



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Governor's Bill No. 91

LCO No. 534



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT ENHANCING THE INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL AND ESTABLISHING PROTECTED AREAS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 53a-3 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 Except where different meanings are expressly specified, the
5 following terms have the following meanings when used in this title:

6 (1) "Person" means a human being, and, where appropriate, a public
7 or private corporation, a limited liability company, an unincorporated
8 association, a partnership, a government or a governmental
9 instrumentality;

10 (2) "Possess" means to have physical possession or otherwise to
11 exercise dominion or control over tangible property;

12 (3) "Physical injury" means impairment of physical condition or pain;

13 (4) "Serious physical injury" means physical injury which creates a
14 substantial risk of death, or which causes serious disfigurement, serious
15 impairment of health or serious loss or impairment of the function of
16 any bodily organ;

17 (5) "Deadly physical force" means physical force which can be
18 reasonably expected to cause death or serious physical injury;

19 (6) "Deadly weapon" means any weapon, whether loaded or
20 unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife,
21 gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles. The
22 definition of "deadly weapon" in this subdivision shall be deemed not
23 to apply to section 29-38 or 53-206 and does not include an electronic
24 defense weapon when used by a peace officer;

25 (7) "Dangerous instrument" means any instrument, article or
26 substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or
27 attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or
28 serious physical injury, and includes a "vehicle" as that term is defined
29 in this section and includes a dog that has been commanded to attack,
30 except a dog owned by a law enforcement agency of the state or any
31 political subdivision thereof or of the federal government when such
32 dog is in the performance of its duties under the direct supervision, care
33 and control of an assigned law enforcement officer;

34 (8) "Vehicle" means a "motor vehicle" as defined in section 14-1, a
35 snowmobile, any aircraft, or any vessel equipped for propulsion by
36 mechanical means or sail;

37 (9) "Peace officer" means a member of the Division of State Police
38 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or
39 an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in
40 the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising
41 authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial
42 marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a
43 conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section

44 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a
45 special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a, 29-18b or 29-
46 19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction
47 authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a
48 correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations
49 unit of the office of the State Treasurer, an inspector of motor vehicles in
50 the Department of Motor Vehicles, who is certified under the provisions
51 of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, [a United States marshal or
52 deputy marshal, any special agent of the federal government authorized
53 to enforce the provisions of Title 21 of the United States Code] any
54 federal law enforcement officer, as defined in 18 USC 115(c)(1) or 34 USC
55 50301(5), or a member of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket
56 Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut created
57 and governed by a memorandum of agreement under section 47-65c
58 who is certified as a police officer by the Police Officer Standards and
59 Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive;

60 (10) "Firefighter" means any agent of a municipality whose duty it is
61 to protect life and property therein as a member of a duly constituted
62 fire department whether professional or volunteer;

63 (11) A person acts "intentionally" with respect to a result or to conduct
64 described by a statute defining an offense when his conscious objective
65 is to cause such result or to engage in such conduct;

66 (12) A person acts "knowingly" with respect to conduct or to a
67 circumstance described by a statute defining an offense when he is
68 aware that his conduct is of such nature or that such circumstance exists;

69 (13) A person acts "recklessly" with respect to a result or to a
70 circumstance described by a statute defining an offense when he is
71 aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk
72 that such result will occur or that such circumstance exists. The risk
73 must be of such nature and degree that disregarding it constitutes a
74 gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person

75 would observe in the situation;

76 (14) A person acts with "criminal negligence" with respect to a result
77 or to a circumstance described by a statute defining an offense when he
78 fails to perceive a substantial and unjustifiable risk that such result will
79 occur or that such circumstance exists. The risk must be of such nature
80 and degree that the failure to perceive it constitutes a gross deviation
81 from the standard of care that a reasonable person would observe in the
82 situation;

83 (15) "Machine gun" means a weapon of any description, irrespective
84 of size, by whatever name known, loaded or unloaded, from which a
85 number of shots or bullets may be rapidly or automatically discharged
86 from a magazine with one continuous pull of the trigger and includes a
87 submachine gun;

88 (16) "Rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or
89 remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or
90 redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a
91 fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled
92 bore for each single pull of the trigger;

93 (17) "Shotgun" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or
94 remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or
95 redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a
96 fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball
97 shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger;

98 (18) "Pistol" or "revolver" means any firearm having a barrel less than
99 twelve inches;

100 (19) "Firearm" means any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle,
101 shotgun, pistol, revolver or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded
102 from which a shot may be discharged;

103 (20) "Electronic defense weapon" means a weapon which by

104 electronic impulse or current is capable of immobilizing a person
105 temporarily, including a stun gun or other conductive energy device;

106 (21) "Martial arts weapon" means a nunchaku, kama, kasari-fundo,
107 octagon sai, tonfa or chinese star;

108 (22) "Employee of an emergency medical service organization" means
109 an ambulance driver, emergency medical technician or paramedic as
110 defined in section 19a-175;

111 (23) "Railroad property" means all tangible property owned, leased
112 or operated by a railroad carrier including, but not limited to, a right-of-
113 way, track, roadbed, bridge, yard, shop, station, tunnel, viaduct, trestle,
114 depot, warehouse, terminal or any other structure or appurtenance or
115 equipment owned, leased or used in the operation of a railroad carrier
116 including a train, locomotive, engine, railroad car, signals or safety
117 device or work equipment or rolling stock;

118 (24) "Serious firearm offense" means a violation of section 29-36, 29-
119 36a or 53-202w, possession of a stolen firearm or a firearm that is altered
120 in a manner that renders the firearm unlawful, or any crime of which an
121 essential element is that the person discharged, used or was armed with
122 and threatened the use of a firearm; and

123 (25) "Serious firearm offender" means a person who has (A) two
124 convictions for a serious firearm offense, (B) a conviction for a serious
125 firearm offense and was previously convicted of a violation of section
126 29-36, 29-36a, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-217 or
127 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-217c, or (C) a conviction
128 for a serious firearm offense and was previously convicted of two or
129 more additional felony offenses.

130 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

131 (1) "Protected area" means any of the following buildings or locations,
132 including the grounds of such buildings or locations and any garages or

133 parking lots utilized in the operation of such buildings or locations,
134 irrespective of whether such garages or parking lots are contiguous to
135 the buildings or locations:

136 (A) A school, including, but not limited to, a preschool, primary or
137 secondary school, vocational school or college or university;

138 (B) A medical or mental health facility, including, but not limited to,
139 a hospital, doctor's office, health clinic, vaccination or testing site, urgent
140 care center, site that serves pregnant individuals or community health
141 center;

142 (C) A place of worship or religious study, whether in a structure
143 dedicated to activities of faith or a temporary facility or location where
144 such activities take place;

145 (D) A place where children gather, including, but not limited to, a
146 playground, recreation center, child care center, before or after-school
147 care center, foster care facility, group home for children or school bus
148 stop;

149 (E) A social services establishment, including, but not limited to, a
150 crisis center, domestic violence shelter, victims services center, child
151 advocacy center, supervised visitation center, family justice center,
152 community-based organization, facility that serves disabled persons,
153 homeless shelter, drug or alcohol counseling and treatment facility or
154 food bank or pantry or other establishment distributing food or other
155 essentials of life to people in need;

156 (F) A place where disaster or emergency response and relief is
157 provided, including, but not limited to, such places along evacuation
158 routes, where shelter or emergency supplies, food or water are being
159 distributed, or registration for disaster-related assistance or family
160 reunification is underway;

161 (G) A place where a funeral, graveside ceremony, rosary, wedding or

162 other religious or civil ceremonies or observances occur; or

163 (H) A place where there is an ongoing parade, demonstration or rally.

164 (2) "State facility" means any building, or part thereof, owned, leased,
165 occupied, controlled by or used for business by an office or agency of
166 the Executive Department, either directly or indirectly, including, but
167 not limited to, entities providing direct services on behalf of offices or
168 agencies, but not including state-owned property leased to a federal
169 entity. "State facility" includes the grounds of such facility and any
170 garages or parking lots utilized in the operation of such facility,
171 irrespective of whether such garages or parking lots are contiguous to
172 the facility.

173 (3) "Municipal facility" means any building or part thereof, owned,
174 leased, occupied, controlled by or used for business by a municipal
175 government, either directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to,
176 entities providing direct services on behalf of a municipal government.
177 "Municipal facility" includes the grounds of such facility and any
178 garages or parking lots utilized in the operation of such facility,
179 irrespective of whether such garages or parking lots are contiguous to
180 the facility.

181 (4) "Exigent circumstance" means the following:

182 (A) An enforcement action involving a national security threat;

183 (B) An imminent risk of death, violence or physical harm to a person;

184 (C) An enforcement action involving the hot pursuit of an individual
185 who poses a public safety threat;

186 (D) An imminent risk that evidence material to a criminal case will be
187 destroyed; or

188 (E) A situation enforcement action where a safe alternative location
189 does not exist.

190 (5) "Designated individual" means any individual assigned by
191 persons responsible for operating a protected area, state facility or
192 municipal facility to review documentation provided by local, state or
193 federal law enforcement authorities.

194 (b) No representative of a local, state or federal law enforcement
195 authority shall detain, arrest or otherwise take an individual in a
196 protected area, state facility or municipal facility into custody on the
197 basis of a civil offense, unless such representative (1) is acting in the
198 representative's official capacity, and (2) has documentation
199 demonstrating that the individual to be detained, arrested or otherwise
200 taken into custody (A) is the subject of a judicial warrant, (B) has been
201 convicted of (i) a violation of section 53-21 of the general statutes, 53a-
202 56a of the general statutes, 53a-64aa of the general statutes, 53a-71 of the
203 general statutes, 53a-72a of the general statutes, 53a-72b of the general
204 statutes, 53a-90a of the general statutes, 53a-102a of the general statutes,
205 53a-196e of the general statutes, 53a-196f of the general statutes, 53a-196i
206 of the general statutes, 53a-222 of the general statutes or 53a-223 of the
207 general statutes, or (ii) any class A or B felony offense, or (C) is identified
208 as a possible match in the federal Terrorist Screening Database or similar
209 database.

210 (c) Any designated individual receiving documentation pursuant to
211 subsection (b) of this section shall promptly review such
212 documentation. No representative of a local, state or federal law
213 enforcement authority shall detain, arrest or otherwise take an
214 individual in a protected area, state facility or municipal facility into
215 custody on the basis of a civil offense who is the subject of such
216 documentation, unless the designated individual determines, based
217 upon such review, that such individual (1) is the subject of a judicial
218 warrant, (2) has been convicted of (A) a violation of section 53-21 of the
219 general statutes, 53a-56a of the general statutes, 53a-64aa of the general
220 statutes, 53a-71 of the general statutes, 53a-72a of the general statutes,
221 53a-72b of the general statutes, 53a-90a of the general statutes, 53a-102a
222 of the general statutes, 53a-196e of the general statutes, 53a-196f of the

223 general statutes, 53a-196i of the general statutes, 53a-222 of the general
224 statutes or 53a-223 of the general statutes, or (B) any class A or B felony
225 offense, or (3) is identified as a possible match in the federal Terrorist
226 Screening Database or similar database.

227 (d) A local, state or federal law enforcement authority may perform
228 an enforcement action at a protected area, state facility or municipal
229 facility if an exigent circumstance exists. If no such exigent circumstance
230 exists, the local, state or federal law enforcement authority shall comply
231 with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

232 (e) Any violation of this section shall be deemed breach of the peace
233 in the second degree and punished in accordance with the provisions of
234 section 53a-181 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	53a-3
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

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