



Substitute Senate Bill No. 488

Public Act No. 26-94

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE TREASURER'S
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE UNCLAIMED
PROPERTY PROGRAM AND SECOND INJURY FUND.**

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

Section 1. Section 3-56a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Apparent owner" means the person whose name appears on the records of the holder as the person entitled to the property held, issued or owing by the holder, except for purposes of subdivision (8) of this section, "apparent owner" includes an agent or other representative of the apparent owner, but excludes the holder acting as the apparent owner's agent;

(2) "Banking organization" means any state bank and trust company, national banking association or savings bank engaged in business in this state;

(3) "Business association" means a corporation, joint stock company, partnership, unincorporated association, joint venture, limited liability

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company, business trust, trust company, safe deposit company, financial organization, insurance company, person engaged in the business of operating or controlling a mutual fund, utility or other business entity consisting of one or more persons, whether or not for profit;

(4) "Financial organization" means any savings and loan association, credit union or investment company;

(5) "Funeral service contract" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-200;

(6) "Gift certificate" means a record evidencing a promise, made for consideration, by the seller or issuer of the record that goods or services will be provided to the owner of the record to the value shown in the record and includes, but is not limited to, a record that contains a microprocessor chip, magnetic stripe or other means for the storage of information that is prefunded and for which the value is decremented upon each use, a gift card, an electronic gift card, stored-value card or certificate, a store card, or a similar record or card, but "gift certificate" does not include prepaid calling cards regulated under section 42-370, prepaid commercial mobile radio services, as defined in 47 CFR 20.3 or general-use prepaid cards, as defined in section 42-460a;

(7) "Holder" means any person in possession of property subject to this part which belongs to another, or who is trustee in case of a trust, or who is indebted to another on an obligation subject to this part;

(8) "Indicated an interest" includes, in addition to other means set forth in this chapter, the following actions: (A) A record communicated by the apparent owner to the holder or an agent of the holder concerning the property or the account in which the property is held, (B) an oral communication by the apparent owner to the holder or agent of the holder concerning the property or the account in which the property is

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held, where such holder or agent contemporaneously makes and preserves a record of such communication, (C) presentment of a check or other instrument of payment of a dividend, interest payment or other distribution by the apparent owner, (D) activity directed by an apparent owner in the account in which the property is held, including, but not limited to, accessing the account or information concerning the account, or a direction by the apparent owner to increase, decrease or otherwise change the amount or type of property held in the account, (E) activity directed by an apparent owner in any other account at a business association, banking organization or financial organization that is the holder or an agent of the holder of the account in which the property is held by the apparent owner, including, but not limited to, (i) a deposit into or withdrawal from such other account, except for an automatic deposit or withdrawal previously authorized by the apparent owner or an automatic reinvestment of dividends or interest, (ii) presentment of a passbook or other similar evidence of a deposit into such other account for the crediting of interest, or (iii) making a payment to such business association, banking organization or financial organization for the principal or interest due on a loan made by such business association, banking organization or financial organization to the apparent owner, and (F) any other action by the apparent owner that reasonably demonstrates to the holder that the apparent owner knows the property exists. "Indicated an interest" excludes any communication of an apparent owner with a person other than the holder or the holder's representative unless a record of the communication evidences the apparent owner's knowledge of a right to the property;

[(8)] (9) "Insurance company" means an association, corporation or fraternal or mutual benefit organization, whether or not for profit, engaged in the business of providing life endowments, annuities or insurance, including accident, burial, casualty, credit life, contract performance, dental, disability, fidelity, fire, health, hospitalization, illness, life, malpractice, marine, mortgage, surety, wage protection and

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workers' compensation insurance;

[(9)] (10) "Last-known address" means any description, code or other indication of the location of the apparent owner that identifies the state, even if such description, code or indication is insufficient for the purpose of the delivery of first-class United States mail to the apparent owner;

[(10)] (11) "Mineral" means gas; oil; other gaseous, liquid and solid hydrocarbons; oil shale; cement material; sand and gravel; road material; building stone; chemical raw material; gemstone; fissionable and nonfissionable ores; colloidal and other clay; steam and other geothermal resource; or any other substance defined as a mineral by the law of this state;

[(11)] (12) "Mineral proceeds" means amounts payable for the extraction, production or sale of minerals, or, upon the abandonment of those payments, all payments that become payable thereafter, and "mineral proceeds" includes amounts payable: (A) For the acquisition and retention of a mineral lease, including bonuses, royalties, compensatory royalties, shut-in royalties, minimum royalties and delay rentals; (B) for the extraction, production or sale of minerals, including net revenue interests, royalties, overriding royalties, extraction payments and production payments; and (C) under an agreement or option, including a joint operating agreement, unit agreement, pooling agreement and farm-out agreement;

[(12)] (13) "Owner" means a depositor in case of a deposit, a beneficiary in case of a trust, a creditor, claimant or payee in case of other choses in action, or any person having a legal or equitable interest in property subject to this part, or such person's legal representative;

[(13)] (14) "Person" means any individual, business association, estate, trust, government, governmental subdivision, agency or

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instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity;

[(14)] (15) "Property" means realty or personalty, tangible or intangible, and includes, but is not limited to, virtual currency;

[(15)] (16) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;

[(16)] (17) "Treasurer" means the Treasurer of the state of Connecticut;

[(17)] (18) "Utility" means a person who owns or operates for public use any plant, equipment, real property, franchise or license for the transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale, delivery or furnishing of electricity, water, steam or gas; and

[(18)] (19) "Virtual currency" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-596.

Sec. 2. Section 3-58a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Unclaimed funds held and owing by an insurance company shall be presumed abandoned if a person other than the insured or annuitant is entitled to the funds and no address of such person is known to the company. If it is not definite and certain from the records of the company what person is entitled to the funds, it is presumed that the last-known address of the person entitled to the funds is the same as the last-known address of the insured or annuitant according to the records of the company.

(b) As used in this section, "unclaimed funds" means all moneys held and owing by any insurance company unclaimed and unpaid for more than three years after the moneys became due and payable as

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established from the records of a life insurance company under any life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract which has matured or terminated or after the moneys became due and payable as established from the records of any other insurance company. A life insurance policy not matured by actual proof of the death of the insured is deemed to be matured and the proceeds thereof are deemed to be due and payable if such policy was in force when the insured attained the limiting age under the mortality table on which the reserve is based, unless the person appearing entitled thereto has within the preceding three years (1) assigned, readjusted or paid premiums on the policy, or subjected the policy to loan, or (2) corresponded in writing with the insurance company concerning the policy. Moneys otherwise payable according to the records of the company are deemed due and payable although the policy or contract has not been surrendered as required. The application of an automatic premium loan provision or other nonforfeiture provision contained in an insurance policy does not prevent the policy from being deemed matured or terminated for purposes of this section if the insured has died or the insured or a beneficiary of the policy have otherwise become entitled to the proceeds thereof before the depletion of the cash surrender value of a policy subject to such provisions.

Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 3-61b of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(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 that meets any of the following: (1) [that] The funeral service contract was entered into seventy-five years or more ago, (2) [for which] the funeral service establishment has received affirmative notification of the death of the beneficiary of such contract, or (3) [for which] the beneficiary of such

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contract has reached the age of one hundred ten years.

Sec. 4. Section 3-65a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Between July first and September thirtieth, inclusive, of the calendar year in which a presumption of abandonment is to take effect, if the owner's claim is not barred by law, the holder shall notify the owner thereof and take reasonable steps to prevent abandonment from being presumed. Such notice shall be provided, at a minimum, by (1) first-class mail directed to the owner's last-known address, if such address is sufficient for the purpose of the delivery of first-class United States mail and the cumulative value of all property belonging to the owner is fifty dollars or greater, and (2) electronic mail directed to the owner's last-known electronic mail address, regardless of the value of the property, if a holder has received an owner's consent for the electronic delivery of any notices that are required by law. Such notice shall inform the owner that evidence of interest must be indicated as required by this part or such property will be transferred to the Treasurer and will be subject to escheat to the state. If the property presumed abandoned is a security, virtual currency or tangible property from a safe deposit box, the holder's notice shall indicate that such property may be liquidated either prior to or following its reporting to the Treasurer and that after such liquidation will be limited to the proceeds of such liquidation. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require an owner to consent to the electronic delivery of notices for communications regarding unclaimed property.

(b) Not later than March thirty-first following the close of the calendar year in which property is presumed abandoned, the holder shall pay or deliver such property to the Treasurer and file, on forms that the Treasurer shall provide, a report of unclaimed property. Each report shall be verified and shall include: (1) The name, if known, last-

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known physical and electronic mail address, if any, and last-known telephone number, if any, of each person appearing to be the owner of such property; (2) in case of unclaimed funds of an insurance company, the full name of the insured or annuitant and beneficiary and his or her last-known address appearing on the insurance company's records; (3) the nature and identifying number, if any, or description of the property and the amount appearing from the records to be due; (4) the date when the property became payable, demandable or returnable and the date of the last transaction with the owner with respect to the property; (5) if the holder is a successor to other holders, or if the holder has changed the holder's name, all prior known names and addresses of each holder of the property; and (6) such other information as the Treasurer may require.

(c) A holder may submit a request to the Treasurer to report and deliver property prior to the period required under subsection (b) of this section if the holder has identified circumstances that make it likely such property will become abandoned and subject to the custody of the state under this chapter, notwithstanding the passage of time and provision of notice. Any such request shall include an affidavit by a duly authorized officer of the holder describing the efforts made to provide notice to the rightful owner, affirming that such notice was completed at least six months prior to the date of the affidavit, and that the holder has not received a communication from the owner that indicated an interest in such property. The Treasurer may, in the Treasurer's discretion, consent in writing to such request for early reporting and delivery.

[(c)] (d) Verification, if made by a partnership, shall be executed by a partner; if made by an unincorporated association or private corporation, by an officer; and if made by a public corporation, by its chief fiscal officer.

[(d)] (e) (1) The Treasurer shall keep a permanent record of all reports

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submitted to the Treasurer pursuant to this section.

(2) A holder shall retain the following records for at least ten years after the date any report was filed under this section or the last date a timely report was due to be filed, unless a shorter retention period is provided by the Treasurer: (A) The information required to be included in the report, (B) the date, place and nature of the circumstances that gave rise to the property right, and (C) any documentation concerning items considered for reporting that were not ultimately determined to represent unclaimed property, for verification of whether the holder has complied with its reporting obligation under this section.

[(e)] (f) Except for claims paid under section 3-67a and except as provided in subsection (e) of section 3-70a, as amended by this act, no owner shall be entitled to any interest, income or other increment which may accrue to property presumed abandoned from and after the date of payment or delivery to the Treasurer.

[(f)] (g) The Treasurer may decline to receive any property the value of which is less than the cost of giving notice or holding sale, or may postpone taking possession until a sufficient sum accumulates.

[(g)] (h) The Treasurer, or any officer or agency designated by the Treasurer, may examine any person on oath or affirmation, or the records of any person or any agent of the person including, but not limited to, a dividend disbursement agent or transfer agent of a business association, banking organization or insurance company that is the holder of property presumed abandoned to determine whether the person or agent has complied with this part. The Treasurer may conduct the examination even if the person or agent believes the person or agent is not in possession of any property that must be paid, delivered or reported under this part. The Treasurer may bring an action in a court of appropriate jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this part.

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[(h)] (i) A record of the issuance of a check, draft or similar instrument is prima facie evidence of the obligation represented by the check, draft or similar instrument. In claiming property from a holder who is also the issuer, the Treasurer's burden of proof as to the existence and amount of the property and its abandonment is satisfied by showing issuance of the instrument and passage of the requisite period of abandonment. Defenses of payment, satisfaction, discharge and want of consideration are affirmative defenses that shall be established by the holder.

[(i)] (j) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the holder of personal property presumed abandoned pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a or section 3-57b shall (1) sell such property and pay the proceeds arising from such sale, excluding any charges that may lawfully be withheld, to the Treasurer, unless such property consists of military medals, in which case such property shall not be sold, and (2) provide the Treasurer with records deemed appropriate by the Treasurer of property so presumed abandoned. The holder shall complete the sale of such property and deliver the net proceeds to the Treasurer not later than thirty days after filing the report required under subsection (b) of this section. A holder of tangible, personal property may contract with a third party to store and sell such property and to pay the proceeds arising from such sale, excluding any charges that may be lawfully withheld, to the Treasurer, provided the third party holds a surety bond or other form of insurance coverage with respect to such activities. Any holder who sells property pursuant to subsection (a) of section 3-57a or section 3-57b and remits the excess proceeds to the Treasurer or who transmits tangible, personal property to a bonded or insured third party for such purposes, shall not be responsible for any claims related to the sale or transmission of the property or proceeds to the Treasurer. If the Treasurer exempts any such property from being remitted or sold pursuant to this subsection, whether by regulations or guidelines, the holder of such property may

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dispose of such property in any manner such holder deems appropriate and such holder shall not be responsible for any claims related to the disposition of such property or any claims to the property itself. For purposes of the sale of personal property presumed abandoned under subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a or section 3-57b, charges that may lawfully be withheld include costs of storage, appraisal, advertising and sales commissions as well as lawful charges owing under the contract governing the safe deposit box rental.

~~[(j)]~~ (k) In the event military medals are presumed abandoned pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a, a banking or financial organization shall transmit such medals to the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with procedures established by the Treasurer. The Treasurer and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a memorandum of understanding concerning the handling of such medals and the Department of Veterans Affairs shall hold such medals in custody pursuant to such memorandum. The Treasurer may make any information obtained pursuant to this section, including any photograph or other visual depiction of a military medal but excluding Social Security numbers, available to the public to facilitate the identification of the original owner of such medal or such owner's heirs or beneficiaries.

Sec. 5. Section 3-66a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(NEW) (d) Personal information of owners contained in the records of the Treasurer, including those derived from holder reports and records not published on the searchable list required under this section, shall be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200. Nothing in this section prohibits disclosure of such personal information for purposes directly connected with the administration of this chapter by the Treasurer or the Treasurer's agents, including disclosure to other government officials while using

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appropriate confidentiality protections. For purposes of this section, "personal information" means information that identifies or reasonably can be used to identify a person, including the name in conjunction with (1) the Social Security number or other government issued number or identifier, (2) date of birth, (3) date of death, (4) home or physical address or other contact information, (5) Internet provider address, (6) account number, or (7) abandoned property value.

Sec. 6. Section 3-70a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Any person claiming an interest in property surrendered to the Treasurer under the provisions of this part may claim such property, or the proceeds from the sale thereof, at any time thereafter. Any person claiming an interest in such property shall file a certified claim with the Treasurer, setting forth the facts upon which such party claims to be entitled to recover such property. The Treasurer shall prescribe the form that such a verified claim shall take.

(b) The Treasurer shall consider each claim not later than ninety days after it is filed. The Treasurer may hold hearings on any claim and may refer any claim to the Office of the Claims Commissioner, which shall hold hearings thereon and promptly return the Claims Commissioner's recommendations for the payment or rejection thereof. The Treasurer shall deliver the Treasurer's decision in writing on each claim heard, with a finding of fact and a statement of the reasons for the Treasurer's decision. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Treasurer may appeal therefrom in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183, except venue for such appeal shall be in the judicial district of New Britain.

(c) (1) (A) No agreement entered into prior to January 1, 2023, to locate property shall be valid if: (i) Such agreement is entered into (I)

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within two years after the date a report of unclaimed property is required to be filed under section 3-65a, as amended by this act, or (II) between the date such a report is required to be filed under said section and the date it is filed under said section, whichever period is longer; (ii) such agreement is entered into within two years after the date of posting of the notice required by section 3-66a, as amended by this act; or (iii) pursuant to such agreement, any person undertakes to locate property included in a report of unclaimed property that is required to be filed under section 3-65a, as amended by this act, for a fee or other compensation exceeding ten per cent of the value of the recoverable property.

(B) No agreement entered into on or after January 1, 2023, to locate property shall be valid if: (i) Such agreement is entered into (I) within two years after the date a report of unclaimed property is required to be filed under section 3-65a, as amended by this act, or (II) between the date such a report is required to be filed under said section and the date it is filed under said section, whichever period is longer; or (ii) pursuant to such agreement, any person undertakes to locate property included in a report of unclaimed property that is required to be filed under section 3-65a, as amended by this act, for a fee or other compensation exceeding ten per cent of the value of the recoverable property.

(2) (A) In addition to the requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, an agreement entered into prior to January 1, 2025, to locate property shall be valid only if it is in writing, is signed by the owner and discloses the nature and value of the property, and the owner's share after the fee or compensation has been subtracted is clearly stipulated.

(B) In addition to the requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, an agreement entered into on or after January 1, 2025, to locate property shall be valid only if such agreement is in writing, is signed by the owner and clearly and conspicuously

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discloses (i) the nature and value of the property, (ii) the owner's share after the fee or compensation has been subtracted from such value, and (iii) that the owner may file a claim directly with the Treasurer at no cost and the method through which such claim may be filed.

(3) Any solicitation made to locate unclaimed property shall clearly and conspicuously disclose in a written statement that (A) any individual may search for and file a claim for such property directly with the Treasurer at no cost, and (B) the method through which such claim may be filed.

(4) Any claim for unclaimed property filed with the Treasurer pursuant to an agreement or solicitation under this subsection, shall include an unredacted version of any such agreement or solicitation to permit the Treasurer to determine whether such agreement or solicitation complies with the requirements of this subsection.

(5) The Treasurer may withhold payment of a claim for unclaimed property to anyone other than the owner (A) for failure to comply with the requirements of subdivision (4) of this subsection, or (B) if the Treasurer determines that the solicitation or agreement to locate unclaimed property does not comply with any other requirement of this section.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an owner from asserting, at any time, that an agreement to locate or to otherwise obtain an interest in unclaimed property is based upon excessive or unjust consideration.

(d) The Treasurer shall pay each claim allowed without deduction for costs of notices or sale or for service charges. The Treasurer shall notify the Commissioner of Revenue Services of the payment of claims of five hundred dollars or more to the domiciliary administrator or executor of a deceased owner.

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(e) In the case of any claim allowed under this section for property, funds or money delivered to the Treasurer pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a, the Treasurer shall pay such claim with interest as follows: For each calendar year or portion thereof that the property, funds or money has been paid or delivered to the Treasurer, the Treasurer shall pay interest at a rate that is not less than the deposit index, as determined under section 36a-26, for such year. Such interest shall accrue from the date of payment or delivery of the property, funds or money to the Treasurer until the date of payment or delivery of the property, funds or money to the claimant.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, where the amount of a property reported or transferred to the Treasurer under this part is at least fifty dollars and less than two thousand five hundred dollars, the Treasurer shall pay such amount to an individual if the Treasurer has determined (1) that such individual is the sole owner of such property, and (2) to the Treasurer's satisfaction, the current address of such individual.

(g) The Treasurer may make direct payment to one or more claimants, without such claimant having been granted a decree to transfer personal property, been issued a current fiduciary certificate, or secured any other similar document, for any solely owned unclaimed property of a deceased owner valued at less than five hundred dollars in the aggregate at the time of the claim, subject to the following conditions:

(1) If no affidavit in lieu of administration or similar petition has been filed in a Probate Court or more than one year has passed since the last decree to transfer personal property or any other similar document has been issued, upon a claimant furnishing a certified claim and a sworn affidavit under penalty of perjury showing entitlement to such property. Such affidavit shall be in a form prescribed by the Treasurer and shall include, at a minimum, (A) the claimant's affirmation that the claimant is the sole heir, or (B) attestation from all of the other heirs with

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a valid claim to the property confirming the rightful distribution of the property under the law.

(2) If a fiduciary of a decedent estate has been appointed by a Probate Court, but the decedent's estate was closed more than one year prior to the discovery of the relevant unclaimed property, upon a claimant's furnishing of a certified claim and a sworn affidavit under penalty of perjury showing entitlement to such property. Such affidavit shall be in a form prescribed by the Treasurer and shall include, at a minimum (A) the claimant's affirmation that the claimant is the previously appointed fiduciary and that the claimant shall distribute the funds as required by law; or (B) attestations from any rightful heir or beneficiary consistent with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The payment of the amount due under this section shall constitute a full acquittance and release of the state for the amount paid. Any claimant paid by the Treasurer in good faith shall be answerable concerning such payment to anyone prejudiced by an improper distribution or payment. Except as provided in this subsection, nothing in this section shall be construed to modify or eliminate any of a claimant's responsibilities under any other state or federal law, including, but not limited to, any obligations under title 45a.

(h) In the case of a military medal that escheated pursuant to section 3-65a, as amended by this act, for which more than one person may have the right to file a claim, the Treasurer may transmit the medal to the claimant that the Treasurer deems appropriate after the Treasurer has made a reasonable effort to identify and contact all known potential rightful owners.

[(h)] (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, where the sole owner of the abandoned property is reported as the office of the Secretary of the State, State Comptroller, Attorney General or State Treasurer or a department within the executive branch,

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as listed in section 4-38c, the Treasurer may submit a report to the Office of Policy and Management identifying the value of each property escheated and the applicable office or department that is the reported owner. Unless the Office of Policy and Management directs otherwise, the property shall escheat to the state, in accordance with this part, three months following the submission of such report and the Treasurer shall reclassify such property as property of the state instead of unclaimed property.

[(i)] (j) The Treasurer may establish a program that permits the owner of a claim allowed under this section for property, funds or money to donate such claim in its entirety to a charitable cause. The Treasurer shall select one or more of the following to be the recipient of donated payments under this subsection: (1) The organ transplant account established in section 17b-288, (2) the AIDS research education account established in section 19a-32a, (3) the endangered species, natural area preserves and watchable wildlife account established in section 22a-27l, (4) the breast cancer research and education account established in section 19a-32b, (5) the safety net services account established in section 17b-112f, (6) the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust established in section 3-36b, (7) the mental health community investment account established in section 17a-451g, or (8) the Military Relief Fund established in section 27-100a. An owner's election to donate an allowed claim payment shall be irrevocable and remittance of the donation shall be considered full payment of the allowed claim. The Treasurer shall prescribe the form that such donation election shall take.

Sec. 7. Section 49-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Each jeweler, watchmaker, silversmith or television and radio service dealer who alters, repairs or does any work on any article of personal property at the request of the owner or legal possessor of the property has a lien upon and may retain the possession of the article

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until the charges for the alteration, repairing or work have been paid.

(b) If the debt remains unpaid for more than six months, any such jeweler, watchmaker, silversmith or television and radio service dealer may sell the article at public or private sale, and the proceeds, after first paying the expense of such sale, shall be applied in payment of the debt, the balance, if any, to be presumed abandoned and paid [, in trust for the debtor,] within ten days to the [State] Treasurer in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. No such sale shall be held until after thirty days' notice to the owner or legal possessor has been given by registered or certified mail at his last-known address, stating the time and place of sale. If the owner's or possessor's address is unknown, or if such registered or certified mail notice is returned, further notice shall be given by advertising the time and place of the sale in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the locality where the sale is to take place at least thirty days in advance of the sale. No such article the value of which is more than one hundred dollars, may be sold as [hereinbefore] provided in this subsection, unless the charges against the same equal at least one-third the value of the article.

(c) Upon the completion of a sale under this section, such jeweler, watchmaker, silversmith or television and radio service dealer shall pay or deliver such property to the Treasurer, pursuant to part III of chapter 32, and file on a form prescribed by the Treasurer, a report of unclaimed property as provided in section 3-65a, as amended by this act. Any notice to the owner or legal possessor in accordance with subsection (b) of this section shall satisfy the notification requirements set forth in subsection (a) of section 3-65a, as amended by this act.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 31-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) For the purposes of this chapter, the average weekly wage shall

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be ascertained by dividing the total wages received by the injured employee from the employer in whose service the employee is injured during the fifty-two calendar weeks immediately preceding the week during which the employee was injured, by the number of calendar weeks during which, or any portion of which, the employee was actually employed by the employer, but, in making the computation, absence for seven consecutive calendar days, although not in the same calendar week, shall be considered as absence for a calendar week. When the employment commenced otherwise than at the beginning of a calendar week, that calendar week and wages earned during that week shall be excluded in making the computation. When the period of employment immediately preceding the injury is computed to be less than a net period of two calendar weeks, the employee's weekly wage shall be considered to be equivalent to the average weekly wage prevailing in the same or similar employment in the same locality at the date of the injury except that, when the employer has agreed to pay a certain hourly wage to the employee, the hourly wage so agreed upon shall be the hourly wage for the injured employee and the employee's average weekly wage shall be computed by multiplying the hourly wage by the regular number of hours that is permitted each week in accordance with the agreement.

(2) For the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid in the case of a minor under the age of eighteen who has sustained an injury entitling the employee to compensation for total or partial incapacity for a period of fifty-two or more weeks, or to specific indemnity for any injury under the provisions of section 31-308, the administrative law judge may add fifty per cent to the employee's average weekly wage, except in the case of a minor under the age of sixteen, the administrative law judge may add one hundred per cent to the minor's average weekly wage. When the injured employee is a trainee or apprentice receiving a subsistence allowance from the United States because of war service, the allowance shall be added to the injured

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employee's actual earnings in determining the average weekly wage. Where the injured employee has worked for more than one employer as of the date of the injury and the average weekly wage received from the employer in whose employ the injured employee was injured, as determined under the provisions of this section, are insufficient to obtain the maximum weekly compensation rate from the employer under section 31-309, prevailing as of the date of the injury, the injured employee's average weekly wages shall be calculated upon the basis of wages earned from all such employers in the period of concurrent employment not in excess of fifty-two weeks prior to the date of the injury, but the employer in whose employ the injury occurred shall be liable for all medical and hospital costs and a portion of the compensation rate equal to seventy-five per cent of the average weekly wage paid by the employer to the injured employee, after such earnings have been reduced by any deduction for federal or state taxes, or both, and for the federal Insurance Contribution Act made from such employee's total wages received from such employer during the period of calculation of such average weekly wage, but not less than an amount equal to the minimum compensation rate prevailing as of the date of the injury. The remaining portion of the applicable compensation rate shall be paid from the Second Injury Fund upon submission to the Treasurer by the employer or the employer's insurer of such vouchers and information as the Treasurer may require.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, the Second Injury Fund shall not be deemed an employer or an insurer for any claim brought on behalf of an insolvent insurer and shall be exempt from liability, unless such claim is brought not later than thirty days after a determination of such insurer's bankruptcy.

(4) No claim for payment of retroactive benefits may be made to the Second Injury Fund more than two years from the date on which the employer or its insurer paid such benefits in accordance with this

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subsection, but in no event shall such claim for payment of retroactive benefits cover a period exceeding three years. In cases which involve concurrent employment and in which there is a claim against a third party, the injured employee or the employer in whose employ the injury was sustained or the employer's insurer shall advise the custodian of the Second Injury Fund if there is a third party claim, and the employee, employer or employer's insurer shall pursue its subrogation rights as provided for in section 31-293 and shall include in its claim all compensation paid by the Second Injury Fund and shall reimburse the Second Injury Fund for all payments made for compensation in the event of a recovery against the third party.

Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 31-354 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) The State Treasurer shall establish within the Second Injury Fund [three accounts to be known as the operating account, the settlement account and the finance account which accounts shall be held separate and apart from each other. The operating account shall cover the costs and expenses to the state of operating the Second Injury Fund. The settlement account shall cover actual disbursement of the settled claims whether by one-time full payments or by payments over a period of time. The finance account shall contain such funds and be operated in the manner provided in section 31-354b] such accounts or Short-Term Investment Funds as necessary to operate the Second Injury Fund.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 4, 2026