



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 302

LCO No. 2058



Referred to Committee on BANKING

Introduced by:

(BA)

AN ACT REVISING VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN APPROVALS BY THE BANKING COMMISSIONER AND CONNECTICUT BANK BRANCH APPLICATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 36a-34 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (b) The commissioner shall not grant any approval under section 36a-
5 125, subsections (b), (c) and (d) of section 36a-145, as amended by this
6 act, section 36a-181, section 36a-411 or subdivisions (1) and (2) of
7 subsection (a) of section 36a-412 unless the commissioner finds, in
8 accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to chapter 54, that (1)
9 based on the most recent applicable performance evaluation and any
10 related information required by the commissioner, the entity has a
11 record of compliance with the requirements of federal CRA, sections
12 36a-30 to 36a-33, inclusive, to the extent applicable, and applicable
13 consumer protection laws; and (2) except as otherwise provided in this
14 subsection, if the entity, and in the case of an approval pursuant to

15 section 36a-411, the bank or any subsidiary bank of the Connecticut
16 holding company, received [any] an overall rating [other than an
17 assigned rating of "outstanding"] of "needs to improve" or "substantial
18 noncompliance" on its most recent applicable community reinvestment
19 performance evaluation, the resulting entity will provide adequate
20 services to meet the banking needs of all community residents,
21 including low-income residents and moderate-income residents to the
22 extent permitted by its charter, in accordance with a plan submitted by
23 the applicant to the commissioner, in such form and containing such
24 information as the commissioner may require, or, if acceptable to the
25 commissioner, in accordance with an approved strategic plan prepared
26 under federal CRA, or the relevant portion thereof, that is submitted by
27 the applicant to the commissioner. Upon receiving any such plan, the
28 commissioner shall make the plan available for public inspection and
29 comment at the Department of Banking and cause notice of its
30 submission and availability for inspection and comment to be published
31 in the department's weekly bulletin. With the concurrence of the
32 commissioner, the applicant or applicants shall publish, in the form of a
33 legal advertisement in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in
34 the area, notice of such plan's submission and availability for public
35 inspection and comment. The notice shall state that the inspection and
36 comment period will last for a period of thirty days from the date of
37 publication. The commissioner shall not make such finding until the
38 expiration of such thirty-day period. In making such finding, the
39 commissioner shall, unless clearly inapplicable, consider, among other
40 factors, whether the plan identifies specific unmet credit and consumer
41 banking needs in the local community and specifies how such needs will
42 be satisfied, provides for sufficient distribution of banking services
43 among branches or satellite devices, or both, located in low-income
44 neighborhoods, contains adequate assurances that banking services will
45 be offered on a nondiscriminatory basis and demonstrates a
46 commitment to extend credit for housing, small business and consumer
47 purposes in low-income neighborhoods. The submission of such plan
48 shall not be required in the case of an approval under subsection (d) of

49 section 36a-145, provided, the commissioner may require the filing of
50 such information in lieu of a plan as the commissioner deems
51 appropriate. If the commissioner determines that an applicant is an
52 eligible entity, the commissioner may (A) exempt such applicant from
53 the requirement that such applicant file a plan, or (B) require such
54 information in lieu of a plan as the commissioner deems appropriate.
55 Except with respect to an approval pursuant to section 36a-145, as
56 amended by this act, and section 36a-181, the commissioner shall not
57 approve the transaction if the transaction would result in a monopoly,
58 or would be in furtherance of any combination or conspiracy to
59 monopolize or attempt to monopolize the business of banking in this
60 state or if the commissioner determines that the effect of the proposed
61 transaction may be to substantially lessen competition, or would tend to
62 create a monopoly, or would be in restraint of trade, unless the
63 commissioner finds that the anticompetitive effects of the proposed
64 transaction are clearly outweighed in the public interest by the probable
65 effect of the transaction in meeting the convenience and needs of the
66 community to be served.

67 Sec. 2. Subsection (n) of section 36a-145 of the general statutes is
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
69 *1, 2026*):

70 (n) Upon receipt of an application pursuant to subdivision (1) of
71 subsection (b) of this section, subdivisions (1) and (4) of subsection (c)
72 of this section, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section or
73 subsection (j) of this section, the commissioner shall cause notice of the
74 application to be published in the department's weekly bulletin. The
75 commissioner shall determine whether the applicant is an eligible
76 entity, as defined in section 36a-34, as amended by this act, and shall
77 promptly notify the applicant of such determination. An application by
78 an eligible entity shall be deemed approved on the [twelfth] fifth
79 business day after expiration of the comment period provided in the
80 department's weekly bulletin, unless the commissioner informs the
81 applicant, in writing, prior to such [twelfth] fifth business day, that (1)

82 an adverse comment has been received that warrants additional
83 investigation or review; (2) the application presents a significant
84 community reinvestment or compliance concern; (3) the application
85 presents a significant supervisory concern or raises significant legal or
86 policy issues; or (4) the application requires additional information. The
87 application may be deemed approved prior to the expiration of the
88 [twelfth] fifth business day if the commissioner issues a written notice
89 of the commissioner's intent not to disapprove the application.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	36a-34(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	36a-145(n)

Statement of Purpose:

To revise various provisions relating to (1) community reinvestment performance evaluation ratings and certain approvals by the Banking Commissioner, and (2) timeframes applicable to certain applications regarding Connecticut bank branches.

[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.]