Senate Bill No. 298

Public Act No. 26-1

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REALLOCATION OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES AND WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The amounts appropriated to the following agencies in section 1 of public act 25-168 are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026:

GENERAL FUND	2025-2026
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	
Temporary Family Assistance - TANF	3,400,000
TOTAL – GENERAL FUND	3,400,000

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $1,700,000 is appropriated to the Labor Department, for Personal Services, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of (1) offsetting declining federal funds that support unemployment compensation program personnel costs, and (2) supporting the integration of information technology solutions in such program to improve service for individuals applying for benefits.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $1,700,000 is appropriated to the Department of Education, for Adult Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The unexpended balance of funds appropriated to the Department of Education, for Adult Education, in section 3 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall not lapse on June 30, 2026, and shall be made available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for the same purpose.

Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The sum of $174,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be transferred to the Department of Economic and Community Development, for Other Expenses, and made available for a grant-in-aid to New London VFW.

(b) The Department of Education and the Department of Economic and Community Development shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to effectuate the purpose of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $70,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Judicial Department, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available for a grant to the Village Initiative Project.

Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) From the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Office of Policy and Management, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, not more than $2,500,000 shall be made available for outdoor recreation in the city of Hartford.

Sec. 8. Section 140 of public act 25-168 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $1,500,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Department of Social Services, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of $1,000,000 of such amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 20, 2027, shall be made available in said fiscal years for grants to school districts in Newington, Wethersfield, Cromwell, Rocky Hill and Middletown for the support or establishment of high acuity, school-based mental health programming. For purposes of this section, (1) "high acuity, school-based mental health programming" means programming offered by a qualified provider that includes (A) clinical care to prevent the need for out-of-district placements for students with intensive behavioral health challenges or return such students from such placements to their home districts, (B) in-person therapeutic services provided in a designated school space by mental health clinicians who have attained at least a master's degree in a related mental health education program, and (C) therapeutic support capabilities, including, but not limited to, regular clinical supervision, quality and risk management data analysis and monitoring and specific interventions meant to reduce chronic student absenteeism; and (2) "qualified provider" means a provider of high acuity, school-based

mental health programming that is designated as an outpatient psychiatric clinic for children by the Department of Children and Families and certified or contracted to bill Medicaid or commercial insurance in the state.

Sec. 10. Section 122 of public act 21-111 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the town of Windham may use the reimbursement rate of ninety-five per cent for the renovation project at Windham High School (Project Number 163-0079 RNV). **[**, provided (1) the school district for the town of Windham is an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes, on the effective date of this section, and (2) the date of beginning of construction, as defined in section 10-282 of the general statutes, is not later than one year after the effective date of this section.**]**

Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $330,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Department of Economic and Community Development, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, shall be made available in said fiscal year to provide a grant to Our Piece of the Pie.

Sec. 12. Subsection (UU) of section 36 of public act 25-168 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(UU) The sum of $750,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of **[**this act**]** public act 25-168 to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027,

shall be made available in each of said fiscal years for a teacher residency program that is operated by Capitol Region Education Council.

Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of $200,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168 to the Department of Education, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and made available to provide a grant to Free Agent Now, shall not lapse on June 30, 2026, and such funds shall be carried forward and made available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for the same purpose.

Sec. 14. Section 169 of public act 25-174 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, **[**and section 10-286g of the general statutes concerning the waiver of audit deficiencies,**]** the town of Fairfield shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs **[**and audit deficiencies**]** associated with the extension and alteration project at Mill Hill Elementary School (Project Number **[**093-0367**]** 051-0149 EA), provided such reimbursement for such ineligible costs **[**and audit deficiencies do**]** does not exceed six hundred thousand dollars.

Sec. 15. Section 156 of public act 25-174 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, for any school building project that was previously authorized and that has changed substantially in scope or cost and is seeking

reauthorization, the new construction project at the **[**New**]** Roxbury Elementary School (Project Number 23DASY135281N0623) in the town of Stamford with costs not to exceed one hundred thirty million dollars shall be included in subdivision (2) of section 141 of **[**this act**]** public act 25-174 and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided the town of Stamford meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

Sec. 16. Section 174 of public act 25-174 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-285a of the general statutes, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 25-174, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning the reimbursement percentage that a local board of education may be eligible to receive for a school building project, the town of New London may use the reimbursement rate of ninety-five per cent for a cost increase, not to exceed ten million dollars, approved by the Commissioner of Administrative Services on or before July 1, 2025, for the new construction project at **[**East End Elementary**]** New London High School (Project Number 095-0090 N).

Sec. 17. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, the town of Cheshire shall be eligible to receive reimbursement under chapter 173 of the general statutes for certain ineligible costs associated with any existing or future energy or infrastructure improvement projects, including, but not limited to, photovoltaic, building management

systems, energy conservation, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and roof replacement projects, at any elementary, middle or high school in the town that are financed through a tax-exempt lease purchase agreement.

Sec. 18. Section 149 of public act 25-174 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring a completed grant application be submitted prior to June 30, 2024, the school building project at Middlefield Memorial School in Regional District 13 with costs not to exceed seventy-six million one hundred thirty thousand dollars shall be included in subdivision (1) of section 141 of **[**this act**]** public act 25-174 and shall subsequently be considered for a grant commitment from the state, provided Regional District 13 files an application for such school building project prior to October 1, 2025, and meets all other provisions of chapter 173 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said chapter and is eligible for grant assistance pursuant to said chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section requiring that the description of a project type for a school building project be made at the time of application for a school building project grant and the provisions of subdivision (18) of section 10-282 of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section 10-282 concerning the definition of renovation, Regional District 13 may change the description of the school building project at Middlefield Memorial School to a renovation project and subsequently

qualify as a renovation, as defined in subdivision (18) of said section 10-282.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 10-285a of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section increasing the reimbursement percentage for a school building project that includes the expansion of an existing building to include space for an early childhood care and education program by fifteen percentage points for the portion of the building used primarily for such program, the reimbursement percentage for the school building project at Middlefield Memorial School in Regional District 13 shall be increased by fifteen percentage points for the entire school building project.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-283 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to said section concerning ineligible costs, Regional District 13 shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible costs relating to the Phase 1 swing space used for students while the school building project at Middlefield Memorial School was being completed, provided such ineligible costs do not exceed two million dollars.

Sec. 19. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-284 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education or the Department of Administrative Services requiring that a town or regional school district begin construction on a project not later than two years after the effective date of the section of the General Assembly authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative Services to enter into grant commitments for such project, the town of Hartford shall have until June 30, 2028, to begin construction on the (1) alteration project at Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School

(Project Number 23DASY064319A0623), (2) alteration project at Parkville Community School (Project Number 23DASY064320A0623), (3) alteration project at McDonough Middle School (Project Number 23DASY064321A0623), (4) renovation project at Montessori Magnet at Batchelder (Project Number 24DASY064322RNV0624), (5) renovation project at S.A.N.D. Elementary School (Project Number 24DASY064323RNV0624), and (6) renovation project at Maria C. Colon Sanchez Elementary School (Project Number 24DASY064324RNV0624).

Sec. 20. Section 10-5 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(NEW) (g) The Department of Education shall establish criteria by which a local or regional board of education, or the governing board of any other school that awards diplomas, may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement on a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in civics education and engagement. Such criteria shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) successful completion of history or social science courses for at least two school years, one of which shall be a course on the United States government or civics, (2) participation in at least one civic engagement project, such as community service, participation in student government, internship with an elected official or involvement in a civic organization, and (3) demonstrated proficiency in civics knowledge through a standardized assessment, portfolio of work that includes essays, projects or presentations related to civics or other mastery-based assessment or process.

Sec. 21. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (m) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(NEW) (m) Commencing with classes graduating in 2027, and for each graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and

Engagement, as described in subsection (g) of section 10-5, as amended by this act, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in civics education and engagement. The local or regional board of education shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement.

Sec. 22. Subsection (c) of section 10-10a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) The state-wide public school information system shall:

(1) Track and report data relating to student, teacher and school and district performance growth and make such information available to local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating educational performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled in public schools in the state. Such information shall be collected or calculated based on information received from local and regional boards of education and other relevant sources. Such information shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall include, but not be limited to, (i) the primary language spoken at the home of a student, (ii) student transcripts, (iii) student attendance and student mobility, (iv) reliable, valid assessments of a student's readiness to enter public school at the kindergarten level, **[**and**]** (v) data collected, if any, from the preschool experience survey, described in section 10-515, and (vi) data required pursuant to section 10-17m concerning the academic progress of students in bilingual education programs;

(B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i) teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation

programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas, (ii) teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute teachers in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a teacher's aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier to each teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school information system;

(C) Data relating to schools and districts shall include, but not be limited to, (i) school population, (ii) annual student graduation rates, (iii) annual teacher retention rates, (iv) school disciplinary records, such as data relating to suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary actions, (v) the percentage of students whose primary language is not English, (vi) the number of and professional credentials of support personnel, (vii) information relating to instructional technology, such as access to computers, **[**and**]** (viii) disaggregated measures of school-based arrests pursuant to section 10-233n, and (ix) the measures and data required pursuant to section 10-17g for the evaluation of bilingual education programs.

(2) Collect data relating to student enrollment in and graduation from institutions of higher education for any student who had been assigned a unique student identifier pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, provided such data is available.

(3) Develop means for access to and data sharing with the data systems of public institutions of higher education in the state.

Sec. 23. Subsection (a) of section 10-17o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

2026):

(a) The State Board of Education shall draft a written bill of rights for parents or guardians of students who are multilingual learners to guarantee that the rights of such parents and students are adequately safeguarded and protected in the provision of bilingual education under chapter 164. Such bill of rights shall include, but need not be limited to, the following declarations:

(1) The right of a multilingual learner student to attend a public school in the state regardless of such student's immigration status or the immigration status of such student's parent or guardian;

(2) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student to enroll such student in a public school without being required to submit immigration documentation, including, but not limited to, a Social Security number, visa documentation or proof of citizenship;

(3) The right of a multilingual learner student to have translation services provided (A) by an interpreter who is present in person or available by telephone or through an online technology platform, or (B) through an Internet web site or other electronic application approved by the State Board of Education, during critical interactions with teachers and administrators, including, but not limited to, parent-teacher conferences, meetings with administrators of the school in which such student is attending, and at properly noticed regular or special meetings of the board of education or scheduled meetings with a member or members of the board of education responsible for educating such student, in accordance with section 10-218b;

(4) The right of a multilingual learner student to participate in a program of bilingual education offered by the local or regional board of education when there are twenty or more eligible students classified as dominant in a language, other than English, as such student, in

accordance with the provisions of section 10-17f;

(5) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student to receive written notice, in both English and the dominant language of such parent or guardian, that such student is eligible to participate in a program of bilingual education or English as a new language program offered by the local or regional board of education;

(6) The right of a multilingual learner student and the parent or guardian of such student to receive a high-quality orientation session, in the dominant language of such student and parent or guardian, from the local or regional board of education that provides information relating to state standards, tests and expectations at the school for multilingual learner students, as well as the goals and requirements for programs of bilingual education and English as a new language, prior to participation in such program of bilingual education or English as a new language;

(7) The right of the parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student to receive information about the progress of such student's English language development and acquisition;

(8) The right of a multilingual learner student and the parent or guardian of such student to meet with school personnel to discuss such student's English language development and acquisition;

(9) The right of a multilingual learner student to be placed in a program of bilingual education or English as a new language, if offered by the local or regional board of education;

(10) The right of a multilingual learner student to have equal access to all grade-level school programming;

(11) The right of a multilingual learner student to have equal access to all core grade-level subject matter;

(12) The right of a multilingual learner student to receive annual language proficiency testing;

(13) The right of a multilingual learner student to receive support services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school district provides to all students;

(14) The right of a multilingual learner student to be continuously and annually enrolled in a program of bilingual education or English as a new language while such student remains an eligible student, as defined in section 10-17e; **[**and**]**

(15) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student to contact the Department of Education with any questions or concerns regarding such student's right to receive multilingual learner services or accommodations available to such student or parent or guardian, including information regarding any recourse for failure of the board of education to provide or ensure such services or accommodations; and

(16) The right of a multilingual learner student and a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student to access publicly available data related to the academic progress of students in bilingual education programs and the quality of bilingual education programs on the state-wide public school information system implemented pursuant to section 10-10a, as amended by this act.

Sec. 24. Subsection (d) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education, within available

appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1) Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native American studies; (6) Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (7) personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (8) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic external defibrillators; (9) labor history and law, including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the development of the American and world economies; (10) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (11) topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; **[**and**]** (12) instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive; and (13) Islamic and Arab studies. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the development of curriculum on climate change as described in this subsection.

Sec. 25. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to address antisemitism in public schools. The working group shall develop guidance and resources to address issues relating to antisemitism that affect students, families, educators and school personnel. Such guidance and resources may include, but need not be limited to, (1) suggested amendments to school district policies to ensure that all students, educators and school personnel feel safe inside and outside of the school setting, (2) recommended training relating to antisemitism for educators and administrators, and (3) guidance in the

creation or provision of curriculum materials and resources relating to antisemitism and Jewish heritage and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness, pursuant to the provisions of section 10-18f of the general statutes.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a school administrator with expertise and knowledge in developing and implementing curricula in public schools in the state, and one of whom shall be a representative of the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall have knowledge and national and local expertise and experience in developing innovative and collaborative resources to address antisemitism in elementary and secondary schools, and one of whom shall be a representative of the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a teacher with professional knowledge and proven experience in addressing and combatting antisemitism in a public school in the state;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall have experience in teaching and school administration and expertise in addressing and combatting antisemitism and teaching Jewish heritage;

(5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former faculty member of an institution of higher education with expertise in curriculum development and knowledge and proven experience in addressing antisemitism and teaching Jewish heritage, and one of whom shall have professional experience addressing antisemitism in

the state;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a leader at an institution of higher education in the state with knowledge and expertise in program development addressing antisemitism curriculum, and one of whom shall have professional experience addressing antisemitism in the state;

(7) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a representative from a national organization with expertise in the study of global antisemitism and an interdisciplinary study of antisemitism;

(8) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, or the executive director's designee;

(9) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, or the executive director's designee;

(10) The president of the Connecticut Education Association, or the president's designee; and

(11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall each select a cochairperson of the working group from among the members of the working group. Such cochairpersons shall jointly schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education

shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit the guidance and resources developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 26. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability; provided a child who has not reached the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be admitted <u>if the local or regional board of education adopts an early admission policy that permits such child to be admitted</u> (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula, facilities or extracurricular activities.

Sec. 27. Section 10-15c of the general statutes, as amended by section 26 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

(a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. **[**; provided a child who has not reached the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be admitted if the local or regional board of education adopts an early admission policy that permits such child to be admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.**]**

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula, facilities or extracurricular activities.

Sec. 28. Section 10-226b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Whenever the State Board of Education finds that racial imbalance exists in a public school, it shall notify in writing the board of education having jurisdiction over said school that such finding has been made, except the State Board of Education shall not notify a board of education

of such finding until July 1, **[**2025**]** 2030.

(b) As used in sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, "racial imbalance" means a condition wherein the proportion of pupils of racial minorities in all of the grades of a public school of the secondary level or below taken together substantially exceeds or falls substantially short of the proportion of such public school pupils in all of the same grades of the school district in which said school is situated taken together.

Sec. 29. Section 10-226c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any board of education receiving notification of the existence of racial imbalance as specified in section 10-226b, as amended by this act, shall forthwith prepare a plan to correct such imbalance and file a copy of said plan with the State Board of Education, except such board of education shall not be required to prepare and file said plan until July 1, **[**2025**]** 2030. Said plan may be limited to addressing the imbalance existing at any school and need not result in a district-wide plan or district-wide pupil reassignment. A school district may request an extension of time in cases in which the number of students causing said imbalance is fewer than five students at a school.

(b) Any plan submitted by the board of education of any town under sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, shall include any proposed changes in existing school attendance districts, the location of proposed school building sites as related to the problem, any proposed additions to existing school buildings and all other means proposed for the correction of said racial imbalance. The plan shall include projections of the expected racial composition of all public schools in the district. The plan may include provision for cooperation with other school districts to assist in the correction of racial imbalance.

Sec. 30. Section 10-226d of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Upon receipt of any plan required under the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-226c, as amended by this act, the State Board of Education shall review said plan. If it determines that the plan is satisfactory, it shall approve the plan and shall provide to the board of education such assistance and services as may be available. The board of education shall submit annual reports on the implementation of the approved plan, as the State Board of Education may require. The State Board of Education shall not take action on any plan received on or after July 1, 2024, until July 1, **[**2025**]** 2030.

Sec. 31. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, during the preparation of the itemized estimate of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year pursuant to section 10-222 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the superintendent of schools shall provide the members of the local board of education the original amount and actual amount of each line item for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which such itemized estimate is being prepared and the original amount and current amount of each line item for the fiscal year in which such itemized estimate is being prepared. As used in this section, "itemized estimate" means an estimate in which broad budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries, fringe benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided into one or more line items, "original amount" means the amount of a line item that was appropriated to such line item at the start of the fiscal year, and "actual amount" means the amount of a line item at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Sec. 32. Section 10-222 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

Each local board of education shall prepare an itemized estimate of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year and shall submit such estimate to the board of finance in each town or city having a board of finance, to the board of selectmen in each town having no board of finance or otherwise to the authority making appropriations for the school district, not later than two months preceding the annual meeting at which appropriations are to be made. Such estimate shall include the original amount and actual amount of each line item for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which such estimate is being prepared and the original amount and current amount of each line item for the fiscal year in which such estimate is being prepared. The board or authority that receives such estimate shall, not later than ten days after the date the board of education submits such estimate, make spending recommendations and suggestions to such board of education as to how such board of education may consolidate noneducational services and realize financial efficiencies. Such board of education may accept or reject the suggestions of the board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority and shall provide the board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority with a written explanation of the reason for any rejection. The money appropriated by any municipality for the maintenance of public schools shall be expended by and in the discretion of the board of education. Except as provided in this subsection, any such board may transfer any unexpended or uncontracted-for portion of any appropriation for school purposes to any other item of such itemized estimate. Boards may, by adopting policies and procedures, authorize designated personnel to make limited transfers under emergency circumstances if the urgent need for the transfer prevents the board from meeting in a timely fashion to consider such transfer. All transfers made in such instances shall be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board and a written explanation of such transfer shall be provided to the legislative body of the municipality or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, to the board of selectmen.

Expenditures by the board of education shall not exceed the appropriation made by the municipality, with such money as may be received from other sources for school purposes. If any occasion arises whereby additional funds are needed by such board, the chairman of such board shall notify the board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority, as the case may be, and shall submit a request for additional funds in the same manner as is provided for departments, boards or agencies of the municipality and no additional funds shall be expended unless such supplemental appropriation shall be granted and no supplemental expenditures shall be made in excess of those granted through the appropriating authority. The annual report of the board of education shall, in accordance with section 10-224, include a summary showing (1) the total cost of the maintenance of schools, (2) the amount received from the state and other sources for the maintenance of schools, (3) the net cost to the municipality of the maintenance of schools, and (4) the balance of any nonlapsing, unexpended funds account described in section 10-248a. For purposes of this **[**subsection**]** section, "meeting" means a meeting, as defined in section 1-200, **[**and**]** "itemized estimate" means an estimate in which broad budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries, fringe benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided into one or more line items, "original amount" means the amount of a line item that was appropriated to such line item at the start of the fiscal year, and "actual amount" means the amount of a line item at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 10-51 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) The fiscal year of a regional school district shall be July first to June thirtieth. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not less than two weeks before the annual meeting held pursuant to section 10-47, the board shall hold a public district meeting to present a proposed budget

for the next fiscal year. Any public district meeting held pursuant to this section may be accessible to the public by means of electronic equipment or by means of electronic equipment in conjunction with an in-person meeting, in accordance with the provisions of section 1-225a. Such proposed budget shall include the original amount and actual amount of each line item in the budget for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which such proposed budget is being presented and the original amount and current amount of each line item for the budget of the fiscal year in which such proposed budget is being presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of expenditures at such time. After the public hearing, the board shall prepare an annual budget for the next fiscal year, make available on request copies thereof and deliver a reasonable number to the town clerk of each of the towns in the district at least five days before the annual meeting. At the annual meeting on the first Monday in May, the board shall present a budget which includes a statement of (1) estimated receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year, (2) estimated receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year, (3) estimated surplus or deficit in operating funds at the end of the current fiscal year, (4) bonded or other debt, (5) estimated per pupil expenditure for the current and for the next fiscal year, (6) the original amount and actual amount of each line item in the budget for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is being presented and the original amount and current amount of each line item for the budget of the fiscal year in which such budget is being presented, and **[**(6)**]** (7) such other information as is necessary in the opinion of the board. Persons present and eligible to vote under section 7-6 may accept or reject the proposed budget except as provided below. No person who is eligible to vote in more than one town in the regional school district is eligible to cast more than one vote on any issue considered at a regional school district meeting or referendum held pursuant to this section. Any person who violates this section by fraudulently casting more than one vote or ballot per issue shall be fined not more than three thousand five

hundred dollars and shall be imprisoned not more than two years and shall be disenfranchised. The regional board of education may, in the call to the meeting, designate that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget shall be by paper ballots at the district meeting held on the budget or by a "yes" or "no" vote on the voting tabulators in each of the member towns on the day following the district meeting. If submitted to a vote by voting tabulator, questions may be included on the ballot for persons voting "no" to indicate whether the budget is too high or too low, provided the vote on such questions shall be for advisory purposes only and not binding upon the board. Two hundred or more persons qualified to vote in any regional district meeting called to adopt a budget may petition the regional board, in writing, at least three days prior to such meeting, requesting that any item or items on the call of such meeting be submitted to the persons qualified to vote in the meeting for a vote by paper ballot or on the voting tabulators in each of the member towns on the day following the district meeting and in accordance with the appropriate procedures provided in section 7-7. If a majority of such persons voting reject the budget, the board shall, within four weeks thereafter and upon notice of not less than one week, call a district meeting to consider the same or an amended budget. Such meetings shall be convened at such intervals until a budget is approved. If the budget is not approved before the beginning of a fiscal year, the disbursing officer for each member town, or the designee of such officer, shall make necessary expenditures to such district in amounts equal to the total of the town's appropriation to the district for the previous year and the town's proportionate share in any increment in debt service over the previous fiscal year, pursuant to section 7-405 until the budget is approved. The town shall receive credit for such expenditures once the budget is approved for the fiscal year. After the budget is approved, the board shall estimate the share of the net expenses to be paid by each member town in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and notify the treasurer thereof. With respect to adoption of a budget for the period from the organization of the board to the beginning of the first

full fiscal year, the board may use the above procedure at any time within such period. If the board needs to submit a supplementary budget, the general procedure specified in this section shall be used. As used in this section, "original amount" and "actual amount" have the same meanings as provided in section 10-222, as amended by this act.

Sec. 34. Section 10-233m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

Each local or regional board of education that assigns a school resource officer to any school under the jurisdiction of such board shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local law enforcement agency regarding the role and responsibility of such school resource officer. **[**Such**]** Not later than January 1, 2027, such memorandum of understanding shall (1) be maintained in a central location in the school district and posted on the Internet web site of the school district and each school in which such school resource officer is assigned, (2) include provisions addressing daily interactions between students and school personnel with school resource officers, and (3) include a graduated response model for student discipline. Any such memorandum of understanding entered into, extended, updated or amended (A) on or after July 1, 2021, shall include a provision that requires all school resource officers to complete, while in the performance of their duties as school resource officers and during periods when such school resource officers are assigned to be at the school, any separate training specifically related to social-emotional learning and restorative practices provided to certified employees of the school pursuant to section 10-148a, and (B) on or after July 1, 2023, shall include provisions specifying a school resource officer's duties concerning, and procedures for, the restraint of students, use of firearms, school-based arrests and reporting of any investigations and behavioral interventions of challenging behavior or conflict that escalates to violence or constitutes a crime, pursuant to the provisions

of section 10-233p, provided such provisions are in accordance with any laws or policies concerning the duties of police officers. Each such memorandum of understanding shall be updated not less frequently than every three years. For the purposes of this section, "school resource officer" means a sworn police officer of a local law enforcement agency who has been assigned to a school pursuant to an agreement between the local or regional board of education and the chief of police of a local law enforcement agency.

Sec. 35. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional board of education, by a majority vote of its members, may create a reserve fund for educational expenditures. Such fund shall thereafter be termed "reserve fund for educational expenditures". The aggregate amount of annual and supplemental appropriations by a district to such fund shall not exceed two per cent of the annual district budget for such fiscal year. Annual appropriations to such fund shall be included in the share of net expenses to be paid by each member town. Supplemental appropriations to such fund may be made from estimated fiscal year end surplus in operating funds. During any fiscal year, a regional board of education may deposit any funds previously appropriated to and currently in a separate reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures under the control of such board in the reserve fund for educational expenditures. Interest and investment earnings received with respect to amounts held in the reserve fund for educational expenditures shall be credited to such fund. The board shall annually submit a complete and detailed report of the condition of such fund to the member towns. Upon the recommendation and approval by the regional board of education, any part or the whole of such fund may be used for educational

expenditures. Upon the approval of any such expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated for the educational expenditure for which it has been authorized. Any unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining shall revert to **[**said**]** such fund. If any authorized appropriation is set up pursuant to the provisions of this subsection and through unforeseen circumstances the board is unable to expend the total amount of such appropriation, the board, by a majority vote of its members, may terminate such appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect. Such fund may be discontinued, after the recommendation and approval by the regional board of education, and any amounts held in the fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the district. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each board shall make available, and annually update, information regarding such fund, including, but not limited to, the total balance of the fund, the amount deposited into such fund in a fiscal year and an accounting of the expenditures made from such fund.

Sec. 36. Subsection (a) of section 10-214 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive, a vision screening and may additionally provide such vision screening annually to each pupil in preschool and grade two. Such vision screening may be performed using a Snellen chart or an equivalent screening device, or an automated vision screening device. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) who is found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease and a recommendation for the pupil to be examined by an optometrist licensed under chapter 380 or an ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 370, and (2) who did not receive such vision screening,

with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such vision screening.

Sec. 37. Subsection (c) of section 10-266aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) The program shall be phased in as provided in this subsection. (1) For the school year commencing in 1998, and for each school year thereafter, the program shall be in operation in the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport regions. The Hartford program shall operate as a continuation of the program described in section 10-266j. Students who reside in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport may attend school in another school district in the region and students who reside in such other school districts may attend school in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport, provided, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not minority students to the total number of students leaving Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of students who were not minority students in the prior school year to the total number of students enrolled in Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven in the prior school year. The regional educational service center operating the program shall make program participation decisions in accordance with the requirements of this subdivision. (2) For the school year commencing in 2000, and for each school year thereafter, the program shall be in operation in New London, provided beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not minority students to the total number of students leaving New London to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of students who were not minority students in the prior year to the total number of students enrolled in New London in the prior school year. The regional educational service center operating the program shall make program participation decisions in accordance with this

subdivision. (3) The Department of Education may provide, within available appropriations, grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, to the remaining regional educational service centers to assist school districts in planning for a voluntary program of student enrollment in every priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, which is interested in participating in accordance with this subdivision. For the school year commencing in 2003, and for each school year thereafter, the voluntary enrollment program may be in operation in every priority school district in the state. Students from other school districts in the area of a priority school district, as determined by the regional educational service center pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, may attend school in the priority school district, provided such students bring racial, ethnic and economic diversity to the priority school district and do not increase the racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the priority school district. (4) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year thereafter, there shall be a pilot program in operation in Danbury and Norwalk. The pilot program shall serve (A) up to fifty students who reside in Danbury, and such students may attend school in the school districts for the towns of New Fairfield, Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield and Redding, and (B) up to fifty students who (i) reside in Norwalk, and such students may attend school in the school districts for the towns of Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston and Westport, and (ii) reside in Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston and Westport, and such students may attend school in the school district for the town of Norwalk. School districts which receive students under this subdivision as part of the pilot program shall allow such students to attend school in the district until they graduate from high school. (5) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, the town of Guilford shall be eligible to participate in the program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven. (6) For the school year commencing July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, the town of Madison shall be eligible to participate in the program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.

Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 10-153d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Within thirty days prior to the date on which the local or regional board of education is to commence negotiations pursuant to this section, such board of education shall meet and confer with the board of finance in each town or city having a board of finance, with the board of selectmen in each town having no board of finance and otherwise with the authority making appropriations therein. A member of such board of finance, such board of selectmen, or such other authority making appropriations, shall be permitted to be present during negotiations pursuant to this section and shall provide such fiscal information as may be requested by the board of education.

(2) At least one member of the local or regional board of education shall be present during negotiations pursuant to this section, except no member of the local or regional board of education who is also a member of the organization that has been designated or elected as the exclusive representative of an administrators' unit or a teachers' unit may be present during negotiations pursuant to this section.

Sec. 39. Section 10-206 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments pursuant to the provisions of this section. Such assessments shall be conducted by (1) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, (2) an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378, (3) a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, (4) a school medical advisor, or (5) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at any military base, to ascertain whether such pupil is suffering from any

physical disability tending to prevent such pupil from receiving the full benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work should be modified in order to prevent injury to the pupil or to secure for the pupil a suitable program of education. No health assessment shall be made of any **[**child**]** pupil enrolled in the public schools unless such examination is made in the presence of the parent or guardian or in the presence of another school employee. The parent or guardian of such **[**child**]** pupil shall receive prior written notice and shall have a reasonable opportunity to be present at such assessment or to provide for such assessment himself or herself. A local or regional board of education may deny continued attendance in public school to any **[**child**]** pupil who fails to obtain the health assessments required under this section.

(b) Each local or regional board of education shall require each **[**child**]** pupil to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment. The assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure, a medical risk assessment for lead poisoning and, when indicated by such assessment, a test of the **[**child's**]** pupil's blood lead level, and, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma. The assessment form shall include (A) a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B) screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C) screening questions to be answered by such provider; (2) an updating of immunizations as required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may only update said immunizations pursuant to a written order by a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378; (3) vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings; and (4) such other information, including health and developmental

history, as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia and Cooley's anemia where the local or regional board of education determines after consultation with the school medical advisor and the local health department, or in the case of a regional board of education, each local health department, that such tests are necessary, provided a registered nurse may only perform said tests pursuant to the written order of a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

(c) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments in either grade six or grade seven and in either grade nine or grade ten. The assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure, and, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma as defined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to subsection (c) of section 19a-62a. The assessment form shall include (A) a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B) screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C) screening questions to be answered by such provider; (2) an updating of immunizations as required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may only update said immunizations pursuant to a written order of a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378; (3) vision, hearing, postural and gross dental screenings; and (4) such other information including a health history as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia where the local or regional board of

education, in consultation with the school medical advisor and the local health department, or in the case of a regional board of education, each local health department, determines that said screening or test is necessary, provided a registered nurse may only perform said tests pursuant to the written order of a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

(d) The results of each assessment done pursuant to this section and the results of screenings done pursuant to section 10-214, as amended by this act, shall be recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of Education. Each school nurse may reject such results submitted on forms other than the forms supplied by the State Board of Education and require the resubmission of such results on such forms supplied by the State Board of Education. An asthma action plan shall be included with each assessment form that indicates an asthma diagnosis pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Such information shall be included in the cumulative health record of each pupil and shall be kept on file in the school such pupil attends. If a pupil permanently leaves the jurisdiction of the board of education, the pupil's original cumulative health record shall be sent to the chief administrative officer of the school district to which such student moves. The board of education transmitting such health record shall retain a true copy. Each physician, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or physician assistant performing health assessments and screenings pursuant to this section and section 10-214, as amended by this act, shall completely fill out and sign each form and any recommendations concerning the pupil shall be in writing.

(e) Appropriate school health personnel shall review the results of each assessment and screening as recorded pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. When, in the judgment of such health personnel, a pupil, as defined in section 10-206a, is in need of further testing or treatment,

the superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of such pupil and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that such further testing or treatment is provided. Such reasonable efforts shall include a determination of whether or not the parent or guardian has obtained the necessary testing or treatment for the pupil, and, if not, advising the parent or guardian on how such testing or treatment may be obtained. The results of such further testing or treatment shall be recorded pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and shall be reviewed by school health personnel pursuant to this subsection.

(f) On and after October 1, 2017, each local or regional board of education shall report to the local health department and the Department of Public Health, on an triennial basis, the total number of pupils per school and per school district having a diagnosis of asthma (1) at the time of public school enrollment, (2) in grade six or seven, and (3) in grade nine or ten. The report shall contain the asthma information collected as required under subsections (b) and (c) of this section and shall include pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity and school. Beginning on October 1, 2021, and every three years thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall review the asthma screening information reported pursuant to this section and shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and education concerning asthma trends and distributions among pupils enrolled in the public schools. The report shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a and shall include, but not be limited to, (A) trends and findings based on pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity, school and the education reference group, as determined by the Department of Education for the town or regional school district in which such school is located, and (B) activities of the asthma screening monitoring system maintained under section 19a-62a.

Sec. 40. Subsection (g) of section 10-233c of the 2026 supplement to

the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(g) On and after July 1, 2015, all suspensions pursuant to this section shall be in-school suspensions, except a local or regional board of education may authorize the administration of schools under its direction to impose an out-of-school suspension on any pupil in (1) grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (A) the administration determines that the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (B) the administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (i) previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and (ii) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies, or (2) grades preschool to two, inclusive, if during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the administration (A) determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence that such pupil's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes <u>serious</u> physical harm, (B) requires that such pupil receives services that are trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate and align with any behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such pupil upon such pupil's return to school immediately following the out-of-school suspension, and (C) considers whether to convene a planning and placement team meeting for the purposes of conducting an evaluation to determine whether such pupil may require special education or related services. An out-of-school suspension imposed under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not exceed ten school days, and an out-of-school suspension imposed under

subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not exceed five school days. An in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, as determined by such board. Nothing in this section shall limit a person's duty as a mandated reporter pursuant to section 17-101a to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Sec. 41. Subsection (d) of section 10-233d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(d) No local or regional board of education is required to offer an alternative educational opportunity, except in accordance with this section. Any pupil under sixteen years of age who is expelled shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity, which shall be (1) alternative education, as defined by section 10-74j, with an individualized learning plan, if such board provides such alternative education, or (2) in accordance with the standards adopted by the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 10-233o, during the period of expulsion, provided any parent or guardian of such pupil who does not choose to have such parent's or guardian's child enrolled in an alternative educational opportunity shall not be subject to the provisions of section 10-184. Any pupil expelled for the first time and the second time who is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen and who wishes to continue such pupil's education shall be offered such an alternative educational opportunity if such pupil complies with conditions established by such pupil's local or regional board of education. Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the placement of a pupil who is at least seventeen years of age in an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69. Any pupil participating in any such adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under section 10-184. A local or regional board of education shall count the

expulsion of a pupil when the pupil was under sixteen years of age for purposes of determining whether an alternative educational opportunity is required for such pupil when such pupil is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. A local or regional board of education may offer an alternative educational opportunity to a pupil for whom such alternative educational opportunity is not required pursuant to this section.

Sec. 42. Subsection (h) of section 10-236b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(h) Each local or regional board of education shall notify a parent or guardian of a student who is placed in physical restraint or seclusion **[**not later than twenty-four hours after**]** on the day the student was placed in physical restraint or seclusion and shall make a reasonable effort to provide such notification immediately after such physical restraint or seclusion is initiated.

Sec. 43. Section 10-357e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

The Commissioner of Education shall allocate funds, as specified in the annual budget of the Department of Education, to allow the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 10-357a, to provide professional development services, technical assistance and evaluation activities, policy analysis and other forms of assistance to local and regional boards of education, the Department of Education, state and local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa, the Technical Education and Career System, established pursuant to section 10-95, providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-16p, and other educational entities and providers. The State Education Resource Center shall expend such funds in accordance with procedures and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

Sec. 44. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than April 1, 2027, the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at Western Connecticut State University, in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall (1) develop a clear definition for crisis response drills for purposes of section 10-231 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) develop standardized terminology for the administration and review of crisis response drills, (3) develop guidance on (A) standardized responses to crises, and (B) standardized debriefing protocols following a crisis, and (4) develop an evaluation template for crisis response drills that allows school districts to use feedback from participants of the crisis response drill to assess the efficacy of the crisis response drill and make adjustments to subsequent crisis response drills to improve preparedness while preventing emotional harm and supporting psychological safety.

(b) The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at Western Connecticut State University, in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall conduct a study of the impact of crisis response drills on the school community.

(c) Not later than July 1, 2028, the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at Western Connecticut State University shall submit (1) the guidance developed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) a report on the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 45. Section 10-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) Each local and regional board of education shall provide for a fire

drill to be held in the schools of such board not later than thirty days after the first day of each school year and at least once each month thereafter, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Each such board shall substitute a crisis response drill for a fire drill once every three months and shall develop the format of such crisis response drill **[**in consultation**]** in accordance with the crisis response protocols described in section 46 of this act and with the appropriate local law enforcement agency. A representative of such agency may supervise and participate in any such crisis response drill.

Sec. 46. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the school year commencing July 1, 2027, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education providing for a crisis response drill to be conducted pursuant to section 10-231 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall ensure the following for each such drill: (1) The utilization of the (A) definition for crisis response drills, (B) standardized terminology for the administration and review of crisis response drills, and (C) guidance on standardized responses to crises and debriefing protocols following a crisis, developed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to section 44 of this act, (2) that the school security and safety committee, as described in section 10-222m of the general statutes, as amended by this act, collaborates with the school climate committee, as described in section 10-222ff of the general statutes, to plan crisis response drills that prioritize the physical and psychological safety of students and school personnel, (3) that crisis drills are (A) trauma-informed, including the utilization of an approach that takes into account prior traumatic experiences, and (B) designed to prevent emotional harm to and support the psychological safety of students and school personnel, with mental health professionals' participation integrated throughout the crisis response drill, (4) that prior to conducting a crisis response drill, school personnel provide age-appropriate education for students and training for school personnel to

build knowledge and skills to reduce the potential for confusion or emotional distress, including a review of the purpose and procedures for crisis response drills prior to the first crisis response drill of the school year and notification to students, school personnel and parents and guardians one week in advance of conducting a crisis response drill, (5) that school personnel communicate in a clear manner to ensure understanding of the nature and purpose of crisis response drills to the parents and guardians of students at the school prior to conducting a crisis response drill, (6) that at the commencement of the crisis response drill, students and school personnel are informed that they are participating in a crisis response drill in order to avoid confusion when an actual emergency situation is occurring, (7) that accommodations for each student with a cognitive, physical or sensory disability are provided, to the extent practicable, during a crisis response drill to ensure the safety and participation of such student, (8) that (A) a crisis response drill conducted with students does not include an active assailant simulation or simulated violence with highly sensorial elements such as fake assailants, firearms, gunfire sounds, blood or injuries, and (B) a crisis response drill that is conducted outside of the regular school day and exclusively for school personnel, first responders and other school volunteers may include an active assailant simulation or such simulated violence, and (9) that each such drill is evaluated using the evaluation template developed pursuant to section 44 of this act.

Sec. 47. Subsection (c) of section 10-222m of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) Each local and regional board of education shall (1) annually submit the school security and safety plan for each school under the jurisdiction of such board, developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,

and (2) make any portion of such school security and safety plan that is not prohibited from disclosure pursuant to section 1-210 available to members of the school community upon request.

Sec. 48. Section 7-450c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or special act 01-1, no municipality or special taxing district that provides, as of July 11, 2007, a pension and retirement system for its officers and employees and their beneficiaries shall diminish or eliminate any right or benefit granted to any retiree under such retirement or pension system that was in effect on the date of such retiree's retirement. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit a municipality or special taxing district from changing the administration of such retiree's retirement benefits as long as the rights and benefits provided to such retiree after any change in the administration are at least equivalent to the rights and benefits provided prior to such change.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or special act, no municipality or special taxing district that provides a pension and retirement system for its officers and employees and their beneficiaries shall diminish or eliminate any right or benefit granted to any retiree under such pension or retirement system due to permanent partial disability benefits received on or after July 1, 2026, by such retiree in accordance with section 31-308. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair or alter the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement in effect before July 1, 2026.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or special act, a municipality or special taxing district that provides a pension and retirement system for its officers and employees and their beneficiaries shall include temporary total disability and temporary partial disability benefits received by an employee pursuant to chapter 568 as wages for

purposes of the calculation of pension or retirement benefits to be paid to such employee in retirement, provided (1) the sum of such benefits and any other wages or compensation used to calculate such employee's pension or retirement benefits shall not exceed one hundred per cent of such employee's wages from such municipality or special taxing district in effect immediately prior to the injury for which the employee received such benefits, and (2) the provisions of this section shall not apply to the municipal employees retirement plan set forth in part II of chapter 113. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair or alter the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement in effect before July 1, 2026.

Sec. 49. (*Effective from passage*) The Comptroller shall conduct a study on the considerations necessary for a municipality that does not currently provide a defined pension plan to each police officer and firefighter employed by such municipality through participation in either (1) the municipal employees' retirement system, pursuant to section 7-427 of the general statutes, or (2) any other defined pension plan that provides such individuals with benefits that are comparable or superior to those benefits offered by the municipal employees' retirement system, to successfully transition such individuals from such municipality's current retirement system to such defined pension plan described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section. Not later than January 1, 2028, the Comptroller shall submit a report of the results of such study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees.

Sec. 50. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) As used in this section and sections 51 to 57, inclusive, of this act:

(1) "Employee" means an individual who is employed at a warehouse distribution center and who is not exempt from the minimum wage and

overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended from time to time. "Employee" does not include a driver or courier traveling to or from a warehouse distribution center;

(2) "Employer" means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, business trust, estate, trust, association, joint venture, agency, instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity, whether domestic or foreign, that directly or indirectly, or through an agent or any other person, including through the services of a third-party employer, temporary services, staffing agency, independent contractor or any similar entity, at any time in the prior twelve months, employs or exercises control over the wages, hours or working conditions of two hundred fifty or more employees at a single warehouse distribution center in the state or one thousand or more employees at one or more warehouse distribution centers in the state;

(3) "Quota" means a work performance standard where:

(A) An employee is assigned or required to perform at a specified productivity speed or a quantified number of tasks or to handle or produce a quantified amount of material within a defined time period;

(B) Actions by an employee are categorized and measured between time performing tasks and not performing tasks within a defined time period;

(C) Increments of time within a defined time period during which an employee is or is not doing a particular activity are measured, recorded or tallied; or

(D) An employee's performance is ranked in relation to the performance of other employees;

(4) "Work speed data" means information an employer collects,

stores, analyzes or interprets relating to an individual employee's performance of a quota, including, but not limited to, quantities of tasks performed, quantities of items or materials handled or produced, rates or speeds of tasks performed, measurements or metrics of employee performance in relation to a quota and time categorized as performing tasks or not performing tasks. "Work speed data" does not include qualitative performance data, personnel records, wage statements or data an employer collects, stores, analyzes or interprets that does not relate to the performance of a quota, except for any content of such records that includes work speed data; and

(5) "Warehouse distribution center" means a warehouse or warehouse complex owned or leased by an establishment as defined by any of the following North American Industry Classification System Codes, however such establishment is denominated: (A) 493110 for General Warehousing and Storage; (B) 423 for Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods; (C) 424 for Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods; (D) 454110 for Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses; (E) 492110 for Couriers and Express Delivery Services; (F) 452311 for Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters; (G) 452319 for All Other General Merchandise Stores; and (H) 444110 for Home Centers.

Sec. 51. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) An employer shall provide to each employee a written description of each quota to which such employee is subject, including any potential adverse employment action that may result from a failure to satisfy such quota. Such written description shall be provided to an employer's current employees not later than August 1, 2026. For employees hired after August 1, 2026, such written description shall be provided to the employee upon hire.

(b) Whenever an employer makes a change to an existing quota for an employee that results in a new quota for such employee, an employer shall:

(1) Notify the employee of such change as soon as practicable, either verbally or in writing, and prior to the effective date of such new quota; and

(2) Provide the employee with a written description of the new quota to which such employee is subject not later than two business days after the change is made.

(c) Any written description required pursuant to this section shall be provided either directly to an employee or via electronic mail.

Sec. 52. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) No quota shall:

(1) Prevent compliance with the provisions of section 31-51ii of the general statutes concerning meal periods;

(2) Interfere with an employee's use of the bathroom facilities, including reasonable travel time to and from the bathroom facilities;

(3) Set a performance standard that measurers an employee's total output over an increment of time that is shorter than such employee's work day; or

(4) Set a performance standard that is based solely on ranking the performance of an employee in relation to the performance of other employees.

Sec. 53. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) No employer shall take any adverse action against an employee for failing to satisfy a quota that violates the provisions of section 52 of this act or has not previously been provided to the employee pursuant to section 51 of this act.

Sec. 54. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Each employer shall establish, maintain and preserve contemporaneous, true and accurate records of (1) each individual employee's work speed data; (2) the aggregated work speed data for similar employees at the same warehouse

distribution center; and (3) the written description provided to each employee pursuant to section 51 of this act. Such records shall be maintained for a period of three years. Nothing in this section shall require an employer to establish, maintain and preserve the records required pursuant to this section if such employer does not assign or require quotas or collect, store, analyze or interpret work speed data.

Sec. 55. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) If an employee believes satisfying a quota caused or will cause a violation of section 52 of this act, such employee may request from such employee's employer: (1) A written description of each quota the employee is subject to; (2) a copy of the employee's personal work speed data for the prior ninety days; and (3) a copy of aggregated work speed data for similar employees at the same warehouse distribution center for the prior ninety days.

(b) A former employee may request from a former employer: (1) A written description of each quota the employee was subject to for the ninety days prior to the employee's separation from employment with such employer; (2) a copy of the employee's personal work speed data for the ninety days prior to such employee's separation from employment with such employer; and (3) a copy of aggregated work speed data for similar employees at the same warehouse distribution center for the ninety days prior to such employee's separation from employment with such employer. A former employee may only make one request under this section.

(c) An employer shall provide a written copy of any records requested pursuant to this section as soon as practicable, but not later than ten calendar days after receipt of such request. Such written copy shall be provided (1) in both English and the primary language of the employee requesting such records, and (2) (A) for a current employee, directly to the employee or via electronic mail, or (B) for a former employee, either in person at a mutually convenient time or via a mutually convenient delivery method.

Sec. 56. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) No employer shall discharge or in any way retaliate, discriminate or take any adverse action against any employee or former employee for (1) making a request pursuant to section 55 of this act, or (2) filing a civil action pursuant to section 57 of this act.

(b) (1) If an employer discharges or in any way retaliates, discriminates or takes any adverse action against any employee or former employee within ninety days after such employee engages in or attempts to engage in the activities described in subsection (a) of this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that such adverse action is in violation of this section.

(2) For an adverse action taken within ninety days of an employee or former employee engaging or attempting to engage in the activity described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, such presumption shall only apply if such adverse action was taken within ninety days of an employee or former employee's first request made in a calendar year.

(3) Such presumption may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence that (A) the adverse action was taken for other permissible reasons, and (B) the employee engaging or attempting to engage in the activities described in subsection (a) of this section was not a motivating factor in the employer taking such adverse action.

Sec. 57. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) An employee or former employee aggrieved by a violation of sections 51 to 56, inclusive, of this act, or the Attorney General on behalf of a group of employees or former employees aggrieved by a violation of sections 51 to 56, inclusive, of this act, may bring a civil action in the Superior Court to recover damages, civil penalties and such injunctive relief as the court deems appropriate. In any civil action brought under this section in which the plaintiff prevails, the court may, in addition to the relief provided pursuant to

subsection (b) of this section, award reasonable attorney's fees and costs, to be taxed by the court.

(b) An employer who violates a provision of sections 51 to 56, inclusive, of this act may be assessed a civil penalty by the court of (1) one thousand dollars for a first violation, (2) two thousand dollars for a second violation, or (3) three thousand dollars for a third or subsequent violations.

Sec. 58. Section 51-198 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Supreme Court shall consist of one Chief Justice and six associate judges, who shall, at the time of their appointment, also be appointed judges of the Superior Court.

(b) In addition thereto, each Chief Justice or associate judge of the Supreme Court who elects to retain office but to retire from full-time active service shall continue to be a member of the Supreme Court during the remainder of **[**his or her**]** such justice's or judge's term of office and during the term of any reappointment under section 51-50i, until **[**he or she**]** such justice or judge attains the age of seventy years. **[**He or she**]** Such justice or judge shall be entitled to participate in the meetings of the judges of the Supreme Court and vote as a member thereof.

(c) If an associate judge of the Supreme Court is appointed to serve as the Chief Court Administrator pursuant to section 51-1b, and chooses to cease serving as an associate judge of the Supreme Court, the associate judge shall retain the designation of judge of the Superior Court for the remainder of the term of appointment, and shall be eligible for reappointment as a judge of the Superior Court upon expiration of said term until such judge attains the age of seventy years.

[(c) A**]** (d) An associate judge of the Supreme Court who has attained

the age of seventy years or who ceases to be an associate judge of the Supreme Court pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may continue to deliberate and participate in all matters concerning the disposition of any case which the judge heard or considered prior to attaining said age or ceasing to be an associate judge of the Supreme Court pursuant to said subsection (c), until such time as the decision in any such case is officially released. The judge may also participate in the consideration or deliberation of a motion for reconsideration **[**in such case if such motion is filed within ten days of the**]** or any other motion submitted in any case that the associate judge heard or considered following the official release of such decision.

Sec. 59. Section 52-434c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

In addition to the powers and jurisdiction granted to state referees under sections 52-434 and 52-434a, a Chief Justice or a judge of the Supreme Court or Appellate Court, who has ceased to hold office as justice or judge because of having retired or having ceased to hold office pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-198, as amended by this act, and who has become a state referee, may be designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to be eligible to be assigned by the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court to perform such duties of the office of judge of the Appellate Court as may be requested by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge may assign no more than one state referee to sit on any one panel. No such designation may be for a term of more than one year. In performing the duties assigned, such retired Chief Justice or retired judge of the Supreme Court or Appellate Court, or a judge of the Supreme Court who has ceased to hold office pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-198, as amended by this act, shall exercise the same powers and jurisdiction as does a judge of the Superior Court who is qualified to serve as a judge on the Appellate Court.

Sec. 60. Section 7-294v of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Not later than July 1, 2023, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall: **[**(1) after**]**

(A) After consultation with persons with mental or physical disabilities and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with persons who have mental or physical disabilities; **[**,**]** and **[**(2) after**]**

(B) After consultation with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. On and after July 1, 2024, the training curriculum shall include crisis intervention strategies for police officers to use when interacting with individuals with mental illness in crisis.

(2) Not later than March 1, 2027, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall:

(A) After consultation with persons with mental or physical disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, and advocates on behalf of such persons, including, but not limited to, institutions of higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with persons with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with persons who have mental illness or mental or physical disabilities. Such training curriculum shall include, but need not be limited to, the following topics: (i) The nature of mental illness and mental or physical disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment and nonverbal learning disorder; (ii) how to

identify persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities; and (iii) strategies and techniques for handling incidents that involve persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities, including, but not limited to, crisis intervention strategies and deescalation techniques; and

(B) After consultation with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind.

(b) **[**On and after**]** (1) From October 1, 2023, to June 30, 2027, inclusive, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal police department shall include the training curriculum developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

(2) On and after July 1, 2027, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal police department shall include the training curriculum developed pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 61. Subsection (a) of section 4b-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) There is established a State Properties Review Board, which shall consist of **[**six**]** eight members appointed as follows: (1) The speaker of the House and president pro tempore of the Senate shall jointly appoint three members, one of whom shall be experienced in matters relating to

architecture, one experienced in building construction matters and one in matters relating to engineering; **[**and**]** (2) the minority leader of the House and the minority leader of the Senate shall jointly appoint three members, one of whom shall be experienced in matters relating to the purchase, sale and lease of real estate and buildings, one experienced in business matters generally and one experienced in the management and operation of state institutions; and (3) on and after July 1, 2026, the speaker of the House and president pro tempore of the Senate shall jointly appoint an additional member and the minority leader of the House and the minority leader of the Senate shall jointly appoint an additional member. No more than **[**three of said six**]** four of the members shall be of the same political party. One of the members first appointed by the speaker and the president pro tempore shall serve a two-year term, one shall serve a three-year term and one shall serve a four-year term. One of the members first appointed by the minority leaders of the House and Senate shall serve a two-year term, one shall serve a three-year term and one shall serve a four-year term. All appointments of members to replace those whose terms expire and the appointments of additional members pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be for a term of four years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified. If any vacancy occurs on the board, the appointing authorities having the power to make the initial appointment under the provisions of this section shall appoint a person for the unexpired term in accordance with the provisions **[**hereof**]** of this subsection.

Sec. 62. Section 16-256*l* of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section, "provider" means a telephone or telecommunications company providing local telephone service, provider of commercial mobile radio service, as defined in 47 CFR

Section 20.3, as amended from time to time, and voice over Internet protocol service provider, as defined in section 28-30b.

(b) On and after **[**January 1, 2027**]** July 1, 2026, each provider shall assess against each subscriber a fee in an amount equal to five cents per month per access line. Each fee assessed under this subsection shall be remitted to the office of the State Treasurer for deposit into the firefighters cancer relief account established pursuant to section 7-313h, not later than the fifteenth day of each month. No part of any fee assessed under this subsection shall be subject to a refund.

(c) Not later than **[**November**]** May 1, 2026, the provider shall provide written notice to each subscriber disclosing the amount and frequency of such fee.

(d) The fee described in subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to any prepaid wireless telecommunications service, as defined in section 28-30b.

Sec. 63. Section 29-256f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, jointly, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in accordance with the provisions of section 29-252b, include in the amendments to the State Building Code next adopted after June 6, 2024, and the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, in accordance with section 29-292a, include in the amendments to the Fire Safety Code next adopted after June 6, 2024, provisions that **[**:

(1) Allow additional residential occupancies to be served safely by a single exit stairway, in such a way as to:

(A) Be consistent with safe occupancy and egress;

(B) Consider the experience of the cities of Seattle, New York City and Honolulu in implementing similar provisions;

(C) Apply to municipalities in which the fire service is sufficient to maintain safe occupancy and egress under such additional occupancies, if appropriate;

(D) Promote the inclusion of units with three or more bedrooms in building designs to promote construction of family-sized units, especially on smaller lots; and

(E) Allow additional stories above grade plane to be served by a single exit stairway in a building with an automatic sprinkler system, under such conditions as to ensure safe occupancy and egress. Such conditions may include, but need not be limited to, additional levels of fire and smoke separation and any features necessary to allow for firefighters to ascend a stair as occupants descend; and

(2) Encourage**]** encourage construction of safe three-unit and four-unit residential buildings, which shall:

[(A)**]** (1) Be consistent with safe occupancy and egress; and

[(B)**]** (2) Include three-unit and four-unit residential buildings in the International Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code, or otherwise provide for requirements for three-unit and four-unit residential buildings in the International Building Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code similar to those for one-unit and two-unit residential buildings in the International Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code, under such conditions as to ensure safe occupancy and egress.

Sec. 64. Subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 17b-340 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(h) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, any intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities with an operating cost component of its rate in excess of one hundred forty per cent of the median of operating cost components of rates in effect January 1, 1992, shall not receive an operating cost component increase. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, any intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities with an operating cost component of its rate that is less than one hundred forty per cent of the median of operating cost components of rates in effect January 1, 1992, shall have an allowance for real wage growth equal to thirty per cent of the increase determined in accordance with subsection (q) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, provided such operating cost component shall not exceed one hundred forty per cent of the median of operating cost components in effect January 1, 1992. Any facility with real property other than land placed in service prior to October 1, 1991, shall, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, receive a rate of return on real property equal to the average of the rates of return applied to real property other than land placed in service for the five years preceding October 1, 1993. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, the rate of return on real property for property items shall be revised every five years. The commissioner shall, upon submission of a request, allow actual debt service, comprised of principal and interest, in excess of property costs allowed pursuant to section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, provided such debt service terms and amounts are reasonable in relation to the useful life and the base value of the property. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, and any succeeding fiscal year, the inflation adjustment made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall not be applied to real property costs. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, the allowance for real wage growth, as determined in accordance with subsection (q) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, shall not be applied. For the

fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and any succeeding fiscal year, no rate shall exceed three hundred seventy-five dollars per day unless the commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Developmental Services, determines after a review of program and management costs, that a rate in excess of this amount is necessary for care and treatment of facility residents. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, rate period, the Commissioner of Social Services shall increase the inflation adjustment for rates made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to update allowable fiscal year 2000 costs to include a three and one-half per cent inflation factor. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, rate period, the commissioner shall increase the inflation adjustment for rates made in accordance with subsection (p) of section 17-311-52 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to update allowable fiscal year 2001 costs to include a one and one-half per cent inflation factor, except that such increase shall be effective November 1, 2002, and such facility rate in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, shall be paid for services provided until October 31, 2002, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2002, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2002, and have such rate updated effective November 1, 2002, in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2003, shall remain in effect, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2003, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2003. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2004, shall remain in effect until September 30, 2004. Effective October 1, 2004, each facility shall receive a rate that is five per cent greater than the rate in effect September 30, 2004. Effective upon receipt of all the necessary federal approvals to secure federal financial participation matching funds

associated with the rate increase provided in subdivision (4) of subsection (f) of this section, but in no event earlier than October 1, 2005, and provided the user fee imposed under section 17b-320 is required to be collected, each facility shall receive a rate that is four per cent more than the rate the facility received in the prior fiscal year, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective October 1, 2005, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective October 1, 2005. Such rate increase shall remain in effect unless: (A) The federal financial participation matching funds associated with the rate increase are no longer available; or (B) the user fee created pursuant to section 17b-320 is not in effect. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2006, shall remain in effect until September 30, 2006, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2006, than for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2006. Effective October 1, 2006, no facility shall receive a rate that is more than three per cent greater than the rate in effect for the facility on September 30, 2006, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective October 1, 2006, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective October 1, 2006. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, each facility shall receive a rate that is two and nine-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2007, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2007, than for the rate period ending June 30, 2007, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2007. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2008, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2009, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, and

June 30, 2011, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2009, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2011, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, rates in effect for the period ending June 30, 2011, shall remain in effect until June 30, 2012, except any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2013, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the period ending June 30, 2013, if a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, or June 30, 2015, to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. Any facility that would have been issued a lower rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, due to interim rate status or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2015, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the period ending June 30, 2015, if a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, or June 30, 2017, to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, and each succeeding fiscal year, any facility that would have been issued a lower rate, due to interim rate status, a change in allowable fair rent or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate.

For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, and June 30, 2019, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the period ending June 30, 2017, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the period ending June 30, 2017, if a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, or June 30, 2019, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, except the rate paid to a facility may be higher than the rate paid to the facility for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, if a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents was made to the facility during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, or June 30, 2021, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2020, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, rates shall not exceed those in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, except the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities which have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report year ending September 30, 2021, that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year

ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. There shall be no increase to rates based on inflation or any inflationary factor for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, any subsequent increase to allowable operating costs, excluding fair rent, shall be inflated by the gross domestic product deflator when funding is specifically appropriated for such purposes in the enacted budget. The rate of inflation shall be computed by comparing the most recent rate year to the average of the gross domestic product deflator for the previous four fiscal quarters ending March thirty-first. Any increase to rates based on inflation shall be applied prior to the application of any other budget adjustment factors that may impact such rates. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2022 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost report year ending June 30, 2022, and with the addition of a two per cent adjustment factor. No facility shall receive a rate less than the rate in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the minimum per diem, per bed rate shall remain at five hundred one dollars for a residential facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion and within available appropriations, provide pro rata fair rent increases to facilities that have documented fair rent additions placed in service in the cost report years that are not otherwise included in rates issued. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2023 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost report ending June 30, 2023. A

facility may receive a rate that is less than the rate in effect for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, but shall not receive a rate less than the minimum per diem, per bed rate. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the minimum per diem, per bed rate shall remain at five hundred one dollars for a residential facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2024 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost report ending June 30, 2024. Additionally, the facility shall receive a rate that is **[**one**]** three and four-tenths per cent greater than the calculated rate, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2025, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2025. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, there shall be no minimum per diem, per bed rate for a residential facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, each facility shall receive a rate that is **[**two**]** five and eight-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2026, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2026, than the rate for the period ending June 30, 2027, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2026. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, each facility shall receive a rate that is **[**three**]** six and three-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2027, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2027, than the rate for the period ending June 30, 2027, due to interim rate status, or

agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2027. Effective January 1, 2028, each facility shall receive a rate that is **[**three**]** six and three-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending December 31, 2027, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective January 1, 2028, than the rate for the period ending December 31, 2027, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective January 1, 2028. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. Any facility that has a significant decrease in land and building costs shall receive a reduced rate to reflect such decrease in land and building costs. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2012, June 30, 2013, June 30, 2014, June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016, June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022, June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services may provide fair rent increases to any facility that has undergone a material change in circumstances related to fair rent and has an approved certificate of need pursuant to section 17b-352, 17b-353, 17b-354 or 17b-355. The Department of Social Services shall amend the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to allow for the waiver of the separate inflation cost limitation on direct care costs when rebasing rates for intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities after the fiscal year ending June

30, 2027. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Commissioner of Social Services may, within available appropriations, increase or decrease rates issued to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to reflect a reduction in available appropriations as provided in subsection (a) of this section. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, the commissioner shall not consider rebasing in determining rates. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, effective July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, the commissioner shall, within available appropriations, increase rates for the purpose of wage and benefit enhancements for employees of intermediate care facilities. Facilities that receive a rate adjustment for the purpose of wage and benefit enhancements but do not provide increases in employee salaries as described in this subsection on or before July 31, 2021, and July 31, 2022, respectively, may be subject to a rate decrease in the same amount as the adjustment by the commissioner.

Sec. 65. Subdivision (12) of subsection (a) of section 19a-638 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(12) An increase in the licensed bed capacity of a health care facility, except as provided in **[**subdivision**]** subdivisions (23) and (26) of subsection (b) of this section;

Sec. 66. Subsection (b) of section 19a-638 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) A certificate of need shall not be required for:

(1) Health care facilities owned and operated by the federal government;

(2) The establishment of offices by a licensed private practitioner,

whether for individual or group practice, except when a certificate of need is required in accordance with the requirements of section 19a-493b or subdivision (3), (10) or (11) of subsection (a) of this section;

(3) A health care facility operated by a religious group that exclusively relies upon spiritual means through prayer for healing;

(4) Residential care homes, as defined in subsection (c) of section 19a-490, and nursing homes and rest homes, as defined in subsection (o) of section 19a-490;

(5) An assisted living services agency, as defined in section 19a-490;

(6) Home health agencies, as defined in section 19a-490;

(7) Hospice services, as described in section 19a-122b;

(8) Outpatient rehabilitation facilities;

(9) Outpatient chronic dialysis services;

(10) Transplant services;

(11) Free clinics, as defined in section 19a-630;

(12) School-based health centers and expanded school health sites, as such terms are defined in section 19a-6r, community health centers, as defined in section 19a-490a, not-for-profit outpatient clinics licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 368v and federally qualified health centers;

(13) A program licensed or funded by the Department of Children and Families, provided such program is not a psychiatric residential treatment facility;

(14) Any nonprofit facility, institution or provider that has a contract with, or is certified or licensed to provide a service for, a state agency or

department for a service that would otherwise require a certificate of need. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to a short-term acute care general hospital or children's hospital, or a hospital or other facility or institution operated by the state that provides services that are eligible for reimbursement under Title XVIII or XIX of the federal Social Security Act, 42 USC 301, as amended;

(15) A health care facility operated by a nonprofit educational institution exclusively for students, faculty and staff of such institution and their dependents;

(16) An outpatient clinic or program operated exclusively by or contracted to be operated exclusively by a municipality, municipal agency, municipal board of education or a health district, as described in section 19a-241;

(17) A residential facility for persons with intellectual disability licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities;

(18) Replacement of existing computed tomography scanners, magnetic resonance imaging scanners, positron emission tomography scanners, positron emission tomography-computed tomography scanners, or nonhospital based linear accelerators, if such equipment was acquired through certificate of need approval or a certificate of need determination, provided a health care facility, provider, physician or person notifies the unit of the date on which the equipment is replaced and the disposition of the replaced equipment, including if a replacement scanner has dual modalities or functionalities and the applicant already offers similar imaging services for each of the equipment's modalities or functionalities that will be utilized;

(19) Acquisition of cone-beam dental imaging equipment that is to be

used exclusively by a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 379;

(20) The partial or total elimination of services provided by an outpatient surgical facility, as defined in section 19a-493b, except as provided in subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of this section and section 19a-639e;

(21) The termination of services for which the Department of Public Health has requested the facility to relinquish its license;

(22) Acquisition of any equipment by any person that is to be used exclusively for scientific research that is not conducted on humans;

(23) On or before June 30, 2026, an increase in the licensed bed capacity of a mental health facility, provided (A) the mental health facility demonstrates to the unit, in a form and manner prescribed by the unit, that it accepts reimbursement for any covered benefit provided to a covered individual under: (i) An individual or group health insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469; (ii) a self-insured employee welfare benefit plan established pursuant to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time; or (iii) HUSKY Health, as defined in section 17b-290, and (B) if the mental health facility does not accept or stops accepting reimbursement for any covered benefit provided to a covered individual under a policy, plan or program described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, a certificate of need for such increase in the licensed bed capacity shall be required; **[**.**]**

(24) The establishment at harm reduction centers through the pilot program established pursuant to section 17a-673c; **[**or**]**

(25) On or before June 30, 2028, a birth center, as defined in section 19a-490, that is enrolled as a provider in the Connecticut medical assistance program, as defined in section 17b-245g; or

(26) On or before June 30, 2026, an increase in the licensed bed capacity of a hospital owned or operated by the state, provided all such added licensed beds are dedicated to inpatient behavioral health services and, if any of such added licensed beds are converted to any other inpatient service, a certificate of need for such increase in the licensed bed capacity shall be required.

Sec. 67. Subsection (d) of section 52-362d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) Whenever an order of the Superior Court or a family support magistrate of this state, or an order of another state that has been registered in this state, for support of a minor child or children is issued and such payments have been ordered through the IV-D agency, or when a request from another state for assistance enforcing an order that has not been registered in this state is received by the IV-D agency and such request meets the requirements of 42 USC 666(a)(14), and the obligor against whom such support order was issued owes overdue support under such order in the amount of five hundred dollars or more, the IV-D agency, as defined in subdivision (12) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231, or Support Enforcement Services of the Superior Court may notify (1) any state or local agency or officer with authority (A) to hold assets or property for such obligor including, but not limited to, any property unclaimed or presumed abandoned under part III of chapter 32, or (B) to distribute benefits to such obligor including, but not limited to, unemployment compensation and workers' compensation, (2) any person having or expecting to have custody or control of or authority to distribute any amounts due such obligor under any judgment or settlement, (3) any financial institution holding assets of such obligor, and (4) any public or private entity administering a public or private retirement fund in which such obligor has an interest that such obligor owes overdue support in a IV-D support case. Upon receipt

of such notice, such agency, officer, person, institution or entity shall withhold delivery or distribution of any such property, benefits, amounts, assets or funds until receipt of further notice from the IV-D agency.

Sec. 68. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 46b-215e of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, whenever a child support obligor is institutionalized or incarcerated, the Superior Court or a family support magistrate shall establish an initial order for current support, or modify an existing order for current support, upon proper motion, based upon the obligor's present income and substantial assets, if any, in accordance with the child support guidelines established pursuant to section 46b-215a. **[**Downward modification of an existing support order based solely on a loss of income due to incarceration or institutionalization shall not be granted in the case of a child support obligor who is incarcerated or institutionalized for an offense against the custodial party or the child subject to such support order.**]**

(b) In IV-D support cases, as defined in section 46b-231, when the child support obligor is institutionalized or incarcerated for more than ninety days, any existing support order, as defined in section 46b-231, shall be modified to zero dollars effective upon the date that a support enforcement officer files an affidavit in the Family Support Magistrate Division. The affidavit shall include: (1) The beginning and expected end dates of such obligor's institutionalization or incarceration; and (2) a statement by such officer that (A) a diligent search failed to identify any income or assets that could be used to satisfy the child support order while the obligor is incarcerated or institutionalized, **[**(B) the offense for which the obligor is institutionalized or incarcerated was not an offense against the custodial party or the child subject to such support order,**]**

and **[**(C)**]** (B) a notice in accordance with subsection (c) of this section was provided to the custodial party and an objection form was not received from such party.

(c) Prior to filing an affidavit under subsection (b) of this section, the support enforcement officer shall provide notice to the custodial party in accordance with section 52-57 or by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall state in clear and simple language that: (1) Such child support order shall be modified unless the custodial party objects not later than fifteen calendar days after receipt of such notice on the grounds that **[**(A)**]** the obligor has sufficient income or assets to comply with the support order; **[**, or (B) the obligor is incarcerated or institutionalized for an offense against the custodial party or the child subject to such support order;**]** and (2) the custodial party may object to the proposed modification by delivering a signed objection form, or other written notice or motion, indicating the nature of the objection or grounds of the motion, to the support enforcement officer not later than fifteen calendar days after receipt of such notice. Upon receipt of any objection or motion, the support enforcement officer shall promptly arrange with the clerk of the Family Support Magistrate Division to enter the appearance of the custodial party, set the matter for a hearing, send a file-stamped copy of the objection or motion to the IV-D agency of the state to whom the support order is payable, and notify all parties of the hearing date set. The court or family support magistrate shall promptly hear the objection or motion and determine whether the child support order should be modified in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 69. Section 9-163aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) (A) Any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a regular election, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a

period of early voting at each regular election held on or after April 1, 2024.

(B) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2, commence on the fifteenth day prior to and conclude on the second day prior to such regular election, and (ii) consist of such days between and inclusive of such commencement and conclusion, except any legal holiday designated, appointed or recommended under section 1-4, and at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174.

(2) (A) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection, any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a primary, other than a presidential preference primary, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a period of early voting at each primary, other than a presidential preference primary, held on or after April 1, 2024.

(B) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2, commence on the eighth day prior to and conclude on the second day prior to such primary, other than a presidential preference primary, and (ii) consist of such days between and inclusive of such commencement and conclusion, except any legal holiday designated, appointed or recommended under section 1-4, and at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174.

(3) (A) Any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a special election, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a period of early voting at each special election held on or after April 1, 2024.

(B) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection, any eligible elector may vote prior to the day of a presidential preference

primary, in accordance with the provisions of this section, during a period of early voting at each presidential preference primary held on or after April 1, 2024.

(C) The period of early voting under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision shall (i) notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-2, commence on the fifth day prior to and conclude on the second day prior to such special election or such presidential preference primary, except that such commencing and concluding days shall be adjusted to exclude from such period April 20, 2025, and any legal holiday designated, appointed or recommended under section 1-4, and (ii) consist of four total days between and inclusive of such commencement and conclusion, as may be adjusted pursuant to subparagraph (C)(i) of this subdivision, and at such times as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 9-174.

(4) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-19e, 9-23a, 9-26, 9-31a, 9-55, 9-56, as amended by this act, and 9-57:

(i) In the case of an unaffiliated elector who wishes to vote during the period of early voting at a primary, such elector shall be eligible to so vote if such elector's application for enrollment with the political party holding such primary is filed with the registrars of voters by twelve o'clock noon on the business day immediately preceding the day on which such period of early voting commences.

(ii) In the case of a person who is not admitted as an elector and who wishes to vote during the period of early voting at a primary, such person shall be eligible to so vote if such person's application for admission as an elector and enrollment with the political party holding such primary is filed with the registrars of voters by twelve o'clock noon on the business day immediately preceding the day during such period of early voting on which such person offers to vote at such primary.

(B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an individual who enrolls in a political party during a period of early voting at a primary from voting by absentee ballot, if eligible, or in person on the day of such primary.

(b) (1) (A) The registrars of voters of each municipality shall designate a location for the conduct of early voting **[**, which**]** but, if the registrars fail to agree as to such location, the legislative body or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, the board of selectmen, shall designate such location. Such location shall be the same for the duration of the period of early voting except as otherwise specified in this subdivision, provided **[**(A)**]** (i) the registrars of voters have access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of the State. **[**not later than sixty days prior to the day of an election or a primary.**]** The written certification under subparagraph **[**(B)**]** (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall be submitted annually by the registrars of voters to the Secretary not later than February fifteenth, except that for an election or a primary held in 2026, such written certification shall be so submitted not later than sixty days prior to the day of such election or primary. Any change to such written certification shall be made and submitted, and approved or disapproved, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. Such written certification shall provide **[**(i)**]** (I) the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with such location, **[**(ii)**]** (II) the number of election or primary officials to be appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location and the roles of such officials, and **[**(iii)**]** (III) a description of the design of such location and a plan for effective conduct of such early voting, and shall include the information required for same-day election registration under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as amended by this act. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification annually not later than **[**forty-five days prior to the day of an election or a primary**]** March first, except

that for an election or a primary held in 2026, the Secretary shall so approve or disapprove not later than forty-five days prior to the day of such election or primary. If the Secretary disapproves such certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the Secretary deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the appointment of additional election or primary officials or the alteration of such design or plan. After having received approval of such certification or having complied with any order for corrective action to the Secretary's satisfaction, as applicable, the registrars of voters shall determine the site of such location designated for the conduct of early voting at least thirty-one days prior to an election or a primary. Such location shall not be changed within such period, except, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters unanimously find that such location has been rendered unusable within such period, such clerk and registrars shall forthwith designate another location for the conduct of early voting to be used in place of the location so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such location has been so changed. The provisions of sections 9-168d and 9-168e shall apply to such location designated for the conduct of early voting.

(B) If, after the registrars of voters annually submit the written certification under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the registrars make any change to any part of such written certification, such registrars shall submit to the Secretary of the State an updated written certification, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, as soon as practicable but in no case later than seven days after such change. The registrars shall clearly indicate on such updated written certification the information that has changed since the prior submission. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such updated written certification as soon as practicable but in no case later than seven days after submission thereof. If the Secretary disapproves such updated certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the Secretary deems

necessary, in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

(2) In any municipality with a population of at least twenty thousand, the legislative body may hold a public hearing on whether to designate any additional location in such municipality for the conduct of early voting, which public hearing, if any, shall be held not later than fifteen days prior to the time for designating any such location set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Any legislative body holding such a public hearing shall properly notice such public hearing not later than ten days prior to such public hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in such municipality and on the Internet web site of the municipality. For any such municipality in which such a public hearing was not held, the legislative body thereof shall determine whether to designate any such additional location and shall notify the Secretary of the State with a detailed explanation for such determination. For any municipality in which such a public hearing was held, not later than three days after the conclusion of such public hearing, the legislative body thereof shall determine whether to designate any such additional location and shall notify the Secretary with a detailed explanation for such determination. If the legislative body determines that any such additional location be designated, the **[**registrars of voters**]** legislative body or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, the board of selectmen, shall so designate such additional location and the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to such additional location. The Secretary shall take no action on any detailed explanation submitted under this subdivision with regard to the number of additional locations designated in such a municipality, and shall preserve each such detailed explanation as a public record open to public inspection. For the purposes of this subdivision, "population" means the estimated number of people according to the most recent version of the State Register and Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90.

(3) In any municipality containing any campus of a constituent unit, as defined in section 10a-1, with at least one thousand students living in housing that is on such campus or is owned or operated by, or affiliated with, such constituent unit, the registrars of voters of such municipality shall designate an additional location on such campus for the conduct of early voting and the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to such additional location.

(4) At each location designated for the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters shall provide to prospective electors during the early voting period the opportunity to apply for same-day election registration, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 9-19j, as amended by this act, for such application and for the completion and processing of any such application.

(5) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which early voting is conducted, a moderator and such other election or primary officials to serve at each location designated for such conduct. The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the conduct of early voting at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes related to the conduct of early voting, the registrars of voters of a municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may delegate to each other election or primary official so appointed any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall supervise each such official and train each such official to be an early voting election or primary official.

(B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for the conduct of early voting, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit

to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii) a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

(C) Not later than the fourteenth day preceding the commencement of the period of early voting, the registrars of voters shall provide to the Secretary of the State a written report setting forth the name, address and, if available, cellular mobile telephone number of the moderator appointed to serve at each location designated for the conduct of early voting pursuant to this subdivision. Such written report shall be included as part of the written report provided by the registrars to the Secretary under section 9-228a, as amended by this act.

(c) Any elector who wishes to vote during a period of early voting at an election or primary, and is eligible to so vote at such election or primary, shall (1) appear in person at such times as provided in subsection (c) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting, and (2) identify such elector as required by subsection (a) of section 9-261. **[**, and (3) declare under oath that such elector has not previously voted in such election or primary, as provided in subsection (e) of this section.**]**

(d) If the registrars of voters determine that an elector is eligible to vote in the election or primary, the registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter registration system before allowing such elector to cast an early voting ballot as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

(1) If the registrars of voters determine that the elector has not already voted, or if there is no report that the elector has already voted, the registrars shall allow such elector to vote.

(2) If the registrars of voters believe that the elector may have already voted, such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters. After completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter cannot be made and such elector claims to have neither in fact voted nor offered to vote in person or by absentee ballot, such elector may request a challenged ballot in accordance with section 9-232d and may cast such challenged ballot in accordance with section 9-232e. Such matter shall be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which shall conduct an investigation of the matter. The provisions of section 9-232f shall apply to any challenged ballot cast under this subdivision.

(e) If the elector is allowed to vote, the registrars of voters shall provide such elector with an early voting ballot, **[**and early voting envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The**]** shall make a record of such issuance and shall announce to such elector the voting district in which such elector resides and the ballot, corresponding to such voting district, that such elector should properly receive. Prior to marking the early voting ballot, the elector shall complete **[**an**]** a printed affirmation **[**printed upon the back of the early voting envelope**]** in a log book provided by the registrars of voters and shall declare under oath that the **[**voter**]** elector has not previously voted in the election or primary. The Secretary of the State shall prescribe the form of such log book and shall make a sample thereof available on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the State. Such printed affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows and signed by the **[**voter**]** elector:

AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty of false statement (perjury), that:

1. I am the elector appearing in person to vote early at **[**an**]** this election or primary. **[**prior to the day of such election or primary.**]**

2. I am eligible to vote in **[**the**]** this election or primary. **[**indicated for today.**]**

3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.

4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.

5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of **[**so**]** voting.

…. (Signature of voter)

…. (Printed name of voter)

(f) The elector shall forthwith mark the early voting ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars of voters shall not know how the early voting ballot is marked. The elector shall place the early voting ballot **[**in the early voting ballot envelope provided and deposit such envelope in a secured early voting ballot depository receptacle**]** into the voting tabulator. At the conclusion of each day during the early voting period, the registrars of voters shall publicly open the voting tabulator, secure and seal such day's early voting ballots in a secure receptacle and transport such receptacle **[**containing such day's early voting ballots**]** to the municipal clerk, who shall retain and securely store such ballots in as near a manner as possible to that for the retention and secure storage of absentee ballots, as provided in subsection (g) of this section, except that, if such manner is not practicable, then such early voting ballots shall be retained and securely stored as provided in an alternate plan submitted by the registrars of voters to the Secretary of the State and approved by the Secretary. On the day of the election or primary, the early voting ballots shall be delivered to the registrars of voters for the purpose of counting such ballots. A section of the head moderator's return shall show the number of early voting ballots received from electors. The registrars of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for early voting ballots in a depository envelope with the early voting ballots and store such early voting depository envelope with the other election or primary results

materials. The early voting depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections or primaries.

(g) Except as provided in section 9-163bb, as amended by this act, the provisions of this title and any regulation adopted under this title concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of early voting ballots under this section.

(h) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or primary, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any building that contains any location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of voters for early voting for any purpose other than casting such person's vote, except (A) primary officials under section 9-436, (B) election officials under section 9-258, including (i) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (ii) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties, and (C) unofficial checkers under section 9-235.

(3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party employee or volunteer, may be within the seventy-five-foot radius described in subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such person's official duties or to the

conduct of government business within such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(i) The provisions of subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, of this section shall not apply to any primary held for the purpose of choosing town committee members.

(j) No election or primary official shall perform services for any party or candidate on any day during the period of early voting on which such election or primary official is appointed to serve under this section, nor appear at any political party headquarters prior to the hour prescribed under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of section 9-174, as applicable, for the closing of the location designated for early voting on such day.

Sec. 70. Section 9-163bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Early voting ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of an election or primary, and same-day election registration ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of a regular election, shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or primary.

[(b)**]** (2) The ballot counters for such early voting ballots and same-day election registration ballots shall proceed to the central counting location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a at the time, between six o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or primary, designated by the registrars of voters. At the time such ballots are delivered to the ballot counters pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the ballot counters shall perform any checking of such ballots and

proceed, as nearly as possible, as provided in section 9-150a, as amended by this act.

(b) On the first day of the early voting period, before the opening of the polls, the moderator for the location designated for the conduct of early voting shall unlock the voting tabulator for use and confirm that the counter, which indicates the number of ballots that have been inserted into the voting tabulator, is set at zero (000). Upon the close of the polls each day during the early voting period, such moderator shall record the number of ballots inserted into the voting tabulator, lock the voting tabulator against voting and store the voting tabulator in accordance with the written certification approved, or order for corrective action issued, as applicable, by the Secretary of the State pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa, as amended by this act. On each subsequent day of the early voting period, before the opening of the polls, the moderator shall unlock the voting tabulator for use and confirm that the counter is set to the same number that the moderator had recorded upon the close of the polls the prior day for the number of ballots inserted into the voting tabulator. Upon the close of the polls on the day of the election, the moderator shall cause the vote totals for all candidates and questions to be produced by the early voting tabulators.

Sec. 71. Section 9-19j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Election day" means the day on which a regular election, as defined in section 9-1, as amended by this act, is held; and

(2) "Same-day election registration" means admission as an elector during the period of early voting at a regular election, as provided in

section 9-163aa, as amended by this act, or on election day.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a person who (1) is (A) not an elector, or (B) an elector registered in a municipality who wishes to change such elector's registration to another municipality pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of section 9-12, may apply for same-day election registration pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(c) (1) (A) The registrars of voters shall designate a location for the completion and processing of same-day election registrations on election day, provided **[**(A)**]** (i) the registrars of voters have access to the state-wide centralized voter registration system from such location, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) such location is certified in writing to the Secretary of the State. **[**not later than forty-five days before election day.**]** The written certification under subparagraph **[**(B)**]** (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall **[**(i) include**]** be submitted annually by the registrars of voters to the Secretary not later than February fifteenth as part of such registrars' submission under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 9-163aa, as amended by this act, except that for election day in 2026, such written certification shall be so submitted not later than forty-five days before such election day. Any change to such written certification shall be made and submitted, and approved or disapproved, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. Such written certification shall provide (I) the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with such location, **[**(ii) list the name and address of each election official who shall**]** (II) the number of election officials to be appointed by the registrars of voters to serve at such location **[**, if any**]** and the roles of such officials, and **[**(iii) provide**]** (III) a description of the design of such location and a plan for effective completion and processing of **[**such applications**]** same-day election registrations. The Secretary shall

approve or disapprove such written certification annually not later than **[**twenty-nine days before election day**]** March first, except that for election day in 2026, the Secretary shall so approve or disapprove not later than twenty-nine days before such election day, and may require the registrars of voters to appoint one or more additional election officials or alter such design or plan.

(B) If, after the registrars of voters annually submit the written certification under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the registrars make any change to any part of such written certification, including for any additional location designated pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, such registrars shall submit to the Secretary of the State an updated written certification, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, as soon as practicable but in no case later than seven days after such change. The registrars shall clearly indicate on such updated written certification the information that has changed since the prior submission. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such updated written certification as soon as practicable but in no case later than seven days after submission thereof. If the Secretary disapproves such updated certification, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such disapproval and shall issue an order for such corrective action as the Secretary deems necessary, in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

(2) The legislative body of the municipality may apply to the Secretary of the State not later than seventy-four days before election day, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary, to designate any additional location for the completion and processing of same-day election **[**registration applications**]** registrations on election day. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application not later than fifty-nine days before election day. If the Secretary approves such application, the registrars of voters may so designate any such additional location. The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection

shall apply to any such additional location.

(3) (A) The registrars of voters shall appoint, for each day on which same-day election registrations are completed and processed, a moderator and such other election officials to serve at each location designated for such completion and processing. The moderator so appointed shall perform any duty required, and may exercise any power authorized, under this title related to the completion and processing of same-day election registrations at such location. On any such day and solely for purposes related to the completion and processing of same-day election registrations, the registrars of voters of a municipality may, upon agreement, appoint one of the registrars from such municipality as moderator in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The registrars of voters may delegate to each other election official so appointed **[**pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection**]** any of the responsibilities assigned to the registrars of voters. The registrars of voters shall supervise each such election official and train each such official to be a same-day election registration election official.

(B) Whenever the registrars of voters of a municipality appoint, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, one of the registrars of such municipality as moderator to serve at a location designated for the completion and processing of same-day election registrations, such registrars of voters shall jointly submit to the Secretary of the State (i) a certification that the registrars of voters of such municipality are in agreement as to such appointment, and (ii) a written plan detailing alternative coverage of the duties normally carried out by the registrar so appointed to ensure that such registrar abstains, on each day in which such registrar serves as moderator, from any such duties that conflict with those of the moderator.

(C) Not later than the fourteenth day preceding the commencement of the period of early voting prior to election day, the registrars of voters

shall provide to the Secretary of the State a written report setting forth the name, address and, if available, cellular mobile telephone number of the moderator appointed to serve at each location designated for the completion and processing of same-day election registrations pursuant to this subdivision. Such written report shall be included as part of the written report provided by the registrars to the Secretary under section 9-228a, as amended by this act.

(d) Any person applying for same-day election registration under the provisions of this section shall make application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-20, provided (1) (A) on election day, the applicant shall appear in person not later than eight o'clock p.m., in accordance with subsection (b) of section 9-174, at the location designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration, and (B) during the period of early voting prior to election day, the applicant shall appear in person at such times as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174, at such location, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an institution of higher education may submit a current photo identification card issued by such institution in lieu of the identification required by section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election, as provided in subsection (f) of this section. If the information that the applicant is required to provide under section 9-20 and this section does not include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall also **[**(i)**]** (A) submit identification that shows the applicant's bona fide residence address, including, but not limited to, a learner's permit issued under section 14-36 or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and current address and that has a due date that is not later than thirty days after the election or, in the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a registration or fee statement from such institution that has the applicant's name and current address, or **[**(ii)**]** (B) prove the applicant's bona fide residence address by the testimony under oath of at least one elector.

(e) If the registrars of voters determine that an applicant satisfies the application requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the registrars of voters shall check the state-wide centralized voter registration system before admitting such applicant as an elector.

(1) If the registrars of voters determine that the applicant is not already an elector, the registrars of voters shall admit the applicant as an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

(2) If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an elector in another municipality and such applicant wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector from the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials shall cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and mark "off" next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

(A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not receive a same-day election registration ballot from the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. For any such elector, the same-day election registration process shall cease in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. After completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter cannot be made, such matter shall be reported to the State Elections Enforcement

Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

(B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

(f) If the applicant is admitted as an elector, the registrars of voters shall provide the elector with a same-day election registration ballot and same-day election registration envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall complete an affirmation imprinted upon the back of the same-day election registration envelope and shall declare under oath that the applicant has not previously voted in the election. The affirmation shall be in the form substantially as follows and signed by the **[**voter**]** elector:

AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty of false statement, (perjury) that:

1. I am the person admitted here as an elector in the town indicated.

2. I am eligible to vote in the election indicated for today in the town indicated.

3. The information on my voter registration card is correct and complete.

4. I reside at the address that I have given to the registrars of voters.

5. If previously registered at another location, I have provided such address to the registrars of voters and hereby request cancellation of such prior registration.

6. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at this election.

7. I completed an application for a same-day election registration ballot and received a same-day election registration ballot.

.... (Signature of voter)

…. (Printed name of voter)

(g) The elector shall forthwith mark the same-day election registration ballot in the presence of the registrars of voters in such a manner that the registrars of voters shall not know how the same-day election registration ballot is marked. The elector shall place the same-day election registration ballot in the same-day election registration ballot envelope provided, and deposit such envelope in a secured same-day election registration ballot depository receptacle. At the conclusion of each day during the early voting period, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle containing such day's same-day election registration ballots to the municipal clerk, who shall retain and securely store such ballots in as near a manner as possible to that for the retention and secure storage of absentee ballots, as provided in subsection (h) of this section, except that, if such manner is not practicable, such same-day election registration ballots shall be retained and securely stored as provided in an alternate plan submitted by the registrars of voters to the Secretary of the State and approved by the Secretary. On election day, the previously retained and securely stored same-day election registration ballots shall be delivered to the registrars of voters and, at the time designated by the registrars of voters and noticed to election officials, the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle containing the same-day election registration ballots received on such election day to the central location or polling place, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, where absentee ballots are counted and such same-day election registration ballots shall be counted by the election officials present at such central location or polling place. A section of the head moderator's return shall show the number of same-day election registration ballots received from electors. The registrars of

voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for same-day election registration ballots in a depository envelope with the same-day election registration ballots and store such same-day election registration depository envelope with the other election results materials. The same-day election registration depository envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of time required to preserve counted ballots for elections.

(h) Except as provided in section 9-163bb, as amended by this act, the provisions of this title and any regulation adopted under this title concerning procedures relating to the custody, control and counting of absentee ballots shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of same-day election registration ballots under this section.

(i) After the acceptance of a same-day election registration, the registrars of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation notice to the residential address of each applicant who was admitted as an elector on election day or during the period of early voting prior to election day under this section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first class mail with instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable, notwithstanding the May first deadline in section 9-35.

(j) (1) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any building that contains any location designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration balloting or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to any such

location or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no person shall be allowed within any location designated by the registrars of voters for same-day election registration balloting for any purpose other than casting such person's vote, except (A) primary officials under section 9-436, (B) election officials under section 9-258, including (i) a municipal clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (ii) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, performing such official's duties, and (C) unofficial checkers under section 9-235.

(3) A person, including any candidate or any campaign or party employee or volunteer, may be within the seventy-five-foot radius described in subdivision (1) of this subsection (A) only for purposes related to the performance of such person's official duties or to the conduct of government business within such radius, (B) only for as long as necessary to perform such duties or conduct such business, and (C) provided such person is not engaged in any conduct described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(k) No election official shall perform services for any party or candidate on any day on which such election official is appointed to serve under this section, nor appear at any political party headquarters prior to the hour prescribed under subsection (b) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-174, as applicable, for the closing of the location designated for same-day election registration on such day.

Sec. 72. Section 9-228a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) **[**The**]** Not later than the thirty-first day preceding the day of each municipal, state or federal election or primary, the registrars of voters of

each municipality shall **[**, not later than thirty-one days prior to each municipal, state or federal election or primary,**]** certify to the Secretary of the State, in writing, the location of each polling place that will be used for such election or primary. Such certification shall detail the name, address, relevant contact information and corresponding federal, state and municipal districts associated with each polling place used for such election or primary.

(b) **[**The**]** Not later than the fourteenth day preceding the commencement of the period of early voting at each municipal, state or federal election or primary, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 9-163aa, as amended by this act, the registrars of voters of each municipality shall **[**, prior to each municipal, state or federal election or primary,**]** provide a written report to the Secretary of the State setting forth the names, **[**and**]** addresses and, if available, cellular mobile telephone numbers of each moderator for each (1) polling place location disclosed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (2) location designated for the conduct of early voting pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-163aa, as amended by this act, and (3) location designated for the completion and processing of same-day election registrations pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-19j, as amended by this act.

(c) The Secretary of the State shall have the authority to disqualify any moderator appointed by the registrars of voters if, after consultation with both registrars of voters, the Secretary determines such moderator has committed material misconduct, material neglect of duty or material incompetence in the discharge of his or her duties as a moderator. If the Secretary disqualifies a moderator, the Secretary shall share his or her findings upon which the disqualification was based with the registrars of voters.

Sec. 73. Section 9-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The registrars of voters shall, before **[**the day of the**]** the commencement of the period of early voting at each election, cause test ballots to be inserted in each voting tabulator to ensure that each voting tabulator is prepared and read and cause each other voting system approved by the Secretary of the State for use in the election, including, but not limited to, voting devices equipped for individuals with disabilities that comply with the provisions of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-25, as amended from time to time, to be put in order in every way and set and adjust the same so that it shall be ready for use in voting when delivered at the polling place, location designated for the conduct of early voting or location designated for the conduct of same-day election registration, as applicable. Such registrars of voters shall cause each voting system to be in order and set and adjusted, to be delivered at the polling place, location designated for the conduct of early voting or location designated for the conduct of same-day election registration, as applicable, together with all necessary furniture and appliances that go with the same, at the room where **[**the election is to be held**]** voting at such election is to take place, and to be tested and operable not later than one hour prior to the opening of the polling place, location designated for the conduct of early voting or location designated for the conduct of same-day election registration, as applicable.

Sec. 74. Section 9-56 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Except as otherwise provided in the case of an elector whose name has not been placed on or has been removed from the enrollment list under section 9-59, 9-60, 9-61 or 9-62, any elector not enrolled on any enrollment list may at any time make a written and signed application for enrollment to the registrars of voters on an application form for admission as an elector, in accordance with the requirements of this section. The application shall be effective as of the date it is filed with

the registrars of voters of the town of residence of the applicant and any person making application for enrollment in such manner shall immediately be entitled to the privileges of party enrollment unless the application for enrollment (1) is filed in person by the applicant with the registrars of voters after twelve o'clock noon on the last business day before a primary, in which case he shall be entitled to the privileges of party enrollment immediately after the primary, (2) is otherwise filed with the registrar after the **[**fifth**]** eighteenth day before the primary, in which case he shall be entitled to the privileges of party enrollment immediately after the primary, except as provided in section 9-23a, or (3) is filed with the registrars of voters after 5:00 p.m. on the last business day before a caucus or convention, in which case he shall be entitled to the privileges of party enrollment immediately after the caucus or convention. The application shall be signed or initialed by the registrar, deputy, assistant or registrar's clerk receiving it, or by such other personnel as such registrar or deputy may appoint for the purpose, showing the date when such application is received and, in the case of an applicant not immediately eligible under section 9-59, 9-60, 9-61 or 9-62 to the privileges accompanying enrollment in the party named in his application, the date upon which such applicant becomes so eligible. In municipalities divided into voting districts in which an enrollment session is held in each district thereof under section 9-51, application for enrollment shall be made to the registrar or assistant registrar, as the case may be, in the voting district in which such elector is entitled to vote at the time of making such application. If any registrar or assistant registrar fails to add any name to any such list on written application or adds any name to any such list except as herein provided, he shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

Sec. 75. Subsection (d) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) If the person designated as moderator is unable to serve for any reason, a certified alternate moderator shall serve as moderator. If such certified alternate moderator is not called upon to serve as moderator, he shall serve in another capacity as an election official on election or primary day. If any town or voting district lacks a moderator due to the death, disability or withdrawal of a certified moderator or alternate moderator, or due to the disqualification of a moderator for any reason, including failure to attend an instructional session as required by this section, the registrars of voters shall appoint a new moderator for such town or voting district in the manner provided in this section, except that the registrars shall not appoint as moderator any person who has, in a court of competent jurisdiction, been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any (1) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement or bribery, or (2) criminal offense under this title. Such new moderator shall attend an instructional session and a certification session conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section. If all such sessions have been conducted at the time of appointment of the new moderator, the new moderator shall receive instruction from the registrars who appointed the new moderator.

Sec. 76. Section 9-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time, redivide such municipality into voting districts. The registrars of voters of any municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable polling place in each district but, if the registrars fail to agree as to the location of any polling place or places, the legislative body shall determine the location thereof. Polling places to be used in an election shall be determined at least thirty-one days before such election, and such polling places shall not be changed within said period of thirty-one days except that, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters of a

municipality unanimously find that any such polling place within such municipality has been rendered unusable within such period, they shall forthwith designate another polling place to be used in place of the one so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such polling place has been so changed. The registrars of voters shall keep separate lists of the electors residing in each district and shall appoint for each district a moderator in accordance with the provisions of section 9-229, as amended by this act, and such other election officials as are required by law, and shall designate one of the moderators so appointed or any other elector of such town to be the head moderator for the purpose of declaring the results of elections in the whole municipality, except that the registrars shall not appoint as moderator any person who has, in a court of competent jurisdiction, been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any (1) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement or bribery, or (2) criminal offense under this title. The registrars may also designate a deputy head moderator to assist the head moderator in the performance of his duties provided the deputy head moderator and the head moderator shall not be enrolled in the same major party, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 9-372. The selectmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and all other officers of the municipality shall perform the duties required of them by law with respect to elections in each voting district established in accordance with this section. Voting district lines shall not be drawn by a municipality so as to conflict with the lines of congressional districts, senate districts or assembly districts as established by law, except **[**(1)**]** (A) as provided in section 9-169d, and **[**(2)**]** (B) that as to municipal elections, any part of a split voting district containing less than two hundred electors may be combined with another voting district adjacent thereto from which all and the same officers are elected at such municipal election. Any change in the boundaries of voting districts made within ninety days prior to any election or primary shall not apply with respect to such election or primary. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any contrary provision of any charter or special act.

Sec. 77. Section 9-322a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than forty-eight hours following each regular election, the registrars of voters shall provide the results of the votes cast at such election to the town clerk. Not later than nine o'clock a.m. on the third day following each regular election, the head moderator, registrars of voters and town clerk for each town **[**divided into voting districts**]** shall meet to identify any error in the returns. Not later than one o'clock p.m. on the third day following each regular election, the head moderator shall correct any error identified and file an amended return with the Secretary of the State, the town clerk and the registrars of voters.

(b) Not later than twenty-one days following each regular state election, the town clerk of each town **[**divided into voting districts**]** shall file with the Secretary of the State a consolidated listing, in tabular format, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State, of the official returns **[**of each such voting district**]** for all offices voted on at such election, including the total number of votes cast for each candidate, the total number of names on the registry list, and the total number of names checked as having voted. **[**, in each such district.**]** The town clerk of such town shall certify that he or she has examined the lists transmitted under this section to determine whether there are any discrepancies between the total number of votes cast for a candidate at such election in such town, including for any recanvass conducted pursuant to section 9-311, as amended by this act, or 9-311a, as amended by this act, and the sum of the votes cast for the same candidate in all voting districts in such town if such town has been divided into voting districts. In the case of any such discrepancy, the town clerk shall notify the head moderator and certify that such discrepancy has been rectified. Each listing filed under this section shall be retained by the Secretary of the State not less than ten years after the date of the election for which it was filed.

Sec. 78. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,

"municipality", "government enforcement action", "federal Voting Rights Act" and "protected class" have the same meanings as provided in section 9-368i of the general statutes.

(b) The corporation counsel of any municipality that has been subject to any court order or government enforcement action described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-368m of the general statutes shall provide to the office of the Secretary of the State all details pertaining to such matter not later than one month after the effective date of this section, the issuance of such court order or the commencement of such government enforcement action, whichever is latest.

(c) If an action filed in a court of competent jurisdiction alleges a violation of the provisions of sections 9-368j to 9-368q, inclusive, of the general statutes, the federal Voting Rights Act, any state or federal civil rights law, the fifteenth amendment to the United States Constitution or the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, which violation concerns the right to vote or a pattern, practice or policy of discrimination against any protected class, the party that filed such action shall cause notice of the hearing on such action to be given to the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 79. Section 9-388 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Whenever a convention of a political party is held for the endorsement of candidates for nomination to state or district office, each candidate endorsed at such convention shall file with the Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by him, stating that he was endorsed by such convention, his name as he authorizes it to appear on the ballot, his full residence address and the title and district, if applicable, of the office for which he was endorsed. Such certificate shall be attested by either (1) the chairman or presiding officer, or (2) the secretary of such

convention and shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of such convention. Such certificate shall either be mailed to the Secretary of the State by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person, in which case a receipt indicating the date and time of delivery shall be provided by the Secretary of the State to the person making delivery. If a certificate of a party's endorsement for a particular state or district office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of **[**section 9-416 and section 9-416a**]** sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no endorsement of any candidate for such office. If applicable, the chairman of a party's state convention shall, forthwith upon the close of such convention, file with the Secretary of the State the names and full residence addresses of persons selected by such convention as the nominees of such party for electors of President and Vice-President of the United States in accordance with the provisions of section 9-175.

(b) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, which contains an error or omission that would operate to invalidate such endorsement, the candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the nineteenth day after the close of the state or district convention, as applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction. If such candidate or individual does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no such endorsement.

(2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in

subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement to correct any such error or omission, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission in any such certificate.

Sec. 80. Subsection (c) of section 9-391 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) (1) Each endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the nomination of candidates for a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election shall be made under the provisions of section 9-390 not earlier than the eighty-fourth day or later than the seventy-seventh day preceding the day of such primary. Each certification to be filed under this subsection shall be received by the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day after the close of the town committee meeting, caucus or convention, as the case may be. If such a certificate of a party's endorsement is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any endorsement of any candidate for such office. The candidate so endorsed for a municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, other than the office of justice of the peace, shall file with the Secretary of the State a certificate, signed by that candidate, stating that such candidate was so endorsed, the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full street address and the title and district of the office for which the candidate was endorsed. Such certificate may be filed by a candidate whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the senatorial district within which the candidate is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of

state senator, or the assembly district within which the candidate is endorsed to run for nomination in the case of the municipal office of state representative, or the municipality or political subdivision within which the candidate is to run for nomination for other municipal offices to be voted on at a state election. Such certificate shall be attested by either the chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention which made such endorsement. The endorsement of any candidate for the office of justice of the peace shall be certified to the clerk of the municipality by either the chairperson or presiding officer or the secretary of the town committee, caucus or convention, and shall contain the name and street address of each candidate so endorsed and the title of the office for which each such candidate is endorsed. Such certification shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on such other form as may comply with the provisions of this subsection.

(2) (A) In the case of a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, which contains an error or omission that would operate to invalidate such endorsement, the candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the nineteenth day after the close of the town committee meeting, caucus or convention, as applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction. If such candidate or individual does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-417 and 9-418, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified such endorsement.

(B) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, amend a timely filed certificate of a party's endorsement to correct any such error or omission, and shall

keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this subparagraph. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission in any such certificate.

Sec. 81. Section 9-400 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party in any municipality within the state and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for such state office, whether or not the party-endorsed candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot, or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the state, in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive. Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the state convention, a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that such candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for such state office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full residence address and the title of the office for which the candidacy is being filed. If such certificate for a state office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination

by a political party **[**for**]** to such state office. A single such certificate or petition for state office may be filed on behalf of two or more candidates for different state offices who consent to have their names appear on a single row of the primary ballot under subsection (b) of section 9-437. Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed by submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c. A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state office shall be invalid for such candidate if such candidate is certified as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to this subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a, upon the expiration of the time period for party endorsement and circulation and tabulation of petitions and signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies for such state office have been filed pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all town clerks and registrars of voters in accordance with the provisions of section 9-433, that a primary for such state office shall be held in each municipality in accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

(b) A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a district office may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within the district the person seeks to represent that is in the office of the Secretary of the State at the end of the last day prior to the convention for the party from which the person seeks nomination and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for such district office, whether or not the party-endorsed candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on

the last ballot, or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district for the district office of representative in Congress, and at least five per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district for the district offices of state senator, state representative and judge of probate, in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive. Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be filed by submitting to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the district convention, a certificate, signed by such candidate and attested by either (A) the chairman or presiding officer, or (B) the secretary of the convention, that such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that the candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such party for such district office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, the candidate's full residence address and the title and district of the office for which the candidacy is being filed. If such certificate for a district office is not received by the Secretary of the State by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination by a political party **[**for**]** to such district office. Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be filed by submitting said petition not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-third day preceding the day of the primary for such office to the registrar of voters of the towns in which the respective petition pages were circulated. Each registrar shall file each page of such petition with the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404c. A petition may only be filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district office of state senator, state representative or judge of probate who is not certified as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to this subsection. A petition filed by or on behalf of a candidate for the district office of representative in Congress

shall be invalid if said candidate is certified as the party-endorsed candidate pursuant to section 9-388, as amended by this act, or as receiving at least fifteen per cent of the convention vote for such office pursuant to this subsection. Except as provided in section 9-416a, upon the expiration of the time period for party endorsement and circulation and tabulation of petitions and signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies for such district office have been filed pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all town clerks within the district, in accordance with the provisions of section 9-433, that a primary for such district office shall be held in each municipality and each part of a municipality within the district in accordance with the provisions of section 9-415.

(c) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of candidacy for nomination by a political party pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, which contains an error or omission that would operate to invalidate such candidacy for nomination, the person so certified or an agent of such person may correct such error or omission by appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on the nineteenth day after the close of the state or district convention, as applicable, and amending such certificate to make such correction, provided neither failure of such person to timely file such certificate pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section nor failure of the chairperson, presiding officer or secretary of the convention to attest such certificate shall be an error or omission that may be corrected pursuant to this subsection. If such person or agent does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such person, for the purposes of sections 9-416 and 9-416a, shall be deemed to have made no valid certification of candidacy for nomination by a political party. As used in this subsection, "agent" means an individual authorized to act on behalf of a person.

(2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of candidacy for nomination to correct any such error or omission, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission in any such certificate.

[(c)**]** (d) For the purposes of this section, the number of enrolled members of a party shall be determined by the latest enrollment records in the office of the Secretary of the State prior to the earliest date that primary petitions were available. The names of electors on the inactive registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted for purposes of computing the number of petition signatures required under this section, as provided in section 9-35c.

[(d)**]** (e) On the last day for filing primary petition candidacies in accordance with the provisions of this section, the office or office facilities of the registrars of voters shall open not later than one o'clock p.m., and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and such registrars or the deputy or assistant registrars shall be present.

Sec. 82. Section 9-452 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) All minor parties nominating candidates for any elective office shall make such nominations and certify and file a list of such nominations, as required by this section, not later than the sixty-second day prior to the day of the election at which such candidates are to be voted for. A list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that includes each candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to appear on the ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street address of each candidate and the title and district of the office for which each candidate is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the committee,

meeting or other authority making such nomination and shall be filed by such presiding officer with the Secretary of the State, in the case of any state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election, or with the clerk of the municipality, in the case of any municipal office to be voted upon at a municipal election, not later than the sixty-second day prior to the day of the election. The registrars of voters of such municipality shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such list filed with him, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of the municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been so verified and corrected. For the purposes of this section, a list of nominations shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate. If such certificate of a party's nomination is not received by the Secretary of the State or clerk of the municipality, as appropriate, by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for purposes of sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any nomination of any candidate for such office. A candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a district or municipal office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for nomination by a minor party to a state office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry list of the state.

(b) (1) In the case of a timely filed certificate of nomination for any state, district or municipal office to be voted upon at a state election pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, which contains an error or omission that would operate to invalidate such nomination, the candidate so certified or an individual authorized to act on behalf of such candidate may correct such error or omission by appearing in person at the office of the Secretary of the State, on a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, not later than four o'clock p.m. on

the fifty-seventh day prior to the day of the election and amending such certificate to make such correction, provided neither failure of the presiding officer of the committee, meeting or other authority to timely file such certificate pursuant to subsection (a) of this section nor failure of the candidate to sign such certificate shall be an error or omission that may be corrected pursuant to this subsection. If such candidate or individual does not appear to so amend such certificate by such time, such certificate shall be invalid and such party, for the purposes of sections 9-460, 9-461 and 9-462, shall be deemed to have neither made nor certified any such nomination.

(2) The Secretary of the State may, within the time period specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, amend a timely filed certificate of nomination to correct any such error or omission, and shall keep a record of any such amendment made pursuant to this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require the Secretary to affirmatively attempt to identify any error or omission in any such certificate.

Sec. 83. Section 9-250 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Ballots shall be printed in plain clear type and on material of such size as will fit the tabulator, and shall be furnished by the registrar of voters. The size and style of the type used to print the name of a political party on a ballot shall be identical with the size and style of the type used to print the names of all other political parties appearing on such ballot. The name of each major party candidate for a municipal office, as defined in section 9-372, except for the municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall appear on the ballot as authorized by each candidate. The name of each major party candidate for a state or district office, as defined in section 9-372, or for the municipal office of state senator or state representative shall appear on the ballot as it appears on the certificate or statement of consent filed under section 9-388, as

amended by this act, subsection (b) of section 9-391, or section 9-400, as amended by this act, or 9-409. The name of each minor party candidate shall appear on the ballot as authorized by each candidate. The name of each nominating petition candidate shall appear on the ballot as it is verified by the town clerk on the application filed under section 9-453b. The size and style of the type used to print the name of a candidate on a ballot shall be identical with the size and style of the type used to print the names of all other candidates appearing on such ballot. Such ballot shall contain the names of the offices and the names of the candidates arranged thereon. The names of the political parties and party designations shall be arranged on the ballots and followed by the word "party", either in columns or horizontal rows as set forth in section 9-249a, immediately adjacent to the column or row occupied by the candidate or candidates of such political party or organization. The ballot shall be printed in such manner as to indicate how many candidates the elector may vote for each office, provided in the case of a town adopting the provisions of section 9-204a, such ballot shall indicate the maximum number of candidates who may be elected to such office from any party. If two or more candidates are to be elected to the same office for different terms, the term for which each is nominated shall be printed on the official ballot as a part of the title of the office. If, at any election, one candidate is to be elected for a full term and another to fill a vacancy, the official ballot containing the names of the candidates in the foregoing order shall, as a part of the title of the office, designate the term which such candidates are severally nominated to fill. No column, under the name of any political party or independent organization, shall be printed on any official ballot, which contains more candidates for any office than the number for which an elector may vote for that office.

(b) Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at an election, the town clerk of each municipality shall file with the Secretary of the State, for each voting district in such municipality, the official ballot to be used for such voting district. No

such official ballot shall be used at any election unless it has been approved by the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 84. Subsection (j) of section 9-437 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(j) (1) All ballots used at a primary shall be prepared by the clerk of the municipality in which such primary is held and shall be printed at the expense of the municipality. Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at a primary, such clerk shall file with the Secretary of the State, for each voting district in such municipality at which such primary is held, the ballot to be used for such voting district. No such ballot shall be used at any primary unless it has been approved by the Secretary of the State.

(2) Each municipality shall provide for all polling places:

[(1)**]** (A) At least forty-eight hours before the primary, **[**such clerk shall have**]** sample ballots for general distribution by such clerk, which shall contain the offices or positions and names of candidates to be voted upon. Each such sample ballot shall also include printed instructions approved by the Secretary of the State concerning the use of the voting tabulator and information concerning the date of the primary and the hours during which polling places will be open. Such clerk shall have available for distribution such number of sample ballots as such clerk deems advisable, but in no event less than three which shall be posted inside the polling place so as to be visible to those within the polling place during the whole day of the primary. At least one of such sample ballots shall be posted so as to be visible to an elector being instructed on the demonstrator device, pursuant to section 9-260. If paper ballots are used in any primary, such sample paper ballots shall be overprinted with the word "Sample";

[(2)**]** (B) Instructions on how to cast a provisional ballot, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State;

[(3)**]** (C) Instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters who register to vote by mail on or after January 1, 2003, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State;

[(4)**]** (D) General information concerning voting rights under federal and Connecticut laws, including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if such rights are alleged to have been violated, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State; and

[(5)**]** (E) General information on federal and state laws concerning prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 85. Subsection (a) of section 9-135a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Each absentee ballot shall be arranged to resemble the appropriate ballot and sample ballot as prescribed by law, and shall include, as applicable, the offices, party designations, names of candidates and questions to be voted upon and spaces for write-in votes. A replica of the state seal shall be printed on the ballot. The size, type, form, instructions, specifications for paper and printing and other specifications shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the State. Prior to printing such absentee ballots pursuant to this section, the clerk of the municipality shall file with the Secretary of the State, for each voting district in such municipality, the absentee ballot to be used for such voting district. No such absentee ballot shall be used at any election or primary unless it has been approved by the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 86. Section 9-135b of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Immediately after the deadline for certification of all candidates whose names are to appear on the ballot, and in sufficient time to begin issuing absentee ballots on the day prescribed by law, the municipal clerk shall prepare the absentee ballots and have them printed. Prior to printing such ballots, the registrars of voters of the municipality may provide comments concerning the content and form of such ballots to the clerk, provided no such ballot shall be printed unless the Secretary of the State has approved of such ballot in accordance with section 9-135a, as amended by this act.

(b) A layout model of each different absentee ballot shall be available for public inspection at the clerk's office prior to printing. The model shall indicate the type face to be used, the spelling and placement of names and other information to be printed on the ballots.

(c) Immediately upon receiving the printed absentee ballots, the municipal clerk shall file one with the Secretary of the State or, if there are different ballots for different political subdivisions, one ballot for each subdivision. The clerk shall also file his affidavit with the Secretary, stating the number of ballots printed. The form of affidavit shall be prescribed by the Secretary. If any correction or alteration is subsequently made on any absentee ballot the clerk shall immediately file a corrected or altered ballot and, using the prescribed form, his affidavit stating the number of such ballots printed, with the Secretary.

(d) If a vacancy in candidacy occurs after the ballots have been printed, the clerk may either reprint the ballots or cause printed stickers to be affixed to them so that the name of any candidate who has vacated his candidacy is deleted and the name of any candidate chosen to fill the vacancy as provided in section 9-428 or section 9-460 appears in the same position as that in which the vacated candidacy appeared except as provided in section 9-426 or 9-453s. If no candidate is chosen to fill

such vacancy as so provided, the clerk shall cause the name of the candidate whose candidacy has been vacated to be obscured in such manner that such name is no longer visible.

(e) **[**The**]** Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary of the State **[**shall examine each absentee ballot required to be filed pursuant to this section and if a ballot contains an omission or error, the Secretary shall order**]** from ordering the municipal clerk to reprint a corrected absentee ballot or to take such other action as the Secretary may deem appropriate in the case of an absentee ballot that contains an omission or error.

Sec. 87. Section 9-256 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[The registrars of voters of each municipality shall, not less than ten days prior to the commencement of the period of early voting at an election, file with the Secretary of the State a sample ballot identical with those to be provided for each polling place under section 9-255. The Secretary of the State shall examine the sample ballot required to be filed under this section, and if such sample ballot contains an error, the Secretary of the State shall order**]** Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of section 9-250, as amended by this act, the Secretary of the State may order the registrars of voters to reprint a corrected **[**sample**]** ballot or to take other such action as the Secretary may deem appropriate in the case of any ballot that contains an omission or error.

Sec. 88. Subsection (a) of section 9-140b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) An absentee ballot shall be cast at a primary, election or referendum only if: (1) It is mailed by (A) the ballot applicant, (B) a designee of a person who applies for an absentee ballot because of

illness or physical disability, or (C) a member of the immediate family of an applicant who is a student, so that it is received by the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is qualified to vote not later than the close of the polls; (2) it is returned by the applicant in person to the clerk by the day before **[**a regular election, special**]** the election or primary or prior to the opening of the polls on the day of **[**a**]** the referendum; (3) it is returned by a designee of an ill or physically disabled ballot applicant, in person, to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum; (4) it is returned by a member of the immediate family of the absentee voter, in person, to said clerk not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election, primary or referendum; (5) in the case of a presidential or overseas ballot, it is mailed or otherwise returned pursuant to the provisions of section 9-158g; or (6) it is returned with the proper identification as required by the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, if applicable, inserted in the outer envelope so such identification can be viewed without opening the inner envelope. A person returning an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk pursuant to subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection shall present identification and, on the outer envelope of the absentee ballot, sign his name in the presence of the municipal clerk, and indicate his address, his relationship to the voter or his position, and the date and time of such return. As used in this section, "immediate family" means a dependent relative who resides in the individual's household or any spouse, child, parent or sibling of the individual.

Sec. 89. Section 9-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Secretary of the State, by virtue of the office, shall be the Commissioner of Elections of the state, with such powers and duties relating to the conduct of elections as are prescribed by law and, unless otherwise provided by state statute, the Secretary's regulations,

declaratory rulings, instructions and opinions, if in written form, and any order issued under subsection (b) of this section, shall be presumed as correctly interpreting and effectuating the administration of elections and primaries under this title, except for chapters 155 to 158, inclusive, and shall be executed, carried out or implemented, as the case may be, provided nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the right of appeal provided under the provisions of chapter 54. Any such written instruction or opinion shall be labeled as an instruction or opinion issued pursuant to this section, as applicable, and any such instruction or opinion shall cite any authority that is discussed in such instruction or opinion.

(b) During any municipal, state or federal election, primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f, the Secretary of the State may issue an order, whether orally or in writing, to any registrar of voters or moderator to correct any irregularity or impropriety in the conduct of such election, primary or recanvass or audit. Any such order shall be effective upon issuance. As soon as practicable after issuance of an oral order pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall reduce such order to writing, cite within such order any applicable provision of law authorizing such order and cause a copy of such written order to be delivered to the individual who is the subject of such order or, in the case that such order was originally issued in writing, issue a subsequent written order that conforms to such requirements. The Superior Court, on application of the Secretary or the Attorney General, may enforce by appropriate decree or process any such order issued pursuant to this subsection.

(c) Whenever, during the ninety days preceding the day of an election or primary, one or more electors have alleged aggrievement under this title, the Secretary of the State may commence a declaratory judgment action under section 52-29 for a determination as to whether such elector or electors have been so aggrieved and for an order to ensure election

administration procedures are properly executed and electors' rights are adequately protected under this title.

Sec. 90. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as required by section 9-140a, such inner envelope shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the counters. The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under this subdivision and include thereon for each such applicant the reason for the rejection. The moderator shall transmit such log to the Secretary of the State at the same time and in the same manner as the duplicate list to be transmitted to the Secretary by electronic means in accordance with section 9-314.

(2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r and has not met the requirements of subsection (e) of section 9-23r, the counters shall replace the ballot in the opened inner envelope, replace the inner envelope in the opened outer envelope and mark "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on the outer envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive. The moderator shall maintain a log of each absentee ballot applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot" under this subdivision and include thereon for each such applicant the reason for the rejection. The moderator shall transmit such log to the Secretary of the State at the same time and in the same manner as the duplicate list to be transmitted to the Secretary by electronic means in accordance with section 9-314.

Sec. 91. Subsection (a) of section 9-311 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot counters of different political parties who served at such election, and the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes required by section 9-150a, as amended by this act, the package of write-in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee ballot applications, the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry list and the moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass officials to meet at a specified time not later than the fifth business day after such election to recanvass the returns of **[**a**]** each voting tabulator **[**or voting tabulators or**]** and all absentee ballots **[**or**]** and write-in ballots used in **[**such district**]** the municipality in such election. If any of such recanvass officials are unavailable at the time of the recanvass, the registrar of voters of the same political party as that of the recanvass official unable to attend shall designate another elector having previous training and experience in the conduct of elections to take such recanvass official's place. Before such recanvass is made, such moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the chairperson of the town committee of each political party which nominated candidates for the election, and, in the case of a state election, not later than twenty-four hours after a determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass to the Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass is to be made; and each such chairperson may send party representatives to be present at such

recanvass. Such party representatives may observe, but no one other than a recanvass official may take part in the recanvass. If a party representative notes any irregularity in the recanvass procedure, such party representative shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

Sec. 92. Subsection (d) of section 9-311 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) (1) The moderator may, when any disorder arises that interferes with the conduct of a recanvass, including any attempt by a person other than a recanvass official to take part in such recanvass or by such a person to communicate with a recanvass official, **[**other than the moderator,**]** and the offender refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order that the offender be removed by the recanvass officials from such recanvass until the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such recanvass is completed.

(2) Each political party or, in the case of an office subject to recanvass for which there is more than one candidate from a political party, each candidate may appoint one representative to communicate directly with the moderator during a recanvass.

Sec. 93. Section 9-311a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

For purposes of this section, state, district and municipal offices shall be as defined in section 9-372 except that the office of presidential elector shall be deemed a state office. Forthwith after a regular or special election for municipal office, or forthwith upon tabulation of the vote for state and district offices by the Secretary of the State, when at any such election the plurality of an elected candidate for an office over the

vote for a defeated candidate receiving the next highest number of votes was either (1) less than a vote equivalent to one-half of one per cent of the total number of votes cast for the office but not more than two thousand votes, or (2) less than twenty votes, there shall be a recanvass of the returns of the voting tabulator or voting tabulators and absentee ballots used in such election for such office unless such defeated candidate or defeated candidates, as the case may be, for such office file a written statement waiving this right to such canvass with the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office, or with the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office. In the case of state and district offices, the Secretary of the State upon tabulation of the votes for such offices shall notify the town clerks in the state or district, as the case may be, of the state and district offices which qualify for an automatic recanvass and shall also notify each candidate for any such office. When a recanvass is to be held, the municipal clerk shall promptly notify the moderator, as defined in section 9-311, as amended by this act, who shall proceed forthwith to cause a recanvass of such returns of the office in question in the same manner as is provided in section 9-311, as amended by this act. In addition to the notice required under section 9-311, as amended by this act, the moderator shall before such recanvass is made give notice in writing of the time when, and place where, such recanvass is to be made to each candidate for a municipal office which qualifies for an automatic recanvass under this section. Nothing in this section shall preclude the right to judicial proceedings on behalf of a candidate under any provision of chapter 149. For the purposes of this section, "the total number of votes cast for the office" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office, the total number of electors checked as having voted in the state, district, municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be. When a recanvass of the returns for an office for which there are multiple openings is required by the provisions of this section, the returns for all candidates for all openings for the office shall be recanvassed. **[**No one other than a recanvass official shall take part in the recanvass.**]** If a candidate notes any irregularity in the recanvass

procedure, such candidate shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

Sec. 94. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each ballot that has been cast at an election, primary or referendum, including any write-in ballot, shall be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair the ability to conduct any recanvass or audit under chapter 147, 148, 152 or 153 of the general statutes. As used in this section, "ballot", "election", "referendum" and "write-in ballot" have the same meanings as provided in section 9-1 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, "primary" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 of the general statutes and "Freedom of Information Act" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-200 of the general statutes.

Sec. 95. Subsection (n) of section 9-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(n) "Referendum" means (1) a question or proposal which is submitted to a vote of the electors or voters of a municipality at any regular or special state or municipal election, as defined in this section, (2) a question or proposal which is submitted to a vote of the electors or voters, as the case may be, of a municipality at a meeting of such electors or voters, which meeting is not an election, as defined in subsection (d) of this section, and is not a town meeting, or (3) a question or proposal which is submitted to a vote of the electors or voters, as the case may be, of a municipality at a meeting of such electors or voters pursuant to section 7-7 or pursuant to charter<u>, home rule ordinance</u> or special act;

Sec. 96. Section 9-50d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) <u>(1)</u> Whenever voter registration information maintained under this title by the Secretary of the State or any registrar of voters is

provided pursuant to any provision of the general statutes, disclosure of a voter's date of birth shall be limited to only the **[**month and**]** year of birth, unless such voter registration information is requested and used for a state governmental purpose, as determined by the Secretary, in which case the voter's complete date of birth shall be provided. As used in this **[**section, a**]** subdivision, a state governmental purpose shall include, but not be limited to, jury administration.

(2) (A) Voter registration information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection (i) may only be used for election-related, scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental purposes, and (ii) shall not be used for any personal, private or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to, (I) harassment, as described in section 53a-183, of any voter or voter's household, (II) advertising, solicitation, sale or marketing of products or services to any voter or voter's household, and (III) reproduction in print, digital or broadcast visual or audio, or display in any other format, of such information.

(B) Any person who violates the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be subject only to a civil penalty imposed by the State Elections Enforcement Commission pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-7b, as amended by this act.

(3) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the use of voter registration information.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any motor vehicle operator's license number, identity card number or Social Security number on a voter registration record shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a voter submits to **[**the Secretary of the State**]** a registrar of voters of the town of

such voter's voting residence a signed statement that nondisclosure of such voter's name from the official registry list is necessary for the safety of such voter or the voter's family, the name and address of such voter on his or her voter registration record shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that an election, primary or referendum official may view such information on the official registry list when such list is used by any such official at a polling place on the day of an election, primary or referendum. Such signed statement shall be sworn under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-157b.

Sec. 97. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) To levy a civil penalty not to exceed (A) two thousand dollars per offense against any person the commission finds to be in violation of any provision of chapter 145, part V of chapter 146, part I of chapter 147, chapter 148, section 7-9, section 9-12, subsection (a) of section 9-17, section 9-19b, 9-19e, 9-19g to 9-19k, inclusive, 9-20, 9-21, 9-23a, 9-23g, 9-23h, 9-23j to 9-23o, inclusive, 9-23r, 9-26, 9-31a, 9-32, 9-35, 9-35b, 9-35c, 9-40a, 9-42, 9-43, 9-50a, 9-50d, as amended by this act, 9-56, 9-59, 9-163aa, as amended by this act, 9-168d, 9-170, 9-171, 9-172, 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive, 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive, 9-409, 9-410, 9-412, 9-436, 9-436a, 9-453e to 9-453h, inclusive, 9-453k or 9-453o, (B) two thousand dollars per offense against any town clerk, registrar of voters, an appointee or designee of a town clerk or registrar of voters, or any other election or primary official whom the commission finds to have failed to discharge a duty imposed by any provision of chapter 146 or 147, (C) two thousand dollars per offense against any person the commission finds to have (i) improperly voted in any election, primary or referendum, and (ii) not been legally qualified to vote in such election, primary or referendum, or (D) two thousand dollars per offense or twice the amount of any improper payment or contribution, whichever is greater,

against any person the commission finds to be in violation of any provision of chapter 155 or 157. The commission may levy a civil penalty against any person under subparagraph (A), (B), (C) or (D) of this subdivision only after giving the person an opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive. In the case of failure to pay any such penalty levied pursuant to this subsection within thirty days of written notice sent by certified or registered mail to such person, the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, on application of the commission, may issue an order requiring such person to pay the penalty imposed and such court costs, state marshal's fees and attorney's fees incurred by the commission as the court may determine. Any civil penalties paid, collected or recovered under subparagraph (D) of this subdivision for a violation of any provision of chapter 155 applying to the office of the Treasurer shall be deposited on a pro rata basis in any trust funds, as defined in section 3-13c, affected by such violation.

Sec. 98. Section 10-234gg of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Governor's Action:
Approved March 3, 2026
Line Item Vetoed by the Governor: Sections 5(a), 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13