



# 2025 Acts Affecting Municipalities

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August 12, 2025 | 2025-R-0095

## Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting municipalities enacted during the 2025 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Education, Acts Affecting Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and Acts Affecting Town Clerks and Elections, are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

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

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the [General Assembly's website](#) or the Connecticut State Library.

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## **Economic Development**

### ***Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA)***

CRDA plays a role in development projects primarily in Hartford, but also in the “capital region.” A new law excludes Newington and West Hartford from the capital region ([PA 25-73](#), § 12, effective July 1, 2025). Another new law exempts any land improvements CRDA owns or leases from any taxes or assessments levied by any municipality, political subdivision, or special taxing district. Correspondingly, it deems these properties as state-owned properties for which, unless they are otherwise exempt from taxation, the state must make payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) grants ([PA 25-168](#), § 126, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Community Investment Fund (CIF) 2030***

New legislation makes several changes to the CIF 2030 program, which is a five-year, state bond-funded program for financing economic and community development projects in eligible municipalities. The act (1) reduces the FY 26-27 program bond authorization by \$108 million thus making it \$242 million and (2) extends CIF project eligibility beyond public investment communities and alliance districts to also include distressed municipalities ([PA 25-174](#), § 67, effective upon passage).

### ***Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)***

This session, the legislature effectuated CMDA’s name change (previously, it was called the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority). It also allows any municipality other than Hartford and East Hartford to work with CMDA and generally makes it easier for municipalities to opt to work with the authority ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 99-122, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Port Eastside and Park City Landing Infrastructure Improvement Districts***

This session, the legislature authorized special taxing districts to provide services and finance infrastructure improvements in two areas: the Port Eastside Infrastructure Improvement District in East Hartford and the Park City Landing Infrastructure Improvement District in Bridgeport. The new law delineates each district’s geographic boundaries and formation process and authorizes the districts to levy taxes, charges, and benefit assessments and, after entering into an interlocal agreement with their respective municipalities, issue and secure bonds backed by these revenues and their full faith and credit ([PA 25-90](#), effective upon passage).

## ***South Meadows Site***

New legislation makes several changes related to the “South Meadows site,” which encompasses two Hartford properties and contains closed resource recovery and jet turbine facilities. Among other things, it (1) transfers the property and authority over the project to CRDA; (2) requires any state tax revenue generated by completed projects within the site to be retained and reinvested there; and (3) exempts the site and any personal property located there from property tax until a development or redevelopment project is started there and requires the state to include the site as a basis for any state PILOT grant to Hartford ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 435-442 & 456, and [PA 25-174](#), §§ 228-232, effective June 30, 2025).

## **Elections**

This session, the legislature made several changes to laws impacting elections. For example, a new law requires municipalities that must make election-related materials available in non-English languages to (1) use professional translators when translating these materials and (2) submit these materials to the Translation Advisory Committee created by the law ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 297-298, effective July 1, 2025). Another new law requires registrars of voters to designate an additional early voting location on a campus of a constituent unit of higher education if at least 1,000 students live on campus or in institution-owned, -operated, or -affiliated housing ([PA 25-168](#), § 293, effective July 1, 2025).

For more information on these laws, as well as other acts affecting elections, see [Acts Affecting Town Clerks and Elections \(2025\)](#).

## **Employees and Employee Benefits**

### ***Acting Building Official Appointment***

A new law authorizes a municipality’s chief executive officer to appoint a licensed building official to be an acting building official once, for up to 180 days, if the current building official has an extended absence of 15 consecutive days or more. Prior law permitted appointment only upon death, disability, dismissal, retirement, or license revocation ([PA 25-108](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Fire Fighters Cancer Relief Program***

This session, the legislature made several changes to a program that provides workers’ compensation-like benefits to firefighters who have certain cancers and meet other criteria. A new law, among other things, (1) adds skin cancer to the types of cancers the program covers; (2)

requires the program's benefits to be provided in the same way they would be if the firefighter's cancer had been caused by an occupational disease, rather than a personal injury, under the workers' compensation law; and (3) authorizes workers' compensation administrative law judges to adjudicate a firefighter's appeal of a denial of program benefits ([PA 25-4](#), as amended by [PA 25-168](#), §§ 408-410, effective October 1, 2025).

Another new law modifies the definition of "cigarette" in state law and thus potentially expands the products that factor into the qualifying criteria for firefighter cancer relief benefits. By law, to qualify for the benefits, among other things, a firefighter must not have used cigarettes, as defined under the cigarette tax law, during the 15 years before the cancer diagnosis ([PA 25-168](#), § 394, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***MERS 2.0***

The legislature created a new benefit tier in the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) named MERS 2.0 and set its parameters. With exceptions, it generally requires CMERS-participating municipalities to enroll in MERS 2.0 anyone who first becomes eligible for CMERS membership on or after July 1, 2027. It allows any nonparticipating municipality to enroll in MERS 2.0 on the later of July 1, 2026, or the expiration date of an applicable collective bargaining agreement that was in effect on July 1, 2026.

The new law also requires the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement Commission (CMERC), by July 1, 2026, to create and administer a MERS defined contribution retirement plan. It requires all CMERS and MERS 2.0 members to contribute a specified portion of their pay to the plan and requires CMERS-participating municipalities to make matching contributions for their MERS 2.0 members.

Lastly, the new law authorizes CMERC to set up and implement an annuity plan as an alternative to CMERS for nonparticipating municipalities, subject to certain requirements ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 183-185, effective upon passage).

### ***Paid Family and Medical Leave for Certain School Employees***

A new law extends the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to cover school employees whose positions do not require a professional certification. Among others, it applies to employees employed by local or regional boards of education ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 234-237, October 1, 2025).



## ***Paid Sick Leave Increments***

The state's paid sick leave law generally requires employers to give their employees up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per year, and employees must accrue one hour of leave for every 30 hours worked. The Department of Labor's implementation of the law generally requires employers to allow eligible employees to use the leave in one-hour increments, but the legislature enacted a new law that allows municipal employers to require that their school employees, police officers, firefighters, and public works department employees use their accrued paid sick leave in increments set in their applicable collective bargaining agreement ([PA 25-174](#), § 233, effective upon passage).

## **Grants, Aid, and Municipal Finance**

### ***Climate Resiliency Projects***

A new law allows municipal reserve funds to cover expenditures intended to increase a capital improvement's resiliency against climate change impacts. It also expands the eligible uses of Town Aid Road program funds by adding construction, reconstruction, improvements, and maintenance to increase resiliency against increased precipitation, flooding, sea level rise, and extreme heat. Additionally, it allows municipalities to establish a resiliency improvement district to finance capital projects addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience ([PA 25-33](#), §§ 9, 10 & 21-30, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Complete Streets Implementation***

A new law explicitly requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner to (1) give technical assistance to municipalities and councils of governments (COGs) on adopting and implementing Complete Streets policies and (2) administer municipal grants for supporting public highway improvement projects that incorporate these standards or policies. Complete streets policies promote safe accommodation of all users of the transportation system, and states and metropolitan planning organizations are required to use a portion of federal funds to implement these policies ([PA 25-159](#), § 21, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) Program***

New legislation creates the DRIP program to provide financial assistance for constructing, renovating, repairing, and enlarging public school buildings, grounds, and infrastructure. The act authorizes up to \$60 million in new general obligation bonds for the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to administer the DRIP program ([PA 25-174](#), § 131, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Federal Surface Transportation Funding***

A new law expands the DOT commissioner's existing authority to enter into agreements with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, local officials, or both, regarding federal and state funding for certain roadways and facilities, particularly when a municipality receives funding directly from the federal government ([PA 25-65](#), §§ 6-8, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Local Health Department and District Funding***

Starting in FY 27, a new law increases funding to local and district health departments as follows: (1) from \$1.93 to \$2.13 per capita for municipal health departments and (2) from \$2.60 to \$3.00 per capita for district health departments. By law, to qualify for this funding, among other things, (1) municipalities must have a full-time health department and a population of at least 50,000 and (2) health districts must have a total population of at least 50,000 or serve three or more municipalities regardless of combined population ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 159 & 160, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Municipal Referral to OPM Secretary for Discussion of Fiscal Condition***

A new law requires municipalities that expect to receive funding under the Municipal Grants-in-Aid program in FY 26 in an amount that exceeds 75% of what they received in FY 25 to consult with the OPM secretary on their fiscal condition by October 1, 2025 ([PA 25-174](#), § 139, effective upon passage).

## ***Municipal Speed and Red Light Camera Revenue Use***

By law, fine revenue from municipal speed and red light cameras may be used to improve transportation mobility, invest in transportation infrastructure, and pay costs associated with camera use. A new law specifies that these costs include reimbursing a vendor for speed and red light camera design, installation, operation, or maintenance ([PA 25-65](#), § 30, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Municipal Spending Cap Suspension***

Existing law generally requires OPM to reduce a municipality's municipal revenue sharing grant if the municipality's budget expenditures exceed the statutory spending cap. By law, the spending cap is the greater of the inflation rate or 2.5% of the prior fiscal year's adopted budget expenditures. For FY 26, a new law prohibits OPM from reducing the grants when the cap is exceeded ([PA 25-3](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Referral to Municipal Finance Advisory Commission (MFAC)***

A new law narrowly expands the reasons why the OPM secretary must refer a municipality to MFAC by requiring the secretary to do so if it (1) has been a distressed municipality for at least 15 consecutive years and (2) has a population of 15,001 to 19,999. (It appears that currently only Ansonia qualifies.) The new law also requires MFAC to designate such a municipality a Tier I municipality for FYs 26 and 27. By law, MFAC must work with referred municipalities to review and improve their fiscal condition and Tier I municipalities must prepare and present a five-year financial plan to MFAC ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 121-122, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Supplemental Revenue Sharing Grants***

This session, the legislature increased the supplemental revenue sharing grant amounts for 11 municipalities. For each of FYs 26 and 27, the new law increases the amounts for Branford, Bridgeport, Danbury, Naugatuck, New Haven, New London, Stamford, Stratford, Voluntown, and West Hartford. It additionally increases the amount to Enfield for FY 26 only. By law, these grants are paid from the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund (MRSF), which is funded through revenues from the sales and use tax and must be proportionally reduced if the funds appropriated do not cover their full amounts. Beginning with FY 26, the new law additionally makes amounts due as specified in existing law to four municipalities (Branford, Bridgeport, New London, and Voluntown) payable as supplemental revenue sharing grants, rather than as additional PILOT grants ([PA 25-168](#), § 473, as amended by [PA 25-174](#), §§ 180 & 189-190, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Town Aid Road Grant Reduction Trigger***

New legislation requires the OPM secretary to reduce a grant to a municipality or district under the Town Aid Road program by 10% in any fiscal year that the municipality or district fails to timely submit its annual report to the DOT commissioner detailing how funds it received were used. However, the act requires the secretary to waive a reduction if the report is submitted after the due date and proof is provided of it ([PA 25-174](#), § 60, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Transit District Funding***

A new law requires DOT to return to funding urban transit districts based on a formula for urbanized areas set in federal law, as it had been required to do prior to this fiscal year. It also eliminates provisions that (1) froze urban transit districts' funding to their FY 24 level and (2) required DOT to establish a grant program to provide additional funding to these transit districts ([PA 25-65](#), § 12, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Virtual Currency***

This session, the legislature enacted a law that prohibits Connecticut and its political subdivisions from accepting or requiring payment in the form of virtual currency, or purchasing, holding, investing in, or establishing a virtual currency reserve ([PA 25-66](#), § 5, effective October 1, 2025).

## **Land Use and Planning**

### ***Climate Resiliency***

A new law addresses planning and preparing for certain hazards and threats from climate change. Among other things, it (1) makes new single-family home construction subject to coastal site plan review under the Coastal Management Act; (2) requires municipal zoning commissions and zoning boards of appeals to give the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) a copy of each coastal site plan for any activity proposed within certain FEMA-designated areas or sites with tidal wetlands, beaches, or dunes; and (3) expands the information that must be included in local, regional, and the state's plans of conservation and development to include strategies for responding to climate change effects. The act also:

1. requires that municipal zoning regulations provide for proper ways to mitigate and avoid the negative effects of sea level change and allows the regulations to (a) require or promote resilience and (b) give incentives for using flood-risk reduction building methods and
2. allows municipal zoning regulations to provide for a regional Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) system and allows COGs to administer joint or multi-town TDR systems ([PA 25-33](#), §§ 5, 6, 11-14, 16-18 & 33, various effective dates).

### ***Commercial to Residential Conversions***

New legislation allows most municipalities to opt to allow the conversion of existing commercial buildings into residential developments subject only to a "summary review." To be eligible, the building must be vacant or had an average occupancy rate under 50% for the past year. Among other things, the act also prohibits municipalities from conducting a revaluation of a conversion for a three-year period ([PA 25-164](#), effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Evacuation and Hazard Planning***

The legislature passed a new law requiring municipal evacuation plans and municipal hazard mitigation plans to identify and address (1) threats to surface transportation, critical infrastructure, and local land uses due to sea level change and (2) actions, strategies, and capital projects to avoid or reduce impacts and risks from climate change. The act also requires each municipality to annually submit a geospatial data file on each culvert and bridge within its control and boundaries

to its COG and requires each COG to annually (1) submit the file to the OPM secretary and (2) report any municipality that did not submit one ([PA 25-33](#), §§ 7 & 8, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Inland Wetlands Agency Training***

This session the legislature expanded the inland wetlands agency training requirement, requiring all inland wetlands agency members and related municipal staff (rather than only one person for each agency) to complete DEEP's training program, which DEEP must make available on its website. Staff must retrain every four years and agency members must retrain every four years or each term, whichever is less frequent ([PA 25-73](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Local Consideration of Land Use Studies and Evaluations***

Under a new law, anyone submitting an environmental, health, traffic, or economic impact study or evaluation to the local legislative body; zoning or planning commission or combined commission; inland wetlands agency; or zoning board of appeals in connection with a pending land use application must include a statement disclosing certain information about it, including the authors' conflicts of interest and the cost of the study or evaluation. The new law requires the decision-making authority to consider the disclosure or lack of one when assessing the study or evaluation's reliability ([PA 25-73](#), § 6, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Use of Municipal Housing Trust Funds***

Existing law allows municipalities to require people developing land to make payments into a housing trust fund or offer the housing trust fund payments as an alternative to other requirements. Under existing law, the funds may be used to build, rehabilitate, or repair affordable housing. The act additionally allows municipalities to use the funds for the following affordable housing purposes: (1) acquiring existing housing or real property or (2) incentivizing deed restrictions that preserve property as affordable ([PA 25-73](#), § 8, effective October 1, 2025).

## **Local Regulations and Code Enforcement**

### ***Cannabis, Hemp, and Tobacco Laws***

A new law makes numerous changes to cannabis, hemp, and tobacco sale laws. The provisions affecting municipalities include:

1. broadening the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating by redefining what is considered an immediate threat to public health and safety;
2. generally limiting the hours a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer, or certain micro-cultivators may sell cannabis, while allowing municipalities to further limit the allowable times; and

3. requiring the local police chief to send written comments for a cigarette dealer license renewal and the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) to respond in writing, under certain circumstance ([PA 25-166](#), §§ 1, 2, 11 & 35, various effective dates).

### ***E-Bikes on Trails***

A new law broadly permits using class 1 e-bikes on bicycle or multi-use trails, unless they are prohibited by local ordinance. Under prior law, class 1 and 2 e-bikes were generally allowed on bicycle or multi-use trails or paths, except those designated for nonmotorized traffic with a natural tread (unless permitted by ordinance); under the new law, this restriction applies to class 2 e-bikes only ([PA 25-159](#), § 37, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Invasive Plants***

A new act prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances on the retail sale or purchase of invasive plants. It also adds, over a period of years, 10 plants to the list of invasive plants that cannot be imported, sold, or purchased in the state ([PA 25-126](#), effective upon passage).

### ***Municipal Liens for Housing Code Violations***

By law, municipalities may adopt ordinances establishing fines of up to \$250 for violating local ordinances on maintaining safe and sanitary housing. Legislation passed this session makes unpaid fines imposed under these municipal ordinances a lien on the affected real estate from the date of the fine, just as existing law provides for unpaid fines for blight and zoning violations ([PA 25-23](#), effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Towing Reform***

This session, the legislature made significant changes to the nonconsensual towing laws, principally affecting towing from private property. Among its changes, the new law explicitly allows municipalities to regulate motor vehicle towing and storage by ordinance, so long as the ordinances are not inconsistent with state law ([PA 25-55](#), most provisions effective October 1, 2025).

### ***ZEO Penalties on Businesses' Suspended or Noncompliant Work***

A new law allows zoning enforcement officers (ZEOs) to take certain enforcement actions against businesses that either (1) suspend work required by an unexpired site plan, subdivision (with less than 400 units) plan, or inland wetlands approval or (2) make improvements that do not conform to the plan's or approval's specifications. Under the new law, the ZEO may generally take enforcement action if he or she determines the business has no intent to resume the work within a reasonable time period and the incomplete or nonconforming work creates a public health or safety hazard ([PA 25-53](#), §§ 1-4, effective October 1, 2025).

## **Miscellaneous**

### ***Concentrated Poverty Census Tracts***

A new law expands the agencies and entities involved in developing a 10-year plan to reduce the levels of concentrated poverty in a designated “concentrated poverty census tract” participating in a Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) pilot program. It also requires the DECD commissioner, by September 1, 2025, to submit an additional progress report to the legislature on the plan’s development. And it eliminates provisions establishing a seven-member working group of legislators to develop a guidance document that sets a framework for (1) best practices and any initiatives or actions it believes will mitigate the effects of concentrated poverty and (2) specific metrics to include in the 10-year plan ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 402 & 403, effective upon passage).

### ***Court Venue and Service of Process***

By law, for purposes of establishing venue (i.e. where a case will be heard), the Superior Court is divided into judicial districts. A new law removes five towns (Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury) from the Hartford judicial district and one town from the New Britain district (Burlington), and it adds all six of them to the Litchfield judicial district.

The new law also changes a plaintiff’s options for the judicial district where process (e.g., a complaint or petition) should be returned when the action involves Avon, Simsbury, Canton, or Farmington ([PA 25-91](#), §§ 15 & 16, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Dog Tag Costs***

A new law allows the agriculture commissioner to charge municipalities the actual cost to obtain and distribute dog tags, rather than five cents per tag as under prior law. By law, town clerks must order dog tags from the agriculture commissioner ([PA 25-152](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Immigration Detainer Violations***

A provision in a new criminal justice related law creates a civil cause of action for an aggrieved person against a municipality for a violation of the state’s civil immigration detainer law by an officer, employee, or other person paid or acting as an agent of the municipal police department or the school district’s school police or security department. The action may be for an injunction or declaratory relief, including a determination of past violations ([PA 25-29](#), § 6, effective October 1, 2025).



## ***Juvenile Diversion Programs***

A provision in the budget implementer act requires each municipality that operates a juvenile review board or other youth diversion programs to annually report to the Children and Judiciary committees and the Office of the Chief State's Attorney on (1) data about children diverted through the board or programs and (2) the outcomes of the diversions ([PA 25-168](#), § 248, effective upon passage).

## ***Parking Distance From Crosswalks and Certain Signs***

A new law increases the minimum distance between a parking spot and an intersection or approach and generally requires traffic authorities to adhere to the new distances when installing or reinstalling parking spot markings ([PA 25-65](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Persons Who May Receive Process in Civil Actions Involving Municipalities***

A new law expands the list of people who may be served process in civil actions in which certain municipal entities (e.g., board or commissions) or employees are the defendants. It primarily does so by allowing service on assistant and deputy clerks, among others ([PA 25-078](#), § 17, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Sourcing Revenue to Municipalities***

Under a new law, starting with FY 26, the DRS commissioner must track and record the source of state sales and use, personal income, and corporation business tax revenue to accurately and fairly attribute the revenue from each of these taxes to municipalities. Annually, starting by October 31, 2026, the commissioner must post on DRS's website a list of all municipalities and the amount of revenue from each of these taxes attributed to each one for the applicable fiscal year ([PA 25-168](#), § 391, effective upon passage).

## ***Sunday Hunting***

A new act expands the ability to hunt on Sundays on private land. Among other things, the act allows DEEP to authorize municipalities, homeowner associations, and nonprofit land-holding organizations to take (e.g., hunt or kill) (1) deer on Sundays consistent with wildlife management principles if they show deer are a severe nuisance or are causing ecological damage and (2) resident Canadian geese on Sundays, consistent with wildlife management principles ([PA 25-138](#), §§ 3-5, effective October 1, 2025).



## ***Town Designating Itself a City in Its Charter***

A new law specifies that a town may opt to designate itself a city in its home rule charter. Under this new law, if a town takes this action, it is deemed a consolidated town and city under state law ([PA 25-73](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Tribe Applications to Convert Land to Federal Trust Status***

A new law removes a requirement for the state to oppose any application by a Native American tribe to convert any parcel of fee interest land (i.e. land owned with no restrictions) to federal trust status. Generally, land held in federal trust status (1) may qualify for certain federal programs and services; (2) is not subject to state or local taxes; and (3) cannot be sold, gifted, or leased without federal approval ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 209-210, effective October 1, 2025).

## **Property Taxes and Assessments**

This year, the legislature made various changes impacting property taxes and assessments, including several acts modifying exemptions (e.g., those for permanently and totally disabled veterans). Related to the motor vehicle property tax, a new law provides an alternative depreciation schedule that municipalities may adopt. Under existing law, motor vehicles are generally valued based on their manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP), which is then reduced according to a 20-year depreciation schedule ([PA 25-2](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective upon passage and the provision on the depreciation schedule is applicable to assessment years beginning on and after October 1, 2024).

Another new law generally limits the foreclosure and assignment of liens for delinquent sewer assessments and charges on owner-occupied real estate ([PA 24-150](#), effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to actions filed on or after that date).

The legislature also enacted a new law creating a municipal uniform solar capacity tax of \$10,000 per megawatt (MW) of nameplate capacity on certain new solar photovoltaic systems that are over one MW in size. Relatedly, it also created a property tax exemption for Class I renewable sources (but not the land on which its located) that collect and use solar energy ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 57 & 58, effective July 1, 2026, and October 1, 2025, respectively).

For more information on these laws, as well as other acts affecting property taxes and local assessments, see [Acts Affecting Taxes \(2025\)](#).

## **Public Health**

### ***Food Code Revisions***

Existing law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to adopt the FDA Food Code for regulating food establishments, and DPH regulations doing so took effect in early 2023. A new law requires the commissioner to adopt into the state code any FDA code revision issued by December 31, 2024. It gives her the discretion to adopt into the state code other supplements to the federal code, rather than requiring her to do so as under prior law ([PA 25-168](#), § 183, effective upon passage).

### ***Public Water Systems***

A new law updates the statutory process for reviewing and approving new public water systems (including municipal systems) to reflect current practice, generally requiring DPH to adopt regulations with requirements for (1) an application and approval process; (2) location restrictions and construction; (3) water quality testing, monitoring, and treatment; and (4) related inspections ([PA 25-96](#), § 19, effective upon passage).

### ***Water Fluoridation***

A new law codifies the amount of fluoride that water companies must add to the water supply, rather than tying the amount to federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommendations as prior law did. In doing so, it maintains the current required level (but HHS recently directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reexamine the federal recommendation). As under prior law, the act applies to systems (including municipal systems) that serve at least 20,000 people ([PA 25-168](#), § 169, effective upon passage).

## **Public Safety and Criminal Justice**

This session, the legislature enacted several public safety and criminal justice-related laws, including some directly impacting municipal authority. For example, a new law makes several changes in laws related to street takeovers and the illegal use of motor vehicles, such as authorizing municipalities to (1) adopt ordinances that penalize street takeovers and (2) destroy all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, and mini-motorcycles that are seized and forfeited for violating a municipal ordinance ([PA 25-80](#), various effective dates). Another new law establishes a uniform definition for officials responsible for administering various gun laws at the municipal level ([PA 25-18](#), effective October 1, 2025). In future years, a new act generally prohibits municipalities from purchasing or operating drones assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity (e.g., China or Russia) ([PA 25-1](#), § 5, effective July 1, 2025).

For more information on these laws, as well as other acts affecting the police, public safety, and related topics, see [Acts Affecting Criminal Justice and Public Safety \(2025\)](#) and [Acts Affecting First Responders \(2025\)](#).

## Public Schools

Each session, the legislature passes numerous laws impacting public schools. Among other new laws, this year the legislature passed two new laws with significant changes for special education and services in public schools ([PA 25-67](#) and [PA 25-93](#), §§ 16-26 & 28-30, most provisions effective July 1, 2025). Another new law establishes an Early Childhood Education Endowment to provide funding for early childhood programs, including public preschool programs, and funds the endowment with estimated General Fund surplus ([PA 25-93](#), §§ 1-14, most provisions effective July 1, 2025).

By law, the Education Cost Sharing grant has a multi-year phase-in schedule of incremental (1) increases for towns that are underfunded and (2) decreases, or years with no change in funding, for overfunded towns. This session the legislature passed a new law that delays, by two years, the start of the schedule to phase-in grant reductions for overfunded towns. It holds these 80 towns harmless (i.e. maintains the same funding level) for FYs 26 and 27 ([PA 25-168](#), § 299, effective July 1, 2025).

For more information on these laws, as well as other acts affecting public schools and education-related topics, see [Acts Affecting Education \(2025\)](#).

## Purchasing and Contracting

### *Antidiscrimination Protection for Certain Victims*

This session, the legislature passed a new law that makes sexual assault victim status and trafficking in persons victim status protected classes under the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities antidiscrimination laws. In doing so, among other things, it generally requires state agency, municipal public works, and quasi-public agency project contracts to have a provision requiring the contractors to agree, with regard to someone's status as a victim of sexual assault or human trafficking, to (1) not discriminate or permit discrimination and (2) take affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated without regard to that status ([PA 25-139](#), § 15, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Environmentally Sustainable Purchasing by Municipalities***

A new law requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to (1) create a model policy or guidelines for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities can use and (2) post it on DAS's website by January 1, 2026. The policy or guidelines must include a list of any state contracts for sustainable purchasing that allow for municipal participation ([PA 25-125](#), § 10, effective upon passage).

## ***Library E-Book Contracts***

This year, the legislature enacted a law that prohibits publicly funded libraries from entering or renewing contracts and licensing agreements for electronic literary materials (such as eBooks) that contain certain provisions that prevent, limit, or restrict the library from performing certain customary operational or lending functions. However, the prohibition only applies after other states with a combined population of at least seven million have enacted a substantially similar law ([PA 25-9](#), effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Prevailing Wage for Certain DECD-Assisted Projects***

A new law limits the portion of certain DECD-assisted projects for remediation, demolition, or pollution abatement in buildings, soil, or groundwater that are subject to prevailing wage requirements. Under the act, the entities subject to these DECD prevailing wage requirements generally include municipalities, COGs, state-certified brownfield land banks, and municipal and nonprofit economic development agencies. This new law also requires contractors awarded contracts for these DECD prevailing wage projects to adjust wage and benefit contributions each July 1 during the contract to reflect changes in the prevailing wage ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 146 & 147, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Prevailing Wage for Offsite Custom Fabrication***

A new law extends the state's prevailing wage law to cover off-site custom fabrication for a covered public works project. "Off-site custom fabrication" is fabricating mechanical systems specifically for a public works project at a site other than the project's location, but still in Connecticut. It includes plumbing, heating, cooling, pipefitting, ventilation, and exhaust duct systems, but not components or materials that are stock shelf items or readily available ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 211 & 212, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Small and Minority Owned Business Set-Aside Program***

A new law makes changes to the state's Small and Minority Owned Business Set-Aside Program. Among other things, it converts the set-aside program into the spending allocation program by

replacing the current 25% set-aside requirements for small contractors or minority business enterprises with (1) annual spending allocation goals for goods and services by industry category and (2) contract-specific spending allocation goals for public works contracts based on the percentage of available businesses in the relevant industry and geographic market area ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 198-227, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Threshold for Sealed Bidding***

A new law increases, from \$25,000 to \$35,000, the maximum value of contracts or purchases that a municipality may exempt, by ordinance, from its sealed bidding requirements ([PA 25-92](#), effective October 1, 2025).

## **Records, Filings, and Public Access**

### ***Access to Certain Vital Records***

Existing law gives various parties the right to access a person's certified birth and fetal death records and certificates, such as the person's child, grandchild, spouse, parent, grandparent, or guardian. A new law extends this right to a person's legal custodian ([PA 24-68](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2024).

### ***Birth Certificates***

A new law creates a process for a parent of a child born outside of a hospital or other institution, if the birth certificate has not been created and the parent is unable to provide certain information, to seek a probate court order before the child's first birthday to require the town registrar of vital statistics to prepare and file the certificate. The process is similar to the existing process for delayed birth registration for children one year old or older ([PA 24-68](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2024).

### ***Elimination of Municipal Recording Requirements for Liquor Permits***

A new law eliminates the requirement that before a new or renewed liquor permit is active, it be filed in duplicate with the appropriate town clerk, which is generally where the business is located ([PA 25-51](#), § 21, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Location of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelters***

A new law expands confidentiality protections for the locations of shelters or transitional housing for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault by explicitly prohibiting public agencies from

disclosing any information indicating these locations, regardless of the state's Freedom of Information Act ([PA 25-70](#), effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Municipal Internet Websites***

This session, the legislature required all municipalities, by July 1, 2027, to maintain a .gov Internet domain and register it with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Municipalities must redirect any other domains they use to the .gov domain or stop using them ([PA 25-44](#), § 4, effective upon passage).

### ***Posting Fair Rent Commission Bylaws***

A new law requires any municipality that creates a fair rent commission (FRC) to post on its website a publicly accessible copy of the FRC's adopted bylaws ([PA 25-121](#), effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Recording Fees Funding the Community Investment Account***

In 2025, the legislature made several changes to the laws regarding the community investment account. Among other things, it (1) increased, from \$40 to \$50, the land record recording fee that funds the account and (2) generally increased the amount that town clerks and municipalities receive for collecting this fee ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 411-414, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Short Form Death Certificates***

A new law requires the public health commissioner, by January 1, 2026, to establish a process for someone to request a short-form death certificate for a death that occurred on or after January 1, 2021. The short-form death certificate must exclude the medical certification part of the death certificate that identifies the decedent's cause of death. Under prior law, the state only offered long-form death certificates that include information on the cause of death ([PA 25-97](#), § 23, effective upon passage).

### ***Validating Recorded Documents***

A new law statutorily extends the law's validation of recorded real property documents with certain defects or omissions to documents recorded before January 2, 1997. This validation generally applies to deeds, mortgages, leases, powers of attorney (POA), releases, assignments, or certain other real property documents. Examples of defects covered by the validation rule are improper attestations, incorrect or missing dates, failures to reference recorded POAs, or failing to post a required bond ([PA 25-136](#), effective July 1, 2025).

## **Utilities and Related Services**

### ***Battery Stewardship Program Collection Sites***

This session, the legislature established the framework for statewide stewardship programs to manage the collection and recycling of certain batteries. Under the act, municipalities, solid waste management facilities, and household hazardous waste facilities may participate as collection sites for certain batteries if they meet certain criteria and they ask to be one ([PA 25-34](#), effective October 1, 2025).

### ***The Metropolitan District (MDC) Member Towns***

This year, the legislature amended MDC's charter to allow any municipality to become an MDC member town, so long as the membership would comply with any relevant special act, municipal charter, ordinance, or regulation. The charter previously limited membership to municipalities that are contiguous to Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield, or Windsor (i.e. member towns). MDC provides services to non-member municipalities as well, but commissioners representing them are non-voting members on MDC's Board of Commissioners ([SA 25-11](#), effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Transfer Station Permit Changes and Transfers***

A new law establishes conditions under which a specified transfer station may continue to operate and accept municipal solid waste, including recyclables, while its commercial transfer station permit application is pending before DEEP ([PA 25-168](#), § 288, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Utility Service Restoration Planning***

By law, electric distribution companies (EDCs, i.e. Eversource and United Illuminating) and other utilities must file biennial post-emergency service restoration plans with certain state agencies and the municipalities in their service areas. A new law requires (1) the plans to include wildfires as emergencies and (2) EDCs to establish an emergency service restoration planning committee that includes line and restoration crew members ([PA 25-173](#), § 22, effective October 1, 2025).

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