor that a

third person is collecting or attempting to collect such account or claim. "Consumer collection agency" does not include (i) an individual employed on the staff of a licensed consumer collection agency, or by a creditor who is exempt from licensing, when attempting to collect on behalf of such consumer collection agency, (ii) persons not primarily engaged in the collection of debts from consumer debtors who receive funds in escrow for subsequent distribution to others, including, but not limited to, real estate brokers and lenders holding funds of borrowers for payment of taxes or insurance, (iii) any public officer or a person acting under the order of any court, (iv) any member of the bar of this state, (v) a person who services loans or accounts for the owners thereof when the arrangement includes, in addition to requesting payment from delinquent consumer debtors, the providing of other services such as receipt of payment, accounting, record-keeping, data processing services and remitting, for loans or accounts which are current as well as those which are delinquent, (vi) a bank or out-of-state bank, as defined in section 36a-2, and (vii) a subsidiary or affiliate of a bank or out-of-state bank, provided such affiliate or subsidiary is not primarily engaged in the business of purchasing and collecting upon delinquent debt, other than delinquent debt secured by real property. Any person not included in the definition contained in this subdivision is, for purposes of sections 36a-645 to 36a-647, inclusive, a "creditor", as defined in section 36a-645;

(4) "Consumer debtor" means any natural person, not an organization, who has incurred indebtedness or owes a debt for personal, family or household purposes, including current or past due child support, who has incurred indebtedness or owes a debt to a municipality due to a levy by such municipality of a property tax or who has incurred indebtedness or owes a debt to the United States Department of the Treasury under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time;

(5) "Control person" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-485;

(6) "Creditor" means a person, including, but not limited to, a municipality or the United States Department of the Treasury, that retains, hires, or engages the services of a consumer collection agency;

(7) "Debt buying" means collecting or receiving payment on any account, bill or other indebtedness, including, but not limited to, property tax debt, from a consumer debtor for such person's own account if the indebtedness was acquired from another person, including, but not limited to, a municipality, and if the indebtedness was either delinquent or in default at the time it was acquired;

(8) "Federal income tax" means all federal taxes levied on the income of a natural person or organization by the United States Department of the Treasury under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time;

(9) "Federal income tax debtor" means any natural person or organization who owes a debt to the United States Department of the Treasury;

(10) "Main office" means the main address designated on the system;

(11) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated town and city, consolidated town and borough, district as defined in section 7-324 or municipal special services district established under chapter 105a;

(12) "Organization" means a corporation, partnership, association, trust or any other legal entity or an individual operating under a trade name or a name having appended to it a commercial, occupational or professional designation;

(13) "Property tax" has the meaning given to the term in section 7-560;

(14) "Property tax debtor" means any natural person or organization who has incurred indebtedness or owes a debt to a municipality due to a levy by such municipality of a property tax; and

(15) "Unique identifier" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-485.

Sec. 448. Section 36a-805 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) No consumer collection agency or control person shall: (1) Furnish legal advice or perform legal services or represent that it is competent to do so, or institute judicial proceedings on behalf of others; (2) communicate with consumer debtors, property tax debtors or federal income tax debtors in the name of an attorney or upon the stationery of an attorney, or prepare any forms or instruments which only attorneys are authorized to prepare; (3) **[**receive assignments as a third party of claims for the purpose of collection or institute suit thereon in any court; (4)**]** assume authority on behalf of a creditor to employ or terminate the services of an attorney unless such creditor has authorized such agency in writing to act as such creditor's agent in the selection of an attorney to collect the creditor's accounts; **[**(5)**]** (4) demand or obtain in any manner a share of the proper compensation for services performed by an attorney in collecting a claim, whether or not such agency has previously attempted collection thereof; **[**(6)**]** (5) solicit claims for collection under an ambiguous or deceptive contract; **[**(7)**]** (6) refuse to return any claim or claims upon written request of the creditor, claimant or forwarder, which claims are not in the process of collection after the tender of such amounts, if any, as may be due and owing to the agency; **[**(8)**]** (7) advertise or threaten to advertise for sale any claim as a means of forcing payment thereof, unless such agency is acting as the assignee for the benefit of creditors; **[**(9)**]** (8) refuse or fail to account for and remit

to its clients all money collected which is not in dispute within sixty days from the last day of the month in which said money is collected; **[**(10)**]** (9) refuse or intentionally fail to return to the creditor all valuable papers deposited with a claim when such claim is returned; **[**(11)**]** (10) refuse or fail to furnish at intervals of not less than ninety days, upon the written request of the creditor, claimant or forwarder, a written report upon claims received from such creditor, claimant or forwarder; **[**(12)**]** (11) add any post-charge-off charge or fee for cost of collection, unless such cost is a court cost, to the amount of any claim which it receives for collection, including, but not limited to, a claim received pursuant to an assignment for the collection of property tax, or knowingly accept for collection any claim to which any such charge or fee has already been added to the amount of the claim unless (A) the consumer debtor is legally liable for such charge or fee as determined by **[**the**]** a contract or other evidence of an agreement between the consumer debtor and creditor, a copy of which shall be obtained by or available to the consumer collection agency from the creditor and maintained as part of the records of the consumer collection agency or the creditor, or both, and (B) the total charge or fee for cost of collection does not exceed fifteen per cent of the total amount actually collected and accepted as payment in full satisfaction of the debt. **[**; (13)**]** As used in this subdivision, "post-charge-off charge or fee for cost of collection" does not include costs or attorney's fees to the extent allowed under section 52-249; (12) use or attempt to use or make reference to the term "bonded by the state of Connecticut", "bonded" or "bonded collection agency" or any combination of such terms or words, except the word "bonded" may be used on the stationery of any such agency in type not larger than twelve-point; **[**(14)**]** (13) when the debt is beyond the statute of limitations, fail to provide the following disclosure in type not less than ten-point informing the consumer debtor in its initial communication with such consumer debtor that (A) when collecting on debt that is not past the date for obsolescence provided for in Section 605(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 USC 1681c: "The law limits how long you can

be sued on a debt. Because of the age of your debt, (INSERT OWNER NAME) will not sue you for it. If you do not pay the debt, (INSERT OWNER NAME) may report or continue to report it to the credit reporting agencies as unpaid"; and (B) when collecting on debt that is past the date for obsolescence provided for in Section 605(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 USC 1681c: "The law limits how long you can be sued on a debt. Because of the age of your debt, (INSERT OWNER NAME) will not sue you for it and (INSERT OWNER NAME) will not report it to any credit reporting agencies."; **[**(15)**]** (14) engage in any activities prohibited by sections 36a-800 to 36a-814, inclusive; or **[**(16)**]** (15) fail to establish, enforce and maintain policies and procedures for supervising employees, agents and office operations that are reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable consumer collection laws and regulations.

(b) No consumer collection agency shall impose a charge or fee for any child support payments collected through the efforts of a governmental agency. If the imposition of a charge or fee is permitted under section 36a-801b, no consumer collection agency shall impose a charge or fee for the collection of any child support overdue at the time of the contract in excess of twenty-five per cent of overdue support actually collected.

(c) (1) No consumer collection agency shall receive any property tax on behalf of a creditor that is a municipality, unless the consumer collection agency has procured from an insurer authorized to transact business in this state an insurance policy providing coverage against loss of money, securities or other property, including loss arising from any fraudulent or dishonest act of any employee, officer or director of the consumer collection agency, with limits of at least two million dollars. It shall be the obligation of the municipality to ensure compliance with the requirements of this subdivision.

(2) A municipality that enters into an agreement with a consumer

collection agency to collect and receive for payment property tax on behalf of the municipality may also require such consumer collection agency to file a bond with the municipality in an amount not exceeding the total amount of the property tax to be collected on behalf of the municipality. Such bond, the form of which shall be approved by the municipality, shall be written by a surety authorized to write bonds in this state and shall contain a provision requiring the surety to provide the municipality with written notice of cancellation of such bond. Such notice shall be sent by certified mail to the municipality at least thirty days prior to the date of cancellation. The bond shall be conditioned that such consumer collection agency shall well, truly and faithfully account for all funds collected and received by the consumer collection agency for the municipality pursuant to such agreement. If the municipality is damaged by the wrongful conversion of any property tax debtor funds received by the consumer collection agency, the municipality may proceed on such bond against the principal or surety on the bond, or both, to recover damages. The proceeds of the bond, even if commingled with the other assets of the consumer collection agency, shall be deemed by operation of law to be held in trust for the benefit of the municipality in the event of bankruptcy of the consumer collection agency and shall be immune from attachment by creditors and judgment creditors.

Sec. 449. Section 3-39j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

As used in this section and sections 3-39k to 3-39r, inclusive:

(1) "Achieving a better life experience account" or "ABLE account" means an account established and maintained pursuant to sections 3-39k to **[**3-39q**]** 3-39r, inclusive, for the purposes of paying the qualified disability expenses **[**related to the blindness or disability**]** of a designated beneficiary.

(2) "Authorized individual" means an individual or entity who (A)

meets the requirements of 26 CFR 1.529A-2 to establish an ABLE account on behalf of an eligible individual, and (B) is authorized by the state's qualified ABLE program to establish or act on behalf of the designated beneficiary with respect to an ABLE account.

[(2)**]** (3) "Deposit" means a deposit, payment, contribution, gift or other transfer of funds.

[(3) "Depositor" means any person making a deposit into an ABLE account pursuant to a participation agreement.**]**

(4) "Designated beneficiary" **[**means any eligible individual who is the owner of an ABLE account established under a qualified ABLE program**]** has the same meaning as provided in Section 529A.

[(5) "Disability certification" means, with respect to an individual, a certification to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States by the individual or the parent or guardian of the individual or an individual establishing an ABLE account pursuant to subsection (g) of section 3-39k that (A) certifies that (i) the individual has a medically determinable physical or mental impairment, that results in marked and severe functional limitations, and that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve months, or is blind within the meaning of Section 1614(a)(2) of the Social Security Act, and (ii) such impairment or blindness occurred before the date on which the individual attained the age of twenty-six, and (B) includes a copy of the individual's diagnosis relating to the individual's relevant impairment or blindness that is signed by a physician who is licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or, to the extent permitted by federal law, (i) an advanced practice registered nurse who is licensed pursuant to chapter 378, (ii) a physician assistant who is licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or (iii) if the individual's impairment is blindness, an optometrist licensed pursuant to chapter 380.**]**

[(6)**]** (5) "Eligible individual" **[**means an individual who is entitled to benefits during a taxable year based on blindness or disability under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, and such blindness or disability occurred before the date on which the individual attained the age of twenty-six, provided a disability certification or self-certification with respect to such individual is filed with the State Treasurer for such taxable year**]** has the same meaning as provided in Section 529A.

[(7) "Federal ABLE Act" means the federal ABLE Act of 2014, P.L. 113-295, as amended from time to time.**]**

[(8)**]** (6) "Participation agreement" means an agreement between the trust established pursuant to section 3-39k and **[**depositors**]** a designated beneficiary or authorized individual that provides for participation in an ABLE account for the benefit of a designated beneficiary.

(7) "Qualified ABLE program" means any program established and maintained pursuant to Section 529A.

[(9)**]** (8) "Qualified disability expenses" **[**means any expenses related to an eligible individual's blindness or disability that are made for the benefit of an eligible individual who is the designated beneficiary, including the following expenses: Education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, expenses for oversight and monitoring, funeral and burial expenses, and other expenses that are approved by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States under regulations adopted by the Secretary pursuant to the federal ABLE Act**]** has the same meaning as provided in Section 529A.

[(10) "Self-certification" means a certification, under penalty of perjury, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United

States by an individual establishing an ABLE account that (A) certifies that (i) the individual has a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that results in marked and severe functional limitations and that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve months, or is blind within the meaning of Section 1614(a)(2) of the Social Security Act, (ii) such impairment or blindness occurred before the date on which the individual attained the age of twenty-six, and (iii) the person establishing the account is the individual who will be the designated beneficiary of the account or is a person authorized to establish such account under the provisions of subsection (g) of section 3-39k, and (B) includes the applicable diagnostic code from those listed on Internal Revenue Service Form 5498-QA identifying the individual's impairment.**]**

(9) "Section 529A" means Section 529A 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 the regulations adopted thereunder by the United States Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service, as amended from time to time.

Sec. 450. Section 3-39k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The State Treasurer (1) shall establish a qualified ABLE program pursuant to **[**the federal ABLE Act**]** Section 529A and sections 3-39j to **[**3-39q**]** 3-39r, inclusive, and (2) may contract with any state with a qualified ABLE program **[**established pursuant to the federal ABLE Act**]** to provide residents of this state with access to such state's program.

(b) (1) Under the program established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section: (A) The State Treasurer shall administer individual ABLE accounts to encourage and assist eligible individuals and their families in saving **[**private**]** funds to provide support for

eligible individuals, (B) a person may make contributions to an individual ABLE account to meet the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary of the account, and (C) the State Treasurer shall designate a director of outreach for the ABLE program from among the existing employees of the office of the State Treasurer, who shall coordinate outreach and marketing efforts concerning ABLE accounts.

(2) For the purposes of such program, there is established within the Office of the State Treasurer the Connecticut Achieving A Better Life Experience Trust. The trust shall constitute an instrumentality of the state and shall perform essential governmental functions, as provided in sections 3-39j to **[**3-39q**]** 3-39r, inclusive. The trust shall receive and hold all payments and deposits intended for ABLE accounts as well as gifts, bequests, endowments or federal, state or local grants and any other funds from public or private sources and all earnings, until disbursed in accordance with sections 3-39j to **[**3-39q**]** 3-39r, inclusive.

(c) (1) The amounts on deposit in the trust shall not constitute property of the state and the trust shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the state. Amounts on deposit in the trust shall not be commingled with state funds and the state shall have no claim to or against, or interest in, such amounts, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection. Any contract entered into by, or any obligation of, the trust shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the state and the state shall have no obligation to any designated beneficiary or any other person on account of the trust and all amounts obligated to be paid from the trust shall be limited to amounts available for such obligation on deposit in the trust. The amounts on deposit in the trust may only be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of sections 3-39j to **[**3-39q**]** 3-39r, inclusive.

(2) The trust shall continue in existence as long as it holds any deposits or other funds or has any obligations and until its existence is terminated by law, and upon termination of the trust, any unclaimed

assets of the trust shall **[**return to the state. Property of the trust shall**]** be governed by section 3-61a.

(d) The State Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, maintenance, administration, investment and disbursements of amounts from the trust. The trust shall not receive deposits in any form other than cash. No **[**depositor**]** authorized individual or designated beneficiary may direct the investment of any contributions or amounts held in the trust other than in the specific fund options provided for by the trust and shall not direct investments in such specific fund options more than two times in any calendar year. No interest, or portion of any interest, in the program shall be used as security for a loan.

(e) A person may make deposits to an ABLE account to meet the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary of the account, provided the trust and deposits meet the other requirements of this section **[**, the federal ABLE Act and any regulations adopted pursuant to the federal ABLE Act by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States**]** and Section 529A.

(f) On or before December 31, 2017, and annually thereafter, the State Treasurer shall submit (1) in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 3-37, a report to the Governor on the operations of the trust, including the receipts, disbursements, assets, investments and liabilities and administrative costs of the trust for the prior fiscal year, and (2) in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, a report on the trust and any contract entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance and public health, and shall make such report available to each **[**depositor**]** authorized individual and designated beneficiary. The report required under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall include, but need not be limited to: (A) The number of ABLE accounts; (B) the total amount of contributions to such accounts; (C) the total amount and nature of

distributions from such accounts; and (D) a description of issues relating to the abuse of such accounts, if any.

(g) An ABLE account may be established (1) by the eligible individual, (2) by a person selected by the eligible individual, or (3) if the eligible individual is unable to establish an ABLE account, **[**on behalf of such individual by, in the following order: Such individual's agent under a power of attorney, a conservator or legal guardian, spouse, parent, sibling, grandparent, or a representative payee appointed for the eligible individual by the Social Security Administration**]** by an authorized individual.

Sec. 451. Section 3-39*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The State Treasurer, on behalf of the trust and for purposes of the trust, may:

(1) Receive and invest moneys in the trust in any instruments, obligations, securities or property in accordance with section 3-39m;

(2) Establish **[**consistent**]** terms for **[**each**]** the participation agreement **[**, bulk deposit, coupon or installment payments**]** and the administration of ABLE accounts, including, but not limited to, (A) the method of payment into an ABLE account by payroll deduction, transfer from bank accounts or otherwise, (B) the termination, withdrawal or transfer of payments under an ABLE account, including transfers to or from a qualified ABLE program established by another state, **[**pursuant to the federal ABLE Act,**]** (C) penalties for distributions not used **[**or made in accordance with the federal ABLE Act**]** for qualified disability expenses, and (D) the amount of any charges or fees to be assessed in connection with the administration of the trust;

(3) Enter into one or more contractual agreements, including, but not limited to, contracts for legal, actuarial, accounting, custodial, advisory,

management, administrative, advertising, marketing and consulting services for the trust and pay for such services from the gains and earnings of the trust;

(4) Procure insurance in connection with the trust's property, assets, activities or deposits or contributions to the trust;

(5) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources to enable the Connecticut Achieving A Better Life Experience Trust to carry out its objectives;

(6) Sue and be sued;

(7) Establish one or more funds within the trust and maintain separate ABLE accounts for each designated beneficiary; **[**and**]**

(8) Pay for any fees associated with the administration of individual ABLE accounts; and

[(8)**]** (9) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 3-39j to **[**3-39q**]** 3-39r, inclusive, and incidental to the duties imposed on the State Treasurer pursuant to said sections.

Sec. 452. Section 3-39p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The state pledges to **[**depositors**]** authorized individuals, designated beneficiaries and any party who enters into contracts with the trust, pursuant to the provisions of sections 3-39j to **[**3-39q**]** 3-39r, inclusive, that the state will not limit or alter the rights under said sections vested in the trust or contract with the trust until such obligations are fully met and discharged and such contracts are fully performed on the part of the trust, provided nothing in this section shall preclude such limitation or alteration if adequate provision is made by law for the protection of such **[**depositors**]** authorized individuals and designated beneficiaries

pursuant to the obligations of the trust or parties who entered into such contracts with the trust. The trust, on behalf of the state, may include a description of such pledge and undertaking for the state in participation agreements and such other obligations or contracts.

Sec. 453. Section 3-39q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The State Treasurer shall take any action necessary to ensure that the trust complies with all applicable requirements of state and federal laws, rules and regulations to the extent necessary for the trust to constitute a qualified ABLE program and be exempt from taxation under **[**the federal ABLE Act, and any regulations adopted pursuant to the federal ABLE Act by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States**]** Section 529A.

Sec. 454. Section 3-39r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, to the extent permissible under federal law, moneys invested in an individual ABLE account, contributions to an individual ABLE account and distributions for qualified disability expenses pursuant to sections 3-39j to 3-39q, inclusive, shall be disregarded for purposes of determining an individual's eligibility for assistance under **[**the (1) temporary family assistance program, as described in section 17b-112, (2) programs funded under the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant, (3) the state-administered general assistance program, as described in section 17b-191, (4) the optional state supplementation program, as described in section 17b-600, to the extent such invested moneys, contributions and distributions may be disregarded under the federal Supplemental Security Income Program, and (5) any other federally funded assistance or benefit program, including, but not limited to, the state's medical assistance program,

whenever such program requires consideration of one or more financial circumstances of an individual for the purpose of determining the individual's eligibility to receive any assistance or benefit or the amount of any assistance or benefit**]** any means-tested public assistance program administered by the state or any political subdivision of the state.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no moneys invested in the ABLE accounts shall be considered to be an asset for purposes of determining an individual's eligibility for need-based, institutional aid grants offered to an individual at the public eligible educational institutions in the state.

Sec. 455. Section 12-91 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

(a) All farm machinery, except motor vehicles, as defined in section 14-1, to the assessed value of **[**one hundred**]** two hundred fifty thousand dollars, any horse or pony that is actually and exclusively used in farming, as defined in section 1-1, when owned and kept in this state by, or when held in trust for, any farmer or group of farmers operating as a unit, a partnership or a corporation, a majority of the stock of which corporation is held by members of a family actively engaged in farm operations, shall be exempt from local property taxation; provided each such farmer, whether operating individually or as one of a group, partnership or corporation, shall qualify for such exemption in accordance with the standards set forth in subsection (d) of this section for the assessment year for which such exemption is sought. Only one such exemption shall be allowed to each such farmer, group of farmers, partnership or corporation. Subdivision (38) of section 12-81 shall not apply to any person, group, partnership or corporation receiving the exemption provided for in this subsection.

(b) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may

provide an additional exemption from property tax for such machinery to the extent of an additional assessed value of two hundred fifty thousand dollars. Any such exemption shall be subject to the same limitations as the exemption provided under subsection (a) of this section and the application and qualification process provided in subsection (d) of this section.

(c) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide an exemption from property tax for any building used actually and exclusively in farming, as defined in section 1-1, or for any building used to provide housing for seasonal employees of such farmer. The municipality shall establish the amount of such exemption from the assessed value, provided such amount may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars with respect to each eligible building. Such exemption shall not apply to the residence of such farmer and shall be subject to the application and qualification process provided in subsection (d) of this section.

(d) Annually, on or before the first day of November or the extended filing date granted by the assessor pursuant to section 12-42, each such individual farmer, group of farmers, partnership or corporation shall make written application for the exemption provided for in subsection (a) of this section to the assessor or board of assessors in the town in which such farm is located, including therewith a notarized affidavit certifying that such farmer, individually or as part of a group, partnership or corporation, derived at least fifteen thousand dollars in gross sales from such farming operation, or incurred at least fifteen thousand dollars in expenses related to such farming operation, with respect to the most recently completed taxable year of such farmer prior to the commencement of the assessment year for which such application is made, on forms to be prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Failure to file such application in said manner and form on or before the first day of November shall be considered a waiver of the right to such

exemption for the assessment year. Any person aggrieved by any action of the assessors shall have the same rights and remedies for appeal and relief as are provided in the general statutes for taxpayers claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the assessors or board of assessment appeals.

Sec. 456. (NEW) (*Effective June 30, 2025*) Nothing in sections 435 to 442, inclusive, of this act shall be deemed to apply to Hartford Brainard Airport.

Sec. 457. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, hereinafter referred to as the "PA Licensure Compact", is hereby enacted into law and entered into by the state of Connecticut with any and all states legally joining therein in accordance with its terms. The compact is substantially as follows:

PA LICENSURE COMPACT

Section 1. Purpose

In order to strengthen access to medical services and in recognition of the advances in the delivery of medical services, the participating states of the PA Licensure Compact have allied in common purpose to develop a comprehensive process that complements the existing authority of state licensing boards to license and discipline PAs and seeks to enhance the portability of a license to practice as a PA while safeguarding the safety of patients. The compact allows medical services to be provided by PAs, via the mutual recognition of the licensee's qualifying license by other compact participating states. The compact adopts the prevailing standard for PA licensure and affirms that the practice and delivery of medical services by the PA occurs where the patient is located at the time of the patient encounter and requires the PA to be under the jurisdiction of the state licensing board where the patient is located. Each state licensing board that participates in the compact shall retain the jurisdiction to impose adverse action against a

compact privilege in such board's state that was issued to a PA through the procedures of the compact. The PA Licensure Compact will alleviate burdens for military families by allowing active duty military personnel and their spouses to obtain a compact privilege based on having an unrestricted license in good standing from a participating state.

Section 2. Definitions

As used in the compact:

(1) "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws that is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against a PA license, PA license application or compact privilege, including, but not limited to, license denial, censure, revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee or restriction on the licensee's practice.

(2) "Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by a remote state to allow a licensee from another participating state to practice as a PA to provide medical services and other licensed activity to a patient located in the remote state under the remote state's laws and regulations.

(3) "Conviction" means a finding by a court that an individual is guilty of a felony or misdemeanor offense through adjudication or entry of a plea of guilt or no contest to the charge by the offender.

(4) "Criminal background check" means the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information for a license applicant for the purpose of obtaining such applicant's criminal history record information, as defined in 28 CFR 20.3(d), as amended from time to time, from the state's criminal history record repository, as defined in 28 CFR 20.3(f), as amended from time to time.

(5) "Data system" means the repository of information about

licensees, including, but not limited to, license status and adverse actions, that is created and administered under the terms of the compact.

(6) "Executive committee" means a group of directors and ex-officio individuals elected or appointed pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 7 of the compact.

(7) "Impaired practitioner" means a PA whose practice is adversely affected by a health-related condition that impacts the PA's ability to practice.

(8) "Investigative information" means information, records or documents received or generated by a licensing board pursuant to an investigation.

(9) "Jurisprudence requirement" means the assessment of an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of a PA in a state.

(10) "License" means current authorization by a state, other than authorization pursuant to a compact privilege, for a PA to provide medical services that would be unlawful without such current authorization.

(11) "Licensee" means an individual who holds a license from a state to provide medical services as a PA.

(12) "Licensing board" means any state entity authorized to license and otherwise regulate PAs.

(13) "Medical services" means health care services provided for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure or relief of a health condition, injury or disease, as defined by a state's laws and regulations.

(14) "Model compact" means the model for the PA Licensure Compact on file with the Council of State Governments, or other entity

as designated by the commission.

(15) "Participating state" means a state that has enacted the compact.

(16) "PA" means an individual who is licensed as a physician assistant in a state. For purposes of the compact, any other title or status adopted by a state to replace the term "physician assistant" shall be deemed synonymous with "physician assistant" and "PA" and shall confer the same rights and responsibilities to the licensee under the provisions of the compact at the time of the compact's enactment.

(17) "PA Licensure Compact Commission", "compact commission" or "commission" means the national administrative body created pursuant to subsection (a) of section 7 of the compact.

(18) "Qualifying license" means an unrestricted license issued by a participating state to provide medical services as a PA.

(19) "Remote state" means a participating state where a licensee who is not licensed as a PA is exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.

(20) "Rule" means a regulation promulgated by an entity that has the force and effect of law.

(21) "Significant investigative information" means investigative information that a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification and an opportunity for the PA to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proven true, would indicate more than a minor infraction.

(22) "State" means any state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States.

Section 3. State Participation in the Compact

(a) To participate in the compact, a participating state shall:

(1) License PAs.

(2) Participate in the compact commission's data system.

(3) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints against licensees and license applicants.

(4) Notify the commission, in compliance with the terms of the compact and commission rules, of any adverse action against a licensee or license applicant and the existence of significant investigative information regarding a licensee or license applicant.

(5) Fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame established by commission rule, by the participating state's licensing board receiving the results of a criminal background check and reporting to the commission whether the license applicant has been granted a license.

(6) Comply with the rules of the compact commission.

(7) Utilize passage of a recognized national licensure examination, including, but not limited to, the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, as a requirement for PA licensure.

(8) Grant the compact privilege to a holder of a qualifying license in a participating state.

(b) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to prohibit a participating state from charging a fee for granting the compact privilege.

Section 4. Compact Privilege

(a) To exercise the compact privilege, a licensee shall:

(1) Have graduated from a PA program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc., or any other PA program authorized by commission rule.

(2) Hold current certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

(3) Have no felony or misdemeanor convictions.

(4) Have never had a controlled substance license, permit or registration suspended or revoked by a state or by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

(5) Have a unique identifier as determined by commission rule.

(6) Hold a qualifying license.

(7) Have had no revocation of a license or limitation or restriction on any license currently held or compact privilege due to an adverse action, provided (A) if a licensee had a limitation or restriction on a license or compact privilege due to an adverse action, two years shall have elapsed from the date on which the license or compact privilege is no longer limited or restricted due to the adverse action, and (B) if a compact privilege has been revoked or is limited or restricted in a participating state for conduct that would not be a basis for disciplinary action in a participating state in which the licensee is practicing or applying to practice under a compact privilege, such participating state shall have the discretion not to consider such action as an adverse action requiring the denial or removal of a compact privilege in such state.

(8) Notify the compact commission that the licensee is seeking the compact privilege in a remote state.

(9) Meet any jurisprudence requirement of a remote state in which the licensee is seeking to practice under the compact privilege and pay any fees applicable to satisfying the jurisprudence requirement.

(10) Report to the commission any adverse action taken by a nonparticipating state not later than thirty days after the adverse action was taken.

(b) The compact privilege shall be valid until the expiration or revocation of the qualifying license unless terminated pursuant to an adverse action. The licensee shall comply with all of the requirements of subsection (a) of this section of the compact to maintain the compact privilege in a remote state. If the participating state takes adverse action against a qualifying license, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege in any remote state in which the licensee has a compact privilege until both of the following occur:

(1) The license is no longer limited or restricted; and

(2) Two years have elapsed from the date on which the license is no longer limited or restricted due to the adverse action.

(c) Once a restricted or limited license satisfies the requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of this section of the compact, the licensee shall meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section of the compact to obtain a compact privilege in any remote state.

(d) For each remote state in which a PA seeks authority to prescribe controlled substances, the PA shall satisfy all requirements imposed by such state in granting or renewing such authority.

Section 5. Designation of the State from Which Licensee is Applying for a Compact Privilege

Upon a licensee's application for a compact privilege, the licensee

shall identify to the commission the participating state from which the licensee is applying, in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission, and subject to the following requirements:

(1) When applying for a compact privilege, the licensee shall (A) provide the commission with the address of the licensee's primary residence, and (B) report to the commission any change in the address of the licensee's primary residence immediately following such change.

(2) When applying for a compact privilege, the licensee shall be required to consent to accept service of process by mail at the licensee's primary residence on file with the commission with respect to any action brought against the licensee by the commission or a participating state, including, but not limited to, a subpoena.

Section 6. Adverse Actions

(a) A participating state in which a licensee is licensed shall have exclusive power to impose adverse action against the qualifying license issued by such participating state.

(b) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state shall have the authority, in accordance with existing state due process requirements, to do all of the following:

(1) Take adverse action against a PA's compact privilege in such remote state to remove a licensee's compact privilege or take other action necessary under applicable law to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

(2) Issue subpoenas for hearings or investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and for the production of evidence. Any subpoena issued by a licensing board in a participating state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another participating state shall be enforced in such other

participating state by any court of competent jurisdiction according to the practice and procedure of such court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before such court. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence is located. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, a participating state shall not issue a subpoena to gather evidence of conduct in another state that is lawful in such other state for the purpose of taking adverse action against a licensee's compact privilege or application for a compact privilege in such participating state.

(c) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to authorize a participating state to impose discipline against a PA's compact privilege or deny an application for a compact privilege in such participating state for the PA's otherwise lawful practice in another state.

(d) For purposes of taking adverse action, the participating state that issued the qualifying license shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from any other participating state as it would if the conduct had occurred within the participating state that issued the qualifying license and shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.

(e) A participating state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected PA the costs of any investigation or disposition of a case resulting from any adverse action taken against such PA.

(f) A participating state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of a remote state, provided the participating state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

(g) Joint Investigations

(1) In addition to the authority granted to a participating state by its respective state statutes and regulations concerning PAs, or other

applicable state law, any participating state may participate with any other participating state in a joint investigation of a licensee.

(2) A participating state shall share any investigative, litigation or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

(h) If an adverse action is taken against a PA's qualifying license, the PA's compact privilege in all remote states shall be deactivated until two years have elapsed from the date on which all restrictions were removed from the state license. All disciplinary orders by the participating state that issued the qualifying license that impose one or more adverse actions against a PA's license shall include a statement that the PA's compact privilege is deactivated in all participating states during the pendency of the order.

(i) If any participating state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the data system.

Section 7. Establishment of the PA Licensure Compact Commission

(a) The participating states hereby create and establish a joint government agency and national administrative body known as the PA Licensure Compact Commission. The commission shall be an instrumentality of the compact states acting jointly and not an instrumentality of any one state. The commission shall come into existence on or after the effective date of the compact as set forth in subsection (a) of section 11 of the compact.

(b) Membership, Voting and Meetings

(1) Each participating state shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by such participating state's licensing board or, if the state has more than one licensing board, selected collectively by the participating state's licensing boards.

(2) The delegate shall be either:

(A) A current PA, physician or public member of a licensing board or a PA council or committee; or

(B) An administrator of a licensing board.

(3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the laws of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

(4) The participating state licensing board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the commission not later than sixty days after the date on which the vacancy occurred.

(5) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all matters voted on by the commission and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telecommunications, video conference or other means of communication.

(6) The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the compact and the bylaws.

(7) The commission shall establish by rule a term of office for delegates.

(c) The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Establish a code of ethics for the commission;

(2) Establish the fiscal year of the commission;

(3) Establish fees;

(4) Establish bylaws;

(5) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

(6) Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of the compact and the bylaws;

(7) Promulgate rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of the compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all participating states;

(8) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission, provided the standing of any state licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

(9) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

(10) Borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a participating state;

(11) Hire employees and engage contractors, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the compact and establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel and other related personnel matters;

(12) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and receive, utilize and dispose of such money, equipment, supplies material and services, provided the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest at all times;

(13) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed, provided the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety at all times;

(14) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal or mixed;

(15) Establish a budget and make expenditures;

(16) Borrow money;

(17) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives and consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in the compact and the bylaws;

(18) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;

(19) Elect a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer and such other officers of the commission as provided in the commission's bylaws;

(20) Reserve for itself, in addition to those reserved exclusively to the commission under the compact, powers that the executive committee may not exercise;

(21) Approve or disapprove a state's participation in the compact based upon its determination as to whether the state's compact legislation departs in a material manner from the model compact language;

(22) Prepare and provide to the participating states an annual report; and

(23) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of the compact consistent with the state regulation of PA licensure and practice.

(d) Meetings of the Commission

(1) All meetings of the commission that are not closed pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be open to the public. Notice of public meetings shall be posted on the commission's Internet web site not later than thirty days prior to the public meeting.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commission may convene a public meeting by providing notice of the meeting at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting on the commission's Internet web site, and any other means as provided in the commission's rules, for any of the reasons it may dispense with notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection (l) of section 9 of the compact.

(3) The commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting or nonpublic part of a public meeting to receive legal advice or to discuss:

(A) Noncompliance of a participating state with its obligations under the compact;

(B) The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

(C) Current, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation;

(D) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease or sale of goods, services or real estate;

(E) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

(F) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;

(G) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(H) Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;

(I) Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact;

(J) Legal advice; or

(K) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or participating states' statutes.

(4) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection, the chair of the meeting, or the chair's designee, shall certify that the meeting or portion of the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

(5) The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, including, but not limited to, a description of the views expressed at the meeting. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(e) Financing of the Commission

(1) The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities.

(2) The commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials

and services.

(3) The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each participating state and may impose compact privilege fees on licensees of participating states to whom a compact privilege is granted to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its staff. Such fees shall be in a total amount that is sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved by the commission each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount levied on participating states shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by commission rule.

(A) A compact privilege expires when the licensee's qualifying license in the participating state from which the licensee applied for the compact privilege expires.

(B) If the licensee terminates the qualifying license through which the licensee applied for the compact privilege before its scheduled expiration and the licensee has a qualifying license in another participating state, the licensee shall inform the commission that it is changing to such participating state the participating state through which it applies for a compact privilege and pay to the commission any compact privilege fee required by commission rule.

(4) The commission shall not (A) incur an obligation of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same, or (B) pledge the credit of any of the participating states, except by and with the authority of the participating state.

(5) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the financial review and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be subject to an annual financial review by a

certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

(f) The Executive Committee

(1) The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the commission according to the terms of the compact and commission rules.

(2) The executive committee shall be composed of the following nine members:

(A) Seven voting members who shall be elected by the commission from the current membership of the commission;

(B) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national PA professional association; and

(C) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national PA certification organization.

(3) The ex-officio members shall be selected by their respective organizations.

(4) The commission may remove any member of the executive committee as provided in its bylaws.

(5) The executive committee shall meet at least annually.

(6) The executive committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(A) Recommend to the commission changes to the commission's rules or bylaws, changes to the compact legislation, fees to be paid by compact participating states, including, but not limited to, annual dues, and any

commission compact fee charged to licensees for the compact privilege;

(B) Ensure compact administration services are appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;

(C) Prepare and recommend the budget;

(D) Maintain financial records on behalf of the commission;

(E) Monitor compact compliance of participating states and provide compliance reports to the commission;

(F) Establish additional committees as necessary;

(G) Exercise the powers and duties of the commission during the interim between commission meetings, except the issuance of proposed rulemaking, the adoption of commission rules or bylaws or the exercise of any other powers and duties exclusively reserved to the commission by the commission's rules; and

(H) Perform other duties as provided in the commission's rules or bylaws.

(7) All meetings of the executive committee at which it votes or plans to vote on matters in exercising the powers and duties of the commission shall be open to the public and public notice of such meetings shall be given as public meetings of the commission are given.

(8) The executive committee may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting for the same reasons that the commission may convene in a nonpublic meeting as set forth in subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of this section of the compact and shall announce the closed meeting as the commission is required to under subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of this section of the compact and keep minutes of the closed meeting as the commission is required to under subdivision (5) of subsection (d) of this section of the compact.

(g) Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification

(1) The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement of insurance of any type by the commission shall not in any way compromise or limit the immunity granted under this subdivision.

(2) The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee and representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or as determined by the commission that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided (A) nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit such person from retaining such person's own counsel at such person's own expense, and (B) the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from such person's intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct.

(3) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against such person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment,

duties or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from the intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct of such person.

(4) Venue shall be proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses in any proceedings as authorized by commission rules.

(5) Nothing in the compact shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any licensee for professional malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed solely by any other applicable state laws.

(6) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to designate the venue or jurisdiction to bring actions for alleged acts of malpractice, professional misconduct, negligence or other such civil action pertaining to the practice of a PA. All such matters shall be determined exclusively by state law other than the compact.

(7) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to waive or otherwise abrogate a participating state's state action immunity or state action affirmative defense with respect to antitrust claims under the Sherman Act, 15 USC 1 et seq., as amended from time to time, Clayton Antitrust Act, 15 USC 12-27, as amended from time to time, or any other state or federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or regulation.

(8) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by the participating states or by the commission.

Section 8. Data System

(a) The commission shall provide for the development, maintenance,

operation and utilization of a coordinated data and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and the reporting of the existence of significant investigative information on all licensed PAs and applicants denied a license in participating states.

(b) Notwithstanding any other state law, each participating state shall submit a uniform data set to the data system, utilizing a unique identifier for such state, on all PAs to whom the compact is applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including the following:

(1) Identifying information;

(2) Licensure data;

(3) Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege;

(4) Any denial of application for licensure, except any criminal history record information where the reporting of such information is prohibited by law, and the reason or reasons for such denial;

(5) The existence of significant investigative information; and

(6) Any other information that may facilitate the administration of the compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

(c) Significant investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any participating state shall only be available to other participating states.

(d) The commission shall promptly notify all participating states of any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for a license that has been reported to the commission. Such adverse action information shall be available to any other participating state.

(e) Each participating state contributing information to the data system may, in accordance with state or federal law, designate

information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state. Notwithstanding any such designation, such information shall be reported to the commission through the data system.

(f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently expunged pursuant to federal law or the laws of the participating state contributing the information shall be removed from the data system upon the reporting of such expungement by the participating state to the commission.

(g) The records and information provided to a participating state pursuant to the compact or through the data system, when certified by the commission or an agent thereof, shall constitute the authenticated business records of the commission and shall be entitled to any associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative proceedings in a participating state.

Section 9. Rulemaking

(a) The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section of the compact and the rules adopted under the compact. A commission rule shall become binding as of the date specified by the commission for each rule.

(b) The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules to effectively and efficiently implement and administer the compact and achieve the compact's purposes. A commission rule shall be invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the rule is invalid because the commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of the compact, or the powers granted under the compact, or based upon another applicable standard of review.

(c) The rules of the commission shall have the force of law in each

participating state, provided where the rules of the commission conflict with the laws of the participating state that establish the medical services a PA may perform in the participating state, as held by a court of competent jurisdiction, the rules of the commission shall be ineffective in such state to the extent of the conflict.

(d) If a majority of the legislatures of the participating states rejects a commission rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact not later than four years after the date of adoption of the commission rule, such rule shall have no further force and effect in any participating state or to any state applying to participate in the compact.

(e) Commission rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

(f) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

(1) On the Internet web site of the commission or other publicly accessible platform;

(2) To persons who have requested notice of the commission's notices of proposed rulemaking; and

(3) In such other manners as the commission may by rule specify.

(g) The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include the following:

(1) The time, date and location of the public hearing on the proposed rule and the proposed time, date and location of the meeting in which the proposed rule will be considered and voted upon;

(2) The text of the proposed rule and the reason for the proposed rule;

(3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person and the date by which written comments must be received; and

(4) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public hearing or provide any written comments.

(h) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

(i) If the hearing is to be held via electronic means, the commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

(1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall, as directed in the notice of proposed rulemaking, notify the commission of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing.

(2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

(3) All hearings shall be recorded. A copy of the recording and the written comments, data, facts, opinions and arguments received in response to the proposed rulemaking shall be made available to a person upon request.

(4) Nothing in this section of the compact shall be construed to require a separate hearing on each proposed rule. Proposed rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this section of the compact.

(j) Following the public hearing, the commission shall consider all written and oral comments timely received.

(k) The commission shall, by majority vote of all delegates, take final action on the proposed rule and determine the effective date of the rule, if adopted, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

(1) If adopted, the rule shall be posted on the commission's Internet web site.

(2) The commission may adopt changes to the proposed rule, provided the changes do not expand the original purpose of the proposed rule.

(3) The commission shall post on its Internet web site an explanation of the reasons for substantive changes made to the proposed rule and the reasons for any substantive changes that were recommended by commenters but not made.

(4) The commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the rule. Except for an emergency as provided in subsection (l) of this section of the compact, the effective date of the rule shall be no sooner than thirty days after the commission issued the notice that it adopted the rule.

(l) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule with twenty-four hours' prior notice, without the opportunity for comment or hearing, provided the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this section of the compact shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, but in no event later than ninety days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this subsection, "emergency rule" means a rule that shall be adopted immediately by the commission to:

(1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare;

(2) Prevent a loss of commission or participating state funds;

(3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a commission rule that is established by federal law or rule; or

(4) Protect public health or safety.

(m) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted commission rule for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the Internet web site of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made as set forth in the notice of revisions and delivered to the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision shall take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

(n) No participating state's rulemaking requirements shall apply under the compact.

Section 10. Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

(a) Oversight

(1) The executive and judicial branches of state government in each participating state shall enforce the compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement the compact.

(2) Venue shall be proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed

to affect or limit the selection or propriety of venue in any action against a licensee for professional malpractice, misconduct or any such similar matter.

(3) The commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the compact or the commission's rules and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide the commission with service of process shall render a judgment or order in such proceeding void as to the commission, the compact or commission rules.

(b) Default, Technical Assistance and Termination

(1) If the commission determines that a participating state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under the compact or the commission rules, the commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting state and other participating states. The notice shall describe the default, the proposed means of curing the default and any other action that the commission may take and shall offer remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

(2) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates of the participating states, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by the compact upon such state may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default shall not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

(3) Termination of participation in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. The commission shall provide notice of intent to suspend or terminate to the governor and majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's

legislature and the licensing board or boards of each of the participating states.

(4) A state that has been terminated shall be responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including, but not limited to, obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

(5) The commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting state.

(6) The defaulting state may appeal its termination from the compact by the commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees.

(7) Upon the termination of a state's participation in the compact, the state shall immediately provide notice to all licensees within such state of such termination.

(A) Licensees who have been granted a compact privilege in such state shall retain the compact privilege for one hundred eighty days following the effective date of such termination.

(B) Licensees who are licensed in such state who have been granted a compact privilege in a participating state shall retain the compact privilege for one hundred eighty days unless the licensee also has a qualifying license in a participating state or obtains a qualifying license in a participating state before the one-hundred-eighty-day period ends, in which case the compact privilege shall continue.

(c) Dispute Resolution

(1) Upon request by a participating state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that arise among participating states and between participating and nonparticipating states.

(2) The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

(d) Enforcement

(1) The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions of the compact and rules of the commission.

(2) If compliance is not secured after all means to secure compliance have been exhausted, the commission may, by majority vote, initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices, against a participating state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and the commission's promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. If judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(3) The remedies set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

(e) Legal Action Against the Commission

(1) A participating state may initiate legal action against the commission in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, or the federal district where the commission has its principal

offices, to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. If judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(2) No person other than a participating state shall enforce the compact against the commission.

Section 11. Date of Implementation of the PA Licensure Compact Commission

(a) The compact shall come into effect on the date on which this compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh participating state.

(1) On or after the effective date of the compact, the commission shall convene and review the enactment of each of the states that enacted the compact prior to the commission convening, which shall be known as the charter participating states, to determine if the statute enacted by each such charter participating state is materially different from the compact.

(A) A charter participating state whose enactment is found to be materially different from the compact shall be entitled to the default process set forth in subsection (b) of section 10 of the compact.

(B) If any participating state later withdraws from the compact or its participation is terminated, the commission shall remain in existence and the compact shall remain in effect even if the number of participating states is less than seven after such withdrawal. Participating states enacting the compact subsequent to the commission convening shall be subject to the process set forth in subdivision (21) of subsection (c) of section 7 of the compact to determine if such enactments are materially different from the compact and whether such participating states qualify for participation in the compact.

(2) Participating states enacting the compact subsequent to the seven initial charter participating states shall be subject to the process set forth in subdivision (21) of subsection (c) of section 7 of the compact to determine if such enactments are materially different from the compact and whether such participating states qualify for participation in the compact.

(3) All actions taken for the benefit of the commission or in furtherance of the purposes of the administration of the compact prior to the effective date of the compact or the commission coming into existence shall be considered to be actions of the commission unless specifically repudiated by the commission.

(b) Any state that joins the compact shall be subject to the commission's rules and bylaws as such rules and bylaws exist on the date on which the compact becomes law in such state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in such state.

(c) Any participating state may withdraw from the compact by enacting a statute repealing the compact.

(1) A participating state's withdrawal from the compact shall not take effect until one hundred eighty days after enactment of the repealing statute. During such one-hundred-eighty-day period, all compact privileges that were in effect in the withdrawing state and were granted to licensees licensed in the withdrawing state shall remain in effect. If any licensee licensed in the withdrawing state is also licensed in another participating state or obtains a license in another participating state on or before one hundred eighty days after such withdrawal, the licensee's compact privileges in other participating states shall not be affected by the passage of such one hundred eighty days.

(2) Withdrawal under subsection (d) of this section of the compact

shall not affect the continuing requirement of the state licensing board or boards of the withdrawing state to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of the compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

(3) Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing a state from the compact, the state shall immediately provide notice of such withdrawal to all licensees in such state. Such withdrawing state shall continue to recognize all licenses granted pursuant to the compact for a minimum of one hundred eighty days after the date of such notice of withdrawal.

(d) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any PA licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between participating states and between a participating state and nonparticipating state that does not conflict with the provisions of the compact.

(e) The compact may be amended by the participating states. No amendment to the compact shall become effective and binding upon any participating state until it is enacted materially in the same manner into the laws of all participating states as determined by the commission.

Section 12. Construction and Severability

(a) The compact and the commission's rulemaking authority shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes and the implementation and administration of the compact. Provisions of the compact expressly authorizing or requiring the promulgation of rules shall not be construed to limit the commission's rulemaking authority solely for those purposes.

(b) The provisions of the compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of the compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the constitution of any

participating state, a state seeking participation in the compact or of the United States, or the applicability of the compact to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the compact and the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section of the compact, the commission may deny a state's participation in the compact or, in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of section 10 of the compact, terminate a participating state's participation in the compact if it determines that a constitutional requirement of a participating state is, or would be with respect to a state seeking to participate in the compact, a material departure from the compact. Otherwise, if the compact is held to be contrary to the constitution of any participating state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining participating states and in full force and effect as to the participating state affected as to all severable matters.

Section 13. Binding Effect of Compact

(a) Nothing in the compact shall prevent the enforcement of any other law of a participating state that is not inconsistent with the compact.

(b) Any laws in a participating state in conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

(c) All agreements between the commission and the participating states are binding in accordance with the terms of such agreements.

Sec. 458. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall require each person applying for licensure as a physician assistant to submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check pursuant to section 29-17a of the general statutes. As used in this section, (1) "physician assistant" means an individual

licensed to practice as a physician assistant, and (2) "licensure" means authorization by a state physician assistant regulatory authority to practice as a physician assistant, the practice of which would be unlawful without such authorization.

Sec. 459. Subsection (a) of section 47a-15a of the general statutes, as amended by public act 25-49, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) If rent is unpaid when due and the tenant fails to pay rent within nine days thereafter or, in the case of a one-week tenancy, within four days thereafter, the landlord may terminate the rental agreement in accordance with the provisions of sections 47a-23 to 47a-23b, inclusive, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 25-49, except that such nine-day or four-day time period shall be extended an additional five days if a landlord's online rental payment system prevented the payment of rent when due. Any extension of such time periods shall only apply for purposes of the week or month, as applicable, when such failure to pay rent occurs. For purposes of this section, "grace period" means the nine-day or four-day time periods identified in this subsection, as applicable.

Sec. 460. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 1 of this act are supported by the GENERAL FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
TAXES		
Personal Income		
Withholding	$9,287,200,000	$9,645,100,000
Estimates and Finals	3,343,700,000	3,434,700,000
Sales and Use	5,103,100,000	5,230,300,000
Corporations	1,659,500,000	1,656,300,000
Pass-Through Entities	2,115,300,000	2,170,300,000
Public Service	319,400,000	322,200,000
Inheritance and Estate	176,000,000	235,700,000

Insurance Companies	323,900,000	328,600,000
Cigarettes	228,100,000	215,800,000
Real Estate Conveyance	295,200,000	299,300,000
Alcoholic Beverages	79,100,000	79,500,000
Admissions and Dues	39,700,000	40,200,000
Health Provider Tax	916,900,000	1,293,200,000
Miscellaneous	21,900,000	21,300,000
TOTAL TAXES	23,909,000,000	24,972,500,000
Refunds of Taxes	(1,966,800,000)	(2,040,800,000)
Earned Income Tax Credit	(235,400,000)	(240,500,000)
R & D Credit Exchange	(9,800,000)	(10,100,000)
NET GENERAL FUND REVENUE	21,697,000,000	22,681,100,000
OTHER REVENUE		
Transfers - Special Revenue	376,300,000	385,700,000
Indian Gaming Payments	334,600,000	349,900,000
Licenses, Permits, Fees	362,900,000	335,600,000
Sales of Commodities	17,300,000	17,600,000
Rents, Fines and Escheats	203,200,000	198,300,000
Investment Income	301,500,000	251,400,000
Miscellaneous	189,100,000	194,100,000
Refunds of Payments	(89,700,000)	(92,100,000)
NET TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	1,695,200,000	1,640,500,000
OTHER SOURCES		
Federal Grants	1,853,200,000	2,035,300,000
Transfer From Tobacco Settlement	91,800,000	90,200,000
Transfers (To)/From Other Funds	(261,353,800)	89,300,000
Transfer to Budget Reserve Fund - Volatility Cap	(730,400,000)	(622,700,000)
NET TOTAL OTHER SOURCES	953,246,200	1,592,100,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	24,345,446,200	25,913,700,000

Sec. 461. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 2 of this

act are supported by the SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
TAXES		
Motor Fuels	$502,000,000	$494,400,000
Oil Companies	293,800,000	300,200,000
Sales and Use	879,150,000	902,250,000
Sales Tax DMV	118,100,000	119,300,000
Highway Use Tax	61,700,000	62,600,000
Refund of Taxes	(10,300,000)	(10,600,000)
TOTAL TAXES	1,844,450,000	1,868,150,000
OTHER SOURCES		
Motor Vehicle Receipts	282,100,000	283,400,000
Licenses, Permits, Fees	134,900,000	137,200,000
Interest Income	47,000,000	41,500,000
Federal Grants	-	-
Transfers (To)/From Other Funds	11,500,000	117,500,000
Refunds of Payments	(10,900,000)	(11,100,000)
NET TOTAL OTHER SOURCES	464,600,000	568,500,000
TOTAL SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND REVENUE	2,309,050,000	2,436,650,000

Sec. 462. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 3 of this act are supported by the MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Transfers from General Fund	$52,600,000	$52,600,000
TOTAL MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND REVENUE	52,600,000	52,600,000

Sec. 463. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 4 of this

act are supported by the BANKING FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Fees and Assessments	$36,400,000	$36,600,000
TOTAL BANKING FUND REVENUE	36,400,000	36,600,000

Sec. 464. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 5 of this act are supported by the INSURANCE FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Fees and Assessments	$126,400,000	$128,900,000
TOTAL INSURANCE FUND REVENUE	126,400,000	128,900,000

Sec. 465. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 6 of this act are supported by the CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Fees and Assessments	$37,800,000	$38,500,000
TOTAL CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND REVENUE	37,800,000	38,500,000

Sec. 466. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 7 of this act are supported by the WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Fees and Assessments	$27,300,000	$27,500,000
TOTAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND REVENUE	27,300,000	27,500,000

Sec. 467. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 8 of this

act are supported by the CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Restitutions	$3,000,000	$3,000,000
TOTAL CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND REVENUE	3,000,000	3,000,000

Sec. 468. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 9 of this act are supported by the TOURISM FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Room Occupancy Tax	$15,500,000	$16,000,000
Use of Funds From Prior Years	2,500,000	3,000,000
TOTAL TOURISM FUND REVENUE	18,000,000	19,000,000

Sec. 469. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 10 of this act are supported by the CANNABIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY SERVICES FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Cannabis Excise Tax	$5,900,000	$6,200,000
TOTAL CANNABIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY SERVICES FUND REVENUE	5,900,000	6,200,000

Sec. 470. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 11 of this act are supported by the CANNABIS REGULATORY FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Cannabis Excise Tax	$10,300,000	$10,500,000
TOTAL CANNABIS REGULATORY FUND REVENUE	10,300,000	10,500,000

Sec. 471. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The appropriations in section 12 of this act are supported by the MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING FUND revenue estimates as follows:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Sales and Use Tax	$459,250,000	$470,550,000
Transfers (To)/From Other Funds	101,000,000	90,000,000
TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING FUND REVENUE	560,250,000	560,550,000

Sec. 472. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall grant additional municipal aid, from Other Expenses, as follows: (1) To the city of New Haven, $500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; and (2) to the towns of Ledyard and Montville, $500,000 to each town for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Sec. 473. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-66b of the general statutes, the grants awarded to the following municipalities during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, pursuant to said section shall be as follows:

Grantee	Grant Amount For Fiscal Year 2026	Grant Amount For Fiscal Year 2027
Branford	100,000	100,000
Bridgeport	11,059,559	11,059,559
Danbury	2,218,855	2,218,855
Enfield	100,000	-
Naugatuck	583,399	683,399
New Haven	19,421,822	19,421,822
New London	2,112,913	2,112,913
Stamford	2,246,049	2,246,049
Stratford	400,000	400,000

Voluntown	60,000	60,000
West Hartford	400,000	400,000

Governor's Action:
Approved June 30, 2025