



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 264

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7163

House of Representatives, April 2, 2019

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 3-123aa of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2019*):

4 (c) There is established an advisory committee to the Connecticut
5 Homecare Option Program for the Elderly, which shall consist of the
6 State Treasurer, the State Comptroller, the Commissioner of Social
7 Services, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
8 Services, the director of the long-term care partnership policy program
9 within the Office of Policy and Management, and the cochairpersons
10 and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General
11 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, human
12 services and finance, revenue and bonding, or their designees. The
13 Governor shall appoint one provider of home care services for the

14 elderly and a physician specializing in geriatric care. The advisory
15 committee shall meet at least annually. The State Comptroller shall
16 convene the meetings of the committee.

17 Sec. 2. Section 4-5 of the general statutes, as amended by section 3 of
18 public act 18-91, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
19 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

20 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
21 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
22 Commissioner of Administrative Services, [Commissioner on Aging],
23 Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner,
24 Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer
25 Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic
26 and Community Development, State Board of Education,
27 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
28 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
29 Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health,
30 Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of
31 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social
32 Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of
33 Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of
34 Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner of
35 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, the Commissioner of
36 Early Childhood, the executive director of the Office of Military
37 Affairs, and the executive director of the Office of Health Strategy. As
38 used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means the
39 Commissioner of Education.

40 Sec. 3. Section 4-5 of the general statutes, as amended by section 6 of
41 public act 17-237, section 279 of public act 17-2 of the June special
42 session and section 20 of public act 18-182, is repealed and the
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

44 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
45 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
46 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner of Revenue

47 Services, Banking Commissioner, Commissioner of Children and
48 Families, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, Commissioner of
49 Correction, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
50 State Board of Education, Commissioner of Emergency Services and
51 Public Protection, Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
52 Protection, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public
53 Health, Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner
54 of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social
55 Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of
56 Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of
57 Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner of
58 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, the Commissioner of
59 Early Childhood, the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs
60 and the executive director of the Technical Education and Career
61 System. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means
62 the Commissioner of Education.

63 Sec. 4. Section 4-38c of the general statutes, as amended by section
64 13 of public act 18-169, is repealed and the following is substituted in
65 lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

66 There shall be within the executive branch of state government the
67 following departments: Office of Policy and Management, Department
68 of Administrative Services, [Department on Aging,] Department of
69 Revenue Services, Department of Banking, Department of Agriculture,
70 Department of Children and Families, Department of Consumer
71 Protection, Department of Correction, Department of Economic and
72 Community Development, State Board of Education, Department of
73 Emergency Services and Public Protection, Department of Energy and
74 Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Board of
75 Regents for Higher Education, Insurance Department, Labor
76 Department, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
77 Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services,
78 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services,
79 Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles and
80 Department of Veterans Affairs.

81 Sec. 5. Section 4-38c of the general statutes, as amended by section 7
82 of public act 17-237, section 287 of public act 17-2 of the June special
83 session and section 21 of public act 18-182, is repealed and the
84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

85 There shall be within the executive branch of state government the
86 following departments: Office of Policy and Management, Department
87 of Administrative Services, Department of Aging and Disability
88 Services, Department of Revenue Services, Department of Banking,
89 Department of Agriculture, Department of Children and Families,
90 Department of Consumer Protection, Department of Correction,
91 Department of Economic and Community Development, State Board
92 of Education, Department of Emergency Services and Public
93 Protection, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,
94 Department of Public Health, Board of Regents for Higher Education,
95 Insurance Department, Labor Department, Department of Mental
96 Health and Addiction Services, Department of Developmental
97 Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Transportation,
98 Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Veterans Affairs and the
99 Technical Education and Career System.

100 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 4-61aa of the general statutes is
101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
102 *October 1, 2019*):

103 (a) For purposes of this section, "state Americans with Disabilities
104 Act coordinator" means the person appointed by the Governor to
105 coordinate state compliance with the federal Americans with
106 Disabilities Act of 1990. There is established a committee to advise the
107 state Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator. The state Americans
108 with Disabilities Act coordinator shall appoint the members of the
109 committee, which shall be chaired by said coordinator, or his designee,
110 and include at least one representative of each of the following:

111 (1) The Board of Education and Services to the Blind;

112 (2) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of

113 Hearing;

114 (3) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
115 Services;

116 (4) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;

117 (5) The Department of Developmental Services;

118 (6) The Labor Department;

119 (7) The Department of Administrative Services; and

120 (8) The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

121 Sec. 7. Subsection (g) of section 4-89 of the general statutes is
122 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
123 *October 1, 2019*):

124 (g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to appropriations
125 to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in
126 an amount not greater than the amount of reimbursements of prior
127 year expenditures for the services of interpreters received by the
128 department during the fiscal year pursuant to section 46a-33b, as
129 amended by this act, and such appropriations shall not lapse until the
130 end of the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year of the appropriation.

131 Sec. 8. Subdivision (7) of section 4-274 of the general statutes is
132 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
133 *October 1, 2019*):

134 (7) "State-administered health or human services program" means
135 programs administered by any of the following: The Department of
136 Children and Families, the Department of Developmental Services, the
137 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department
138 of Public Health, the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
139 Disability Services, the Department of Social Services, the Office of
140 Early Childhood, and the Office of the State Comptroller, for the State
141 Employee and Retiree Health programs, as well as other health care

142 programs administered by the Office of the State Comptroller, and the
143 Department of Administrative Services, for Workers' Compensation
144 medical claims, including such programs reimbursed in whole or in
145 part by the federal government.

146 Sec. 9. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 4a-82 of the
147 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
148 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

149 (1) "Person with a disability" means any individual with a disability,
150 excluding blindness, as such term is applied by the Department of
151 Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of
152 Developmental Services, the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
153 Disability Services or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
154 and who is certified by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
155 Disability Services as qualified to participate in a qualified partnership,
156 as described in subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of this section;

157 Sec. 10. Subsections (h) to (k), inclusive, of section 4a-82 of the
158 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
159 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

160 (h) The Connecticut Community Providers Association shall
161 develop an application process and submit a list of employees who
162 have applied to participate in a partnership to the Department of
163 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services for certification. Such
164 association shall maintain a list of certified employees who are persons
165 with disabilities and community rehabilitation programs.

166 (i) Any qualified partnership awarded a janitorial or service contract
167 pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this
168 section shall provide to the Connecticut Community Providers
169 Association, not later than six months after the commencement date of
170 such contract and annually thereafter, a list of the persons with
171 disabilities and persons with a disadvantage employed by such
172 contractor that includes the date of hire and employment location for
173 each such person. Such association shall certify annually to the

174 Department of Administrative Services, the Judicial Branch or the
175 Board of Regents for Higher Education, as applicable, in such manner
176 and form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Administrative
177 Services, Chief Court Administrator or the president of the Board of
178 Regents for Higher Education, that the requisite number of persons
179 with disabilities for such contract continue to be employed by such
180 contractor in positions equivalent to those created under such contract
181 and have been integrated into the general workforce of such
182 contractor.

183 (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
184 responsibilities of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
185 Disability Services, as established in subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of
186 this section, may not be delegated to an outside vendor.

187 (k) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
188 Services may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
189 chapter 54, to undertake the certification requirements established
190 pursuant to subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of this section.

191 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 5-175a of the general statutes is
192 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
193 *October 1, 2019*):

194 (a) Vending stand operators, operating stands under permits held
195 by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
196 pursuant to section 10-303, as amended by this act, shall be members of
197 the state employees retirement system, part A, exclusive of the Social
198 Security option and benefits in the state employees' retirement system
199 dependent thereon. Each such person shall annually, on or before June
200 thirtieth, pay five per cent of his adjusted gross income, arising out of
201 the operation of such stand, as determined under the Internal Revenue
202 Code, during the calendar year preceding to the Department of
203 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services which shall, as the state
204 administering agency for such persons, certify such payment and pay
205 it over to the State Retirement Commission, provided membership of
206 such persons in said system shall be exclusive of disability retirement

207 upon the grounds of defects of vision.

208 Sec. 12. Subdivision (22) of section 5-198 of the general statutes is
209 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
210 *October 1, 2019*):

211 (22) Professional employees in the education professions bargaining
212 unit of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
213 Services;

214 Sec. 13. Subsection (e) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
215 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
216 *October 1, 2019*):

217 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
218 vending stand operators eligible for membership in the state
219 employees retirement system pursuant to section 5-175a, as amended
220 by this act, shall be eligible for coverage under the group
221 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plans procured
222 under this section, provided the cost for such operators' insurance
223 coverage shall be paid by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
224 and Disability Services from vending machine income pursuant to
225 section 10-303, as amended by this act.

226 Sec. 14. Section 7-127b of the general statutes is repealed and the
227 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

228 (a) The chief elected official or the chief executive officer if by
229 ordinance of each municipality shall appoint a municipal agent for
230 elderly persons. Such agent shall be a member of an agency that serves
231 elderly persons in the municipality or a responsible resident of the
232 municipality who has demonstrated an interest in the elderly or has
233 been involved in programs in the field of aging.

234 (b) The duties of the municipal agent may include, but shall not be
235 limited to, (1) disseminating information to elderly persons, assisting
236 such persons in learning about the community resources available to
237 them and publicizing such resources and benefits; (2) assisting elderly

238 persons to apply for federal and other benefits available to such
239 persons; and (3) reporting to the chief elected official or chief executive
240 officer of the municipality and the Department of [Rehabilitation]
241 Aging and Disability Services any needs and problems of the elderly
242 and any recommendations for action to improve services to the
243 elderly.

244 (c) Each municipal agent shall serve for a term of two or four years,
245 at the discretion of the appointing authority of each municipality, and
246 may be reappointed. If more than one agent is necessary to carry out
247 the purposes of this section, the appointing authority, in its discretion,
248 may appoint one or more assistant agents. The town clerk in each
249 municipality shall notify the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
250 Disability Services immediately of the appointment of a new municipal
251 agent. Each municipality may provide to its municipal agent resources
252 sufficient for such agent to perform the duties of the office.

253 (d) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
254 Services shall adopt and disseminate to municipalities guidelines as to
255 the role and duties of municipal agents and such informational and
256 technical materials as may assist such agents in performance of their
257 duties. The department, in cooperation with the area agencies on
258 aging, may provide training for municipal agents within the available
259 resources of the department and of the agencies on aging.

260 Sec. 15. Section 8-119f of the general statutes is repealed and the
261 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

262 The Commissioner of Housing shall design, implement, operate and
263 monitor a program of congregate housing. For the purpose of this
264 program, the Commissioner of Housing shall consult with the
265 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services for the
266 provision of services for persons with physical disabilities in order to
267 comply with the requirements of section 29-271.

268 Sec. 16. Subsection (c) of section 9-20 of the general statutes is
269 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

270 *October 1, 2019*):

271 (c) The application for admission as an elector shall include a
272 statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an
273 attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (3)
274 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. Each
275 registrar of voters and town clerk shall maintain a copy of such
276 statement in braille, large print and audio form. The Department of
277 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall produce a
278 videotape presenting such statement in voice and sign language and
279 provide the videotape to the Secretary of the State who shall make
280 copies of the videotape and provide a copy to the registrars of voters of
281 any municipality, upon request and at a cost equal to the cost of
282 making the copy. If a person applies for admission as an elector in
283 person to an admitting official, such admitting official shall, upon the
284 request of the applicant, administer the elector's oath.

285 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 10-76i of the general statutes is
286 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
287 *October 1, 2019*):

288 (a) There shall be an Advisory Council for Special Education which
289 shall advise the General Assembly, State Board of Education and the
290 Commissioner of Education, and which shall engage in such other
291 activities as described in this section. On and after July 1, 2012, the
292 advisory council shall consist of the following members: (1) Nine
293 appointed by the Commissioner of Education, (A) six of whom shall be
294 (i) the parents of children with disabilities, provided such children are
295 under the age of twenty-seven, or (ii) individuals with disabilities, (B)
296 one of whom shall be an official of the Department of Education, (C)
297 one of whom shall be a state or local official responsible for carrying
298 out activities under Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento
299 Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as amended from time
300 to time, and (D) one of whom shall be a representative of an institution
301 of higher education in the state that prepares teacher and related
302 services personnel; (2) one appointed by the Commissioner of

303 Developmental Services who shall be an official of the department; (3)
304 one appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families who
305 shall be an official of the department; (4) one appointed by the
306 Commissioner of Correction who shall be an official of the department;
307 (5) one appointed by the director of the Parent Leadership Training
308 Institute within the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors
309 who shall be (A) the parent of a child with a disability, provided such
310 child is under the age of twenty-seven, or (B) an individual with a
311 disability; (6) a representative from the parent training and
312 information center for Connecticut established pursuant to the
313 Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as
314 amended from time to time; (7) the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
315 Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee; (8) five
316 who are members of the General Assembly who shall serve as
317 nonvoting members of the advisory council, one appointed by the
318 speaker of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the
319 majority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the
320 minority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the
321 president pro tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the
322 minority leader of the Senate; (9) one appointed by the president pro
323 tempore of the Senate who shall be a member of the Connecticut
324 Speech-Language-Hearing Association; (10) one appointed by the
325 majority leader of the Senate who shall be a public school teacher; (11)
326 one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who shall be a
327 representative of a vocational, community or business organization
328 concerned with the provision of transitional services to children with
329 disabilities; (12) one appointed by the speaker of the House of
330 Representatives who shall be a member of the Connecticut Council of
331 Special Education Administrators and who is a local education official;
332 (13) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
333 Representatives who shall be a representative of charter schools; (14)
334 one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives
335 who shall be a member of the Connecticut Association of Private
336 Special Education Facilities; (15) one appointed by the Chief Court
337 Administrator of the Judicial Department who shall be an official of

338 such department responsible for the provision of services to
339 adjudicated children and youth; (16) seven appointed by the Governor,
340 all of whom shall be (A) the parents of children with disabilities,
341 provided such children are under the age of twenty-seven, or (B)
342 individuals with disabilities; (17) the executive director of the
343 nonprofit entity designated by the Governor in accordance with
344 section 46a-10b to serve as the Connecticut protection and advocacy
345 system, or the executive director's designee; and (18) such other
346 members as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education
347 Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time, appointed by
348 the Commissioner of Education. Appointments made pursuant to the
349 provisions of this section shall be representative of the ethnic and
350 racial diversity of, and the types of disabilities found in, the state
351 population. The terms of the members of the council serving on June 8,
352 2010, shall expire on June 30, 2010. Appointments shall be made to the
353 council by July 1, 2010. Members shall serve two-year terms, except
354 that members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive,
355 of this subsection whose terms commenced July 1, 2010, shall serve
356 three-year terms and the successors to such members appointed
357 pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection shall
358 serve two-year terms.

359 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 10-76y of the general statutes is
360 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
361 *October 1, 2019*):

362 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, school
363 districts, regional educational service centers, the Department of
364 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, and all other state and
365 local governmental agencies concerned with education may loan, lease
366 or transfer an assistive device for the use and benefit of a student with
367 a disability to such student or the parent or guardian of such student
368 or to any other public or private nonprofit agency providing services
369 to or on behalf of individuals with disabilities including, but not
370 limited to, an agency providing educational, health or rehabilitative
371 services. Such device may be sold or transferred pursuant to this

372 section regardless of whether the device was declared surplus. The sale
373 or transfer shall be recorded in an agreement between the parties and
374 based upon the depreciated value of the device. For the purposes of
375 this section, "assistive device" means any item, piece of equipment or
376 product system, whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf,
377 modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve
378 the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

379 Sec. 19. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-293 of the
380 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
381 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

382 (b) (1) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Blind or Visually
383 Impaired shall consist of members appointed as follows: Six appointed
384 by the Governor, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the
385 Senate, one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
386 one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one appointed by
387 the minority leader of the Senate, one appointed by the majority leader
388 of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the minority
389 leader of the House of Representatives and all shall be residents of the
390 state. The Commissioner of Social Services shall be an ex-officio
391 member. One of the members appointed by the Governor shall be the
392 parent of a child who receives services provided by the Department of
393 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, and not less than two of
394 the members appointed by the Governor shall be persons who are
395 blind.

396 Sec. 20. Section 10-295 of the general statutes is repealed and the
397 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

398 (a) All residents of this state, regardless of age, who, because of
399 blindness or impaired vision, require specialized vision-related
400 educational programs, goods and services, on the signed
401 recommendation of the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
402 Disability Services, shall be entitled to receive such instruction,
403 programs, goods and services for such length of time as is deemed
404 expedient by said commissioner. Upon the petition of any parent or

405 guardian of a child who is blind or visually impaired, a local board of
406 education may provide such instruction within the town or it may
407 provide for such instruction by agreement with other towns as
408 provided in subsection (d) of section 10-76d. All educational privileges
409 prescribed in part V of chapter 164, not inconsistent with the
410 provisions of this chapter, shall apply to the pupils covered by this
411 subsection.

412 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
413 Services shall expend funds for the services made available pursuant
414 to subsection (a) of this section from the educational aid for children
415 who are blind or visually impaired account in accordance with the
416 provisions of this subsection. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
417 Aging and Disability Services may adopt, in accordance with the
418 provisions of chapter 54, such regulations as the commissioner deems
419 necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this subsection.

420 (1) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
421 Services shall provide, upon written request from any interested
422 school district, the services of teachers who instruct students who are
423 visually impaired, based on the levels established in the individualized
424 education or service plan. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging
425 and Disability Services shall also make available resources, including,
426 but not limited to, the braille and large print library, to all teachers of
427 public and nonpublic school children. The commissioner may also
428 provide vision-related professional development and training to all
429 school districts and cover the actual cost for paraprofessionals from
430 school districts to participate in agency-sponsored braille training
431 programs. The commissioner shall utilize education consultant
432 positions, funded by moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to
433 supplement new staffing that will be made available through the
434 educational aid for children who are blind or visually impaired
435 account, which shall be governed by formal written policies
436 established by the commissioner.

437 (2) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability

438 Services may use funds appropriated to said account to provide
439 specialized books, materials, equipment, supplies, adaptive technology
440 services and devices, specialist examinations and aids, preschool
441 programs and vision-related independent living services, excluding
442 primary educational placement, for eligible children.

443 (3) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
444 Services may, within available appropriations, employ certified
445 teachers who instruct students who are visually impaired in sufficient
446 numbers to meet the requests for services received from school
447 districts. In responding to such requests, the commissioner shall utilize
448 a formula for determining the number of teachers needed to serve the
449 school districts, crediting six points for each child learning braille and
450 one point for each other child, with one full-time certified teacher who
451 instructs students who are visually impaired assigned for every
452 twenty-five points credited. The commissioner shall exercise due
453 diligence to employ the needed number of certified teachers who
454 instruct students who are visually impaired, but shall not be liable for
455 lack of resources. Funds appropriated to said account may also be
456 utilized to employ additional staff in numbers sufficient to provide
457 compensatory skills, evaluations and training to children who are
458 blind or visually impaired, special assistants and other support staff
459 necessary to ensure the efficient operation of service delivery. Not later
460 than October first of each year, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
461 Aging and Disability Services shall determine the number of teachers
462 needed based on the formula provided in this subdivision. Based on
463 such determination, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
464 Disability Services shall estimate the funding needed to pay such
465 teachers' salaries and related expenses.

466 (4) In any fiscal year, when funds appropriated to cover the
467 combined costs associated with providing the services set forth in
468 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection are projected to be
469 insufficient, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
470 Services may collect revenue from all school districts that have
471 requested such services on a per student pro rata basis, in the sums

472 necessary to cover the projected portion of these services for which
473 there are insufficient appropriations.

474 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
475 Services may provide for the instruction of adults who are blind in
476 their homes, expending annually for this purpose such sums as the
477 General Assembly may appropriate.

478 (d) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
479 Services may expend up to ten thousand dollars per fiscal year per
480 person twenty-one years of age or older who is both blind or visually
481 impaired and deaf, in addition to any other expenditures for such
482 person, for the purpose of providing community inclusion services
483 through specialized public and private entities from which such
484 person can benefit. The commissioner may determine the criteria by
485 which a person is eligible to receive specialized services and may
486 adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
487 subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "community inclusion
488 services" means the assistance provided to persons with disabilities to
489 enable them to connect with their peers without disabilities and with
490 the community at large.

491 (e) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
492 Services may, within available appropriations, purchase adaptive
493 equipment for persons receiving services pursuant to this chapter.

494 Sec. 21. Section 10-296 of the general statutes is repealed and the
495 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

496 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
497 may, within available appropriations, contract with public or private
498 entities, individuals or private enterprises for the instruction of
499 persons who are blind.

500 Sec. 22. Section 10-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the
501 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

502 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services

503 is authorized to aid in securing employment for persons who are
504 legally blind. Said commissioner may aid persons who are legally
505 blind in such way as said commissioner deems expedient, expending
506 for such purpose such sum as the General Assembly appropriates.

507 Sec. 23. Section 10-297a of the general statutes is repealed and the
508 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

509 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
510 may make grants, within available appropriations, to the Connecticut
511 Radio Information Service, Inc., for the purchase of receivers and for
512 costs related to the operation of said service.

513 Sec. 24. Section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the
514 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

515 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
516 Services shall prepare and maintain a register of persons who are blind
517 in this state which shall describe their condition, cause of blindness
518 and capacity for education and rehabilitative training. The
519 commissioner may register cases of persons who are liable to become
520 visually impaired or blind, and may take such measures in cooperation
521 with other authorities as the commissioner deems advisable for the
522 prevention of blindness or conservation of eyesight and, in appropriate
523 cases, for the education of children and for the vocational guidance of
524 adults whose eyesight approaches visual impairment or blindness. The
525 commissioner shall establish criteria for low vision care and maintain a
526 list of ophthalmologists and optometrists that are exclusively
527 authorized to receive agency funds through established and existing
528 state fee schedules for the delivery of specifically defined low vision
529 services that increase the capacity of eligible recipients of such services
530 to maximize the use of their remaining vision.

531 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
532 Services may accept and receive any bequest or gift of money or
533 personal property and, subject to the consent of the Governor and
534 Attorney General as provided in section 4b-22, any devise or gift of

535 real property made to the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
536 Disability Services, and may hold and use such money or property for
537 the purposes, if any, specified in connection with such bequest, devise
538 or gift.

539 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
540 Services shall provide the Department of Motor Vehicles with the
541 names of all individuals sixteen years of age or older who, on or after
542 October 1, 2005, have been determined to be blind by a physician, an
543 advanced practice registered nurse or an optometrist, as provided in
544 section 10-305, as amended by this act. The Commissioner of
545 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall provide
546 simultaneous written notification to any individual whose name is
547 being transmitted by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
548 Disability Services to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The
549 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
550 update the list of names provided to the Department of Motor Vehicles
551 on a quarterly basis. The list shall also contain the address and date of
552 birth for each individual reported, as shown on the records of the
553 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services. The
554 Department of Motor Vehicles shall maintain such list on a
555 confidential basis, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-46d.
556 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
557 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the
558 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to effectuate the purposes of this
559 subsection.

560 Sec. 25. Section 10-303 of the general statutes is repealed and the
561 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

562 (a) The authority in charge of any building or property owned,
563 operated or leased by the state or any municipality therein shall grant
564 to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services a
565 permit to operate in such building or on such property a food service
566 facility, a vending machine or a stand for the vending of newspapers,
567 periodicals, confections, tobacco products, food and such other articles

568 as such authority approves when, in the opinion of such authority,
569 such facility, machine or stand is desirable in such location. Any
570 person operating such a stand in any such location on October 1, 1945,
571 shall be permitted to continue such operation, but upon such person's
572 ceasing such operation such authority shall grant a permit for
573 continued operation to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
574 Disability Services. The department may establish a training facility at
575 any such location.

576 (b) Pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act, 49 Stat.
577 1559 (1936), 20 USC 107, as amended from time to time, the
578 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
579 authorized to maintain a nonlapsing account and to accrue interest
580 thereon for federal vending machine income which, in accordance with
581 federal regulations, shall be used for the payment of fringe benefits to
582 the vending facility operators by the Department of [Rehabilitation]
583 Aging and Disability Services.

584 (c) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
585 may maintain a nonlapsing account and accrue interest thereon for
586 state and local vending machine income which shall be used for the
587 payment of fringe benefits, training and support to vending facilities
588 operators, to provide entrepreneurial and independent-living training
589 and equipment to children who are blind or visually impaired and
590 adults who are blind and for other vocational rehabilitation programs
591 and services for adults who are blind.

592 (d) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
593 Services may disburse state and local vending machine income to
594 student or client activity funds, as defined in section 4-52.

595 Sec. 26. Section 10-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
596 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

597 Each physician, advanced practice registered nurse and optometrist
598 shall report in writing to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
599 Disability Services not later than thirty days after a person who is blind

600 comes under his or her private or institutional care within this state.
601 The report of such person shall include the name, address, Social
602 Security number, date of birth, date of diagnosis of blindness and
603 degree of vision. Such reports shall not be open to public inspection.

604 Sec. 27. Section 10-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the
605 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

606 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
607 may maintain a vocational rehabilitation program as authorized under
608 the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC 791 et seq., for the
609 purpose of providing and coordinating the full scope of necessary
610 services to assist persons who are legally blind and who receive
611 services from the department to prepare for, enter into and maintain
612 employment consistent with the purposes of said act.

613 Sec. 28. Section 10-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the
614 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

615 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
616 empowered to receive any federal funds made available to this state
617 under which vocational rehabilitation is provided for a person whose
618 visual acuity has been impaired and to expend such funds for the
619 purpose or purposes for which they are made available. The State
620 Treasurer shall be the custodian of such funds.

621 Sec. 29. Section 10-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the
622 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

623 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
624 may cooperate, pursuant to agreements, with the federal government
625 in carrying out the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to
626 vocational rehabilitation, and is authorized to adopt such methods of
627 administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary
628 for the proper and efficient operation of such agreements or plans for
629 vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as may
630 be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes.

631 Sec. 30. Section 10-308a of the general statutes is repealed and the
632 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

633 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
634 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to determine
635 the order to be followed in selecting those eligible persons to whom
636 vocational rehabilitation services will be provided, in accordance with
637 federal regulations.

638 Sec. 31. Section 10-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the
639 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

640 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
641 may place in remunerative occupations persons whose capacity to earn
642 a living has been lost or impaired by lessened visual acuity and who,
643 in the opinion of the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
644 Disability Services, are susceptible of placement, and may make such
645 regulations as are necessary for the administration of the provisions of
646 this section and sections 10-306 to 10-308a, inclusive, as amended by
647 this act.

648 Sec. 32. Section 10-311a of the general statutes is repealed and the
649 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

650 The case records of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
651 Disability Services maintained for the purposes of this chapter shall be
652 confidential and the names and addresses of recipients of assistance
653 under this chapter shall not be published or used for purposes not
654 directly connected with the administration of this chapter, except as
655 necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 10-298, as amended by
656 this act, and 17b-6.

657 Sec. 33. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 12-217oo of the
658 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
659 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

660 (4) "New qualifying employee" means a person who (A) is receiving
661 vocational rehabilitation services from the Department of

662 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, and (B) is hired by the
663 employer to fill a new job after May 6, 2010, during the employer's
664 income years commencing on or after January 1, 2010, and prior to
665 January 1, 2012. A new qualifying employee does not include a person
666 receiving vocational rehabilitation services pursuant to subparagraph
667 (A) of this subdivision and who was employed in this state by a related
668 person with respect to the employer during the prior twelve months;

669 Sec. 34. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 12-217pp of the
670 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
671 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

672 (7) "Qualifying employee" means a new employee who, at the time
673 of hiring by the taxpayer:

674 (A) (i) Is receiving unemployment compensation, or (ii) has
675 exhausted unemployment compensation benefits and has not had an
676 intervening full-time job; or

677 (B) Is (i) receiving vocational rehabilitation services from the
678 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, (ii)
679 receiving employment services from the Department of Mental Health
680 and Addiction Services, or (iii) participating in employment
681 opportunities and day services, as defined in section 17a-226, operated
682 or funded by the Department of Developmental Services;

683 Sec. 35. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 12-217pp of the
684 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
685 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

686 (e) (1) To be eligible to claim the credit, a taxpayer shall apply to the
687 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this section. The
688 application shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and shall
689 contain sufficient information as required by the commissioner,
690 including, but not limited to, the activities that the taxpayer primarily
691 engages in, the North American Industrial Classification System code
692 of the taxpayer, the current number of employees employed by the

693 taxpayer as of the application date, and if applicable, the name and
694 position or job title of the new, qualifying or veteran employee. The
695 commissioner shall consult with the Labor Commissioner, the
696 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, the
697 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, the Commissioner of Mental Health
698 and Addiction Services or the Commissioner of Developmental
699 Services, as applicable, for any verification the commissioner deems
700 necessary of unemployment compensation or vocational rehabilitation
701 services received by a qualifying employee, or of service in the armed
702 forces of the United States by a veteran employee. The commissioner
703 may impose a fee for such application as the commissioner deems
704 appropriate.

705 Sec. 36. Section 14-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the
706 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

707 (a) There shall be within the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
708 and Disability Services a unit for the purpose of evaluating and
709 training persons with disabilities in the operation of motor vehicles.
710 There shall be assigned to the driver training unit for persons with
711 disabilities such staff as is necessary for the orderly administration of
712 the driver training program for persons with disabilities. The
713 personnel assigned to the driver training unit for persons with
714 disabilities shall, while engaged in the evaluation or instruction of a
715 person with disabilities, have the authority and immunities with
716 respect to such activities as are granted under the general statutes to
717 motor vehicle inspectors. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
718 permit a person whose license has been withdrawn as a result of a
719 condition that makes such person eligible for evaluation and training
720 under this section to operate a motor vehicle while accompanied by
721 personnel assigned to the driver training unit for persons with
722 disabilities. When a person with disabilities has successfully completed
723 the driver training program for persons with disabilities, the
724 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
725 certify such completion in writing to the Commissioner of Motor
726 Vehicles and shall recommend any license restrictions or limitations to

727 be placed on the license of such person. The Commissioner of Motor
728 Vehicles may accept such certification in lieu of the driving skills
729 portion of the examination prescribed under subsection (e) of section
730 14-36. If such person with disabilities has met all other requirements
731 for obtaining a license, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue
732 a license with such restrictions recommended by the Department of
733 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

734 (b) Any resident of this state who has a serious physical or mental
735 disability which does not render the resident incapable of operating a
736 motor vehicle and who must utilize special equipment in order to
737 operate a motor vehicle and who cannot obtain instruction in the
738 operation of a motor vehicle through any alternate program, including,
739 but not limited to, other state, federal or privately operated drivers'
740 schools shall be eligible for instruction under the Department of
741 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services driver training program
742 for persons with disabilities.

743 Sec. 37. Subsection (b) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
744 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
745 *October 1, 2019*):

746 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications
747 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from (1)
748 any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; (2) any person with
749 disabilities; (3) any parent or guardian of any person who is blind or
750 any person with disabilities, if such person is under eighteen years of
751 age at the time of application; (4) any parent or guardian of any person
752 who is blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is unable to
753 request or complete an application; and (5) any organization which
754 meets criteria established by the commissioner and which certifies to
755 the commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for which a placard is
756 requested is primarily used to transport persons who are blind or
757 persons with disabilities. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
758 section, on and after October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept
759 applications for special license plates, but shall accept renewal

760 applications for such plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.
761 No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section
762 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's
763 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions
764 of section 1-1h. The commissioner is authorized to adopt regulations
765 for the issuance of placards to persons who, by reason of hardship, do
766 not hold or cannot obtain an operator's license or identification card.
767 The commissioner shall maintain a record of each placard issued to
768 any such person. Such applications and renewal applications shall be
769 on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application and
770 renewal application shall include: (A) Certification by a licensed
771 physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse
772 licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 378, or a member
773 of the driver training unit for persons with disabilities established
774 pursuant to section 14-11b, as amended by this act, that the applicant
775 meets the definition of a person with a disability which limits or
776 impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2; or (B)
777 certification by a psychiatrist who is employed by, or under contract
778 with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that the
779 applicant (i) is a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
780 who has post-traumatic stress disorder certified as service-connected
781 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and (ii) meets the
782 definition of a person with a disability which limits or impairs the
783 ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2. In the case of
784 persons who are blind, the application or renewal application shall
785 include certification of legal blindness made by the Department of
786 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, an ophthalmologist or
787 an optometrist. Any person who makes a certification required by this
788 subsection shall sign the application or renewal application under
789 penalty of false statement pursuant to section 53a-157b. The
790 commissioner, in said commissioner's discretion, may accept the
791 discharge papers of a disabled veteran, as defined in section 14-254, in
792 lieu of such certification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
793 require additional certification at the time of the original application or
794 at any time thereafter. If a person who has been requested to submit

795 additional certification fails to do so within thirty days of the request,
796 or if such additional certification is deemed by the Commissioner of
797 Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the commissioner
798 may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or revoke such
799 special license plate or placard. The commissioner shall not issue more
800 than one placard per applicant. The fee for the issuance of a temporary
801 removable windshield placard shall be five dollars. Any person whose
802 application has been denied or whose special license plate or placard
803 has been suspended or revoked shall be afforded an opportunity for a
804 hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

805 Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 17a-215d of the general statutes is
806 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
807 *October 1, 2019*):

808 (a) There is established the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory
809 Council. The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The
810 Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; (2)
811 the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
812 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
813 designee; (4) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
814 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of
815 Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of
816 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's
817 designee; (7) the Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
818 commissioner's designee; (8) the Commissioner of Early Childhood, or
819 the commissioner's designee; (9) the Secretary of the Office of Policy
820 and Management, or the secretary's designee; (10) two persons with
821 autism spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and
822 the speaker of the House of Representatives; (11) two persons who are
823 parents or guardians of a child with autism spectrum disorder, one
824 each appointed by the Governor and the minority leader of the Senate;
825 (12) two persons who are parents or guardians of an adult with autism
826 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the president pro tempore
827 of the Senate and the majority leader of the House of Representatives;
828 (13) two persons who are advocates for persons with autism spectrum

829 disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the speaker of the
830 House of Representatives; (14) two persons who are licensed
831 professionals working in the field of autism spectrum disorder, one
832 each appointed by the Governor and the majority leader of the Senate;
833 (15) two persons who provide services for persons with autism
834 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the
835 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (16) two persons who
836 shall be representatives of an institution of higher education in the
837 state with experience in the field of autism spectrum disorder, one
838 each appointed by the Governor and the president pro tempore of the
839 Senate; (17) the executive director of the nonprofit entity designated by
840 the Governor in accordance with section 46a-10b to serve as the
841 Connecticut protection and advocacy system, or the executive
842 director's designee; and (18) one person who is a physician who treats
843 or diagnoses persons with autism spectrum disorder, appointed by the
844 Governor.

845 Sec. 39. Subdivision (9) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is
846 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
847 *October 1, 2019*):

848 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the
849 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children
850 and Families and Developmental Services, the Office of Early
851 Childhood, the Insurance Department and the Department of
852 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

853 Sec. 40. Subsection (a) of section 17a-302 of the general statutes is
854 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
855 *October 1, 2019*):

856 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
857 Services shall be responsible for the administration of programs which
858 provide nutritionally sound diets to needy older persons and for the
859 expansion of such programs when possible. Such programs shall be
860 continued in such a manner as to fully utilize congregate feeding and
861 nutrition education of older citizens who qualify for such program.

862 Sec. 41. Section 17a-302a of the general statutes is repealed and the
863 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

864 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
865 shall hold quarterly meetings with nutrition service stakeholders to (1)
866 develop recommendations to address complexities in the
867 administrative processes of nutrition services programs, (2) establish
868 quality control benchmarks in such programs, and (3) help move
869 toward greater quality, efficiency and transparency in the elderly
870 nutrition program. Stakeholders shall include, but need not be limited
871 to, (A) one representative of each of the following: (i) Area agencies on
872 aging, (ii) access agencies, (iii) the Commission on Women, Children
873 and Seniors, and (iv) nutrition providers, and (B) one or more
874 representatives of (i) food security programs, (ii) contractors, (iii)
875 nutrition host sites, and (iv) consumers.

876 Sec. 42. Section 17a-303a of the general statutes is repealed and the
877 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

878 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
879 Services shall establish, within available appropriations, a fall
880 prevention program. Within such program, the department shall:

881 (1) Promote and support research to: (A) Improve the identification,
882 diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of older persons and others
883 who have a high risk of falling; (B) improve data collection and
884 analysis to identify risk factors for falls and factors that reduce the
885 likelihood of falls; (C) design, implement and evaluate the most
886 effective fall prevention interventions; (D) improve intervention
887 strategies that have been proven effective in reducing falls by tailoring
888 such strategies to specific populations of older persons; (E) maximize
889 the dissemination of proven, effective fall prevention interventions; (F)
890 assess the risk of falls occurring in various settings; (G) identify
891 barriers to the adoption of proven interventions with respect to the
892 prevention of falls among older persons; (H) develop, implement and
893 evaluate the most effective approaches to reducing falls among high-
894 risk older persons living in communities and long-term care and

895 assisted living facilities; and (I) evaluate the effectiveness of
896 community programs designed to prevent falls among older persons;

897 (2) Establish, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
898 Health, a professional education program in fall prevention, evaluation
899 and management for physicians, allied health professionals and other
900 health care providers who provide services for older persons in this
901 state. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
902 Services may contract for the establishment of such program through
903 (A) a request for proposal process, (B) a competitive grant program, or
904 (C) cooperative agreements with qualified organizations, institutions
905 or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions;

906 (3) Oversee and support demonstration and research projects to be
907 carried out by organizations, institutions or consortia of organizations
908 and institutions deemed qualified by the Commissioner of
909 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services. Such demonstration
910 and research projects may be in the following areas:

911 (A) Targeted fall risk screening and referral programs;

912 (B) Programs designed for community-dwelling older persons that
913 use fall intervention approaches, including physical activity,
914 medication assessment and reduction of medication when possible,
915 vision enhancement and home-modification strategies;

916 (C) Programs that target new fall victims who are at a high risk for
917 second falls and that are designed to maximize independence and
918 quality of life for older persons, particularly those older persons with
919 functional limitations; and

920 (D) Private sector and public-private partnerships to develop
921 technologies to prevent falls among older persons and prevent or
922 reduce injuries when falls occur; and

923 (4) Award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative
924 agreements with, organizations, institutions or consortia of
925 organizations and institutions deemed qualified by the Commissioner

926 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services to design, implement
927 and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention
928 strategies in residential and institutional settings.

929 (b) In awarding any grants or entering into any contracts or
930 agreements pursuant to this section, after October 1, 2017, the
931 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
932 determine appropriate data and program outcome measures,
933 including fall prevention program outcome measures, as applicable,
934 that the recipient organization, institution or consortia of organizations
935 and institutions shall collect and report to the commissioner and the
936 frequency of such reports.

937 Sec. 43. Section 17a-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the
938 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

939 The state shall be divided into five elderly planning and service
940 areas, in accordance with federal law and regulations, each having an
941 area agency on aging to carry out the mandates of the federal Older
942 Americans Act of 1965, as amended. The area agencies shall (1)
943 represent older persons within their geographic areas, (2) develop an
944 area plan for approval by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
945 and Disability Services and upon such approval administer the plan,
946 (3) coordinate and assist local public and nonprofit, private agencies in
947 the development of programs, (4) receive and distribute federal and
948 state funds for such purposes, in accordance with applicable law, and
949 (5) carry out any additional duties and functions required by federal
950 law and regulations.

951 Sec. 44. Section 17a-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
952 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

953 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
954 Services shall equitably allocate, in accordance with federal law,
955 federal funds received under Title IIIB and IIIC of the Older Americans
956 Act to the five area agencies on aging established pursuant to section
957 17a-304, as amended by this act. The department, before seeking

958 federal approval to spend any amount above that allotted for
959 administrative expenses under said act, shall inform the joint standing
960 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
961 relating to aging and human services that it is seeking such approval.

962 (b) Sixty per cent of the state funds appropriated to the five area
963 agencies on aging for elderly nutrition and social services shall be
964 allocated in the same proportion as allocations made pursuant to
965 subsection (a) of this section. Forty per cent of all state funds
966 appropriated to the five area agencies on aging for elderly nutrition
967 and social services used for purposes other than the required
968 nonfederal matching funds shall be allocated at the discretion of the
969 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, in
970 consultation with the five area agencies on aging, based on their need
971 for such funds. Any state funds appropriated to the five area agencies
972 on aging for administrative expenses shall be allocated equally.

973 (c) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
974 Services, in consultation with the five area agencies on aging, shall
975 review the method of allocation set forth in subsection (a) of this
976 section and shall report any findings or recommendations to the joint
977 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
978 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies
979 and human services.

980 (d) An area agency may request a person participating in the elderly
981 nutrition program to pay a voluntary fee for meals furnished, except
982 that no eligible person shall be denied a meal due to an inability to pay
983 such fee.

984 Sec. 45. Section 17a-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the
985 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

986 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
987 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter
988 54, to carry out the purposes, programs and services authorized
989 pursuant to the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended from time to

990 time. The department may operate under any new policy necessary to
991 conform to a requirement of a federal or joint state and federal
992 program while it is in the process of adopting the policy in regulation
993 form, provided the department posts such policy on the eRegulations
994 System not later than twenty days after adopting the policy. Such
995 policy shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

996 Sec. 46. Section 17a-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the
997 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

998 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
999 may make a grant to any city, town or borough or public or private
1000 agency, organization or institution for the following purposes: (1) For
1001 community planning and coordination of programs carrying out the
1002 purposes of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended; (2) for
1003 demonstration programs or activities particularly valuable in carrying
1004 out such purposes; (3) for training of special personnel needed to carry
1005 out such programs and activities; (4) for establishment of new or
1006 expansion of existing programs to carry out such purposes, including
1007 establishment of new or expansion of existing centers of service for
1008 older persons, providing recreational, cultural and other leisure time
1009 activities, and informational, transportation, referral and preretirement
1010 and postretirement counseling services for older persons and assisting
1011 such persons in providing volunteer community or civic services,
1012 except that no costs of construction, other than for minor alterations
1013 and repairs, shall be included in such establishment or expansion; and
1014 (5) for programs to develop or demonstrate approaches, methods and
1015 techniques for achieving or improving coordination of community
1016 services for older or aging persons and such other programs and
1017 services as may be allowed under Title III of the Older Americans Act
1018 of 1965, as amended, or to evaluate these approaches, techniques and
1019 methods, as well as others which may assist older or aging persons to
1020 enjoy wholesome and meaningful living and to continue to contribute
1021 to the strength and welfare of the state and nation.

1022 Sec. 47. Section 17a-313 of the general statutes is repealed and the

1023 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1024 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1025 may use moneys appropriated for the purposes of section 17a-310, as
1026 amended by this act, for the expenses of administering the grant
1027 program under said section, provided the total of such moneys so used
1028 shall not exceed five per cent of the moneys so appropriated.

1029 Sec. 48. Section 17a-314 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1030 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1031 (a) As used in this section:

1032 (1) "CHOICES" means Connecticut's programs for health insurance
1033 assistance, outreach, information and referral, counseling and
1034 eligibility screening; and

1035 (2) "CHOICES health insurance assistance program" means the
1036 federally recognized state health insurance assistance program funded
1037 pursuant to P.L. 101-508 and administered by the Department of
1038 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, in conjunction with the
1039 area agencies on aging and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, that
1040 provides free information and assistance related to health insurance
1041 issues and concerns of older persons and other Medicare beneficiaries
1042 in Connecticut.

1043 (b) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1044 Services shall administer the CHOICES health insurance assistance
1045 program, which shall be a comprehensive Medicare advocacy program
1046 that provides assistance to Connecticut residents who are Medicare
1047 beneficiaries.

1048 (c) The program shall provide: (1) Toll-free telephone access for
1049 consumers to obtain advice and information on Medicare benefits,
1050 including prescription drug benefits available through the Medicare
1051 Part D program, the Medicare appeals process, health insurance
1052 matters applicable to Medicare beneficiaries and long-term care
1053 options available in the state at least five days per week during normal

1054 business hours; (2) information, advice and representation, where
1055 appropriate, concerning the Medicare appeals process, by a qualified
1056 attorney or paralegal at least five days per week during normal
1057 business hours; (3) information through appropriate means and
1058 format, including written materials, to Medicare beneficiaries, their
1059 families, senior citizens and organizations regarding Medicare
1060 benefits, including prescription drug benefits available through
1061 Medicare Part D and other pharmaceutical drug company programs
1062 and long-term care options available in the state; (4) information
1063 concerning Medicare plans and services, private insurance policies and
1064 federal and state-funded programs that are available to beneficiaries to
1065 supplement Medicare coverage; (5) information permitting Medicare
1066 beneficiaries to compare and evaluate their options for delivery of
1067 Medicare and supplemental insurance services; (6) information
1068 concerning the procedure to appeal a denial of care and the procedure
1069 to request an expedited appeal of a denial of care; and (7) any other
1070 information the program or the Commissioner of Rehabilitation
1071 Services deems relevant to Medicare beneficiaries.

1072 (d) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1073 Services may include any additional functions necessary to conform to
1074 federal grant requirements.

1075 (e) All hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490, which treat persons
1076 covered by Medicare Part A shall: (1) Notify incoming patients covered
1077 by Medicare of the availability of the services established pursuant to
1078 subsection (c) of this section, (2) post or cause to be posted in a
1079 conspicuous place therein the toll-free number established pursuant to
1080 subsection (c) of this section, and (3) provide each Medicare patient
1081 with the toll-free number and information on how to access the
1082 CHOICES program.

1083 (f) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1084 Services may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, as
1085 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

1086 Sec. 49. Subsection (a) of section 17a-316a of the general statutes is

1087 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1088 *October 1, 2019*):

1089 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1090 Services shall develop and administer a program to provide a single,
1091 coordinated system of information and access for individuals seeking
1092 long-term support, including in-home, community-based and
1093 institutional services. The program shall be the state Aging and
1094 Disability Resource Center Program in accordance with the federal
1095 Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006, P.L. 109-365 and shall be
1096 administered as part of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1097 Disability Services' CHOICES program in accordance with subdivision
1098 (1) of subsection (a) of section 17a-314, as amended by this act.
1099 Consumers served by the program shall include, but not be limited to,
1100 those sixty years of age or older and those eighteen years of age or
1101 older with disabilities and caregivers.

1102 Sec. 50. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17a-405 of the general
1103 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1104 (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1105 (a) As used in this chapter:

1106 (1) "State agency" means the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1107 and Disability Services.

1108 (2) "Office" or "Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman" means
1109 the organizational unit which is headed by the State Long-Term Care
1110 Ombudsman established in this section.

1111 (3) "State Ombudsman" means the individual who heads the office
1112 established in this section.

1113 (4) "Program" means the long-term care ombudsman program
1114 established in this section.

1115 (5) "Representative of the office" includes a regional ombudsman, a
1116 residents' advocate or an employee of the Office of the Long-Term

1117 Care Ombudsman who is individually designated by the State
1118 Ombudsman.

1119 (6) "Resident" means an individual who resides in a long-term care
1120 facility.

1121 (7) "Long-term care facility" means any skilled nursing facility, as
1122 defined in Section 1819(a) of the Social Security Act, (42 USC 1395i-
1123 3(a)) any nursing facility, as defined in Section 1919(a) of the Social
1124 Security Act, (42 USC 1396r(a)) a board and care facility as defined in
1125 Section 102(19) of the federal Older Americans Act, (42 USC 3002(19))
1126 and for purposes of ombudsman program coverage, an institution
1127 regulated by the state pursuant to Section 1616(e) of the Social Security
1128 Act, (42 USC 1382e(e)) and any other adult care home similar to a
1129 facility or nursing facility or board and care home.

1130 (8) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
1131 Aging and Disability Services.

1132 (9) "Applicant" means an individual who has applied for admission
1133 to a long-term care facility.

1134 (10) "Resident representative" means (A) an individual chosen by
1135 the resident to act on behalf of the resident in order to support the
1136 resident in decision making, accessing medical, social or other personal
1137 information of the resident, managing financial matters, or receiving
1138 notifications; (B) a person authorized by state or federal law to act on
1139 behalf of the resident in order to support the resident in decision
1140 making, accessing medical, social or other personal information of the
1141 resident, managing financial matters, or receiving notifications; (C) a
1142 legal representative, as used in Section 712 of the Older Americans Act;
1143 or (D) the court-appointed guardian or conservator of a resident.

1144 (b) There is established an independent Office of the Long-Term
1145 Care Ombudsman within the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1146 and Disability Services. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1147 and Disability Services shall appoint a State Ombudsman who shall be

1148 selected from among individuals with expertise and experience in the
1149 fields of long-term care and advocacy to head the office and the State
1150 Ombudsman shall appoint regional ombudsmen. In the event the State
1151 Ombudsman or a regional ombudsman is unable to fulfill the duties of
1152 the office, the commissioner shall appoint an acting State Ombudsman
1153 and the State Ombudsman shall appoint an acting regional
1154 ombudsman.

1155 Sec. 51. Section 17a-407 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1156 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1157 No person may perform any functions as a residents' advocate until
1158 the person has successfully completed a course of training required by
1159 the State Ombudsman. Any residents' advocate who fails to complete
1160 such a course within a reasonable time after appointment may be
1161 removed by the State Ombudsman or the regional ombudsman for the
1162 region in which such residents' advocate serves. The Commissioner of
1163 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, after consultation with
1164 the State Ombudsman, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
1165 provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this section.
1166 Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the course of
1167 training required by this section.

1168 Sec. 52. Subsection (c) of section 17a-411 of the general statutes is
1169 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1170 *October 1, 2019*):

1171 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1172 Services shall have authority to seek funding for the purposes
1173 contained in this section from public and private sources, including,
1174 but not limited to, any federal or state funded programs.

1175 Sec. 53. Section 17a-416 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1176 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1177 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services,
1178 after consultation with the State Ombudsman, shall adopt regulations

1179 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the
1180 provisions of sections 17a-405 to 17a-417, inclusive, as amended by this
1181 act, 19a-531 and 19a-532.

1182 Sec. 54. Section 17a-417 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1183 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1184 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1185 shall require the State Ombudsman to:

1186 (1) Prepare an annual report:

1187 (A) Describing the activities carried out by the office in the year for
1188 which the report is prepared;

1189 (B) Containing and analyzing the data collected under section 17a-
1190 418;

1191 (C) Evaluating the problems experienced by and the complaints
1192 made by or on behalf of residents;

1193 (D) Containing recommendations for (i) improving the quality of
1194 the care and life of the residents, and (ii) protecting the health, safety,
1195 welfare and rights of the residents;

1196 (E) (i) Analyzing the success of the program including success in
1197 providing services to residents of long-term care facilities; and (ii)
1198 identifying barriers that prevent the optimal operation of the program;
1199 and

1200 (F) Providing policy, regulatory and legislative recommendations to
1201 solve identified problems, to resolve the complaints, to improve the
1202 quality of the care and life of residents, to protect the health, safety,
1203 welfare and rights of residents and to remove the barriers that prevent
1204 the optimal operation of the program.

1205 (2) Analyze, comment on and monitor the development and
1206 implementation of federal, state and local laws, regulations and other
1207 government policies and actions that pertain to long-term care facilities

1208 and services, and to the health, safety, welfare and rights of residents
1209 in the state, and recommend any changes in such laws, regulations and
1210 policies as the office determines to be appropriate.

1211 (3) (A) Provide such information as the office determines to be
1212 necessary to public and private agencies, legislators and other persons,
1213 regarding (i) the problems and concerns of older individuals residing
1214 in long-term care facilities; and (ii) recommendations related to the
1215 problems and concerns; and (B) make available to the public and
1216 submit to the federal assistant secretary for aging, the Governor, the
1217 General Assembly, the Department of Public Health and other
1218 appropriate governmental entities, each report prepared under
1219 subdivision (1) of this section.

1220 Sec. 55. Subsection (c) of section 17a-422 of the general statutes is
1221 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1222 *October 1, 2019*):

1223 (c) Not later than June 30, 2005, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
1224 shall submit a report on the pilot program to the Commissioners of
1225 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and Public Health, to the
1226 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
1227 of matters relating to human services, public health and
1228 appropriations, and to the select committee of the General Assembly
1229 having cognizance of matters relating to aging. The report shall be
1230 submitted in accordance with section 11-4a.

1231 Sec. 56. Subsection (b) of section 17a-667 of the general statutes is
1232 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1233 *October 1, 2019*):

1234 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The
1235 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's
1236 designee; (2) the Commissioners of Children and Families, Consumer
1237 Protection, Correction, Education, Mental Health and Addiction
1238 Services, Public Health, Emergency Services and Public Protection,
1239 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and Social Services, and

1240 the Insurance Commissioner, or their designees; (3) the Chief Court
1241 Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee; (4) the
1242 chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or the
1243 chairperson's designee; (5) the president of The University of
1244 Connecticut, or the president's designee; (6) the Chief State's Attorney,
1245 or the Chief State's Attorney's designee; (7) the Chief Public Defender,
1246 or the Chief Public Defender's designee; and (8) the cochairpersons
1247 and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General
1248 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health,
1249 criminal justice and appropriations, or their designees. The
1250 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the
1251 Commissioner of Children and Families shall be cochairpersons of the
1252 council and may jointly appoint up to seven individuals to the council
1253 as follows: (A) Two individuals in recovery from a substance use
1254 disorder or representing an advocacy group for individuals with a
1255 substance use disorder; (B) a provider of community-based substance
1256 abuse services for adults; (C) a provider of community-based
1257 substance abuse services for adolescents; (D) an addiction medicine
1258 physician; (E) a family member of an individual in recovery from a
1259 substance use disorder; and (F) an emergency medicine physician
1260 currently practicing in a Connecticut hospital. The cochairpersons of
1261 the council may establish subcommittees and working groups and
1262 may appoint individuals other than members of the council to serve as
1263 members of the subcommittees or working groups. Such individuals
1264 may include, but need not be limited to: (i) Licensed alcohol and drug
1265 counselors; (ii) pharmacists; (iii) municipal police chiefs; (iv)
1266 emergency medical services personnel; and (v) representatives of
1267 organizations that provide education, prevention, intervention,
1268 referrals, rehabilitation or support services to individuals with
1269 substance use disorder or chemical dependency.

1270 Sec. 57. Subsection (b) of section 17b-4 of the general statutes is
1271 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1272 *October 1, 2019*):

1273 (b) The Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the

1274 Department of Public Health and the Department of [Rehabilitation]
1275 Aging and Disability Services, may adopt regulations in accordance
1276 with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish requirements with
1277 respect to the submission of reports concerning financial solvency and
1278 quality of care by nursing homes for the purpose of determining the
1279 financial viability of such homes, identifying homes that appear to be
1280 experiencing financial distress and examining the underlying reasons
1281 for such distress. Such reports shall be submitted to the Nursing Home
1282 Financial Advisory Committee established under section 17b-339.

1283 Sec. 58. Subdivision (11) of subsection (c) of section 17b-28 of the
1284 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1285 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1286 (11) The Commissioners of Social Services, Children and Families,
1287 Public Health, Developmental Services, [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1288 Disability Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, or their
1289 designees, who shall be ex-officio nonvoting members;

1290 Sec. 59. Section 17b-251 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1291 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1292 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1293 shall establish an outreach program to educate consumers as to: (1)
1294 The need for long-term care; (2) mechanisms for financing such care;
1295 (3) the availability of long-term care insurance; and (4) the asset
1296 protection provided under sections 17b-252 to 17b-254, inclusive, and
1297 38a-475, as amended by this act. The Department of [Rehabilitation]
1298 Aging and Disability Services shall provide public information to assist
1299 individuals in choosing appropriate insurance coverage.

1300 Sec. 60. Subsection (c) of section 17b-337 of the general statutes is
1301 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1302 *October 1, 2019*):

1303 (c) The Long-Term Care Planning Committee shall consist of: (1)
1304 The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing

1305 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1306 relating to human services, public health, elderly services and long-
1307 term care; (2) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
1308 commissioner's designee; (3) one member of the Office of Policy and
1309 Management appointed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
1310 Management; (4) one member from the Department of Public Health
1311 appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health; (5) one member
1312 from the Department of Housing appointed by the Commissioner of
1313 Housing; (6) one member from the Department of Developmental
1314 Services appointed by the Commissioner of Developmental Services;
1315 (7) one member from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
1316 Services appointed by the Commissioner of Mental Health and
1317 Addiction Services; (8) one member from the Department of
1318 Transportation appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation; (9)
1319 one member from the Department of Children and Families appointed
1320 by the Commissioner of Children and Families; and (10) one member
1321 from the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy
1322 appointed by the executive director of the Office of Health Strategy;
1323 and (11) one member from the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1324 and Disability Services appointed by the Commissioner of
1325 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services. The committee shall
1326 convene no later than ninety days after June 4, 1998. Any vacancy shall
1327 be filled by the appointing authority. The chairperson shall be elected
1328 from among the members of the committee. The committee shall seek
1329 the advice and participation of any person, organization or state or
1330 federal agency it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this
1331 section.

1332 Sec. 61. Subsection (b) of section 17b-349e of the general statutes is
1333 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1334 *October 1, 2019*):

1335 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1336 Services shall operate a program, within available appropriations, to
1337 provide respite care services for caretakers of individuals with
1338 Alzheimer's disease, provided such individuals with Alzheimer's

1339 disease meet the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section.
1340 Such respite care services may include, but need not be limited to (1)
1341 homemaker services; (2) adult day care; (3) temporary care in a
1342 licensed medical facility; (4) home-health care; (5) companion services;
1343 or (6) personal care assistant services. Such respite care services may be
1344 administered directly by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1345 Disability Services, or through contracts for services with providers of
1346 such services, or by means of direct subsidy to caretakers of
1347 individuals with Alzheimer's disease to purchase such services.

1348 Sec. 62. Subsection (d) of section 17b-352 of the general statutes is
1349 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1350 *October 1, 2019*):

1351 (d) Any facility acting pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b)
1352 of this section shall provide written notice, at the same time it submits
1353 its letter of intent, to all patients, guardians or conservators, if any, or
1354 legally liable relatives or other responsible parties, if known, and shall
1355 post such notice in a conspicuous location at the facility. The facility's
1356 written notice shall be accompanied by an informational letter issued
1357 jointly from the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the
1358 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services on
1359 patients' rights and services available as they relate to the letter of
1360 intent. The notice shall state the following: (1) The projected date the
1361 facility will be submitting its certificate of need application, (2) that
1362 only the Department of Social Services has the authority to either
1363 grant, modify or deny the application, (3) that the Department of Social
1364 Services has up to ninety days to grant, modify or deny the certificate
1365 of need application, (4) a brief description of the reason or reasons for
1366 submitting a request for permission, (5) that no patient shall be
1367 involuntarily transferred or discharged within or from a facility
1368 pursuant to state and federal law because of the filing of the certificate
1369 of need application, (6) that all patients have a right to appeal any
1370 proposed transfer or discharge, and (7) the name, mailing address and
1371 telephone number of the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
1372 and local legal aid office.

1373 Sec. 63. Section 17b-607 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1374 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1375 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1376 Services is authorized to establish and administer a fund to be known
1377 as the Assistive Technology Revolving Fund. Said fund shall be used
1378 by said commissioner to make loans to persons with disabilities, senior
1379 citizens or the family members of persons with disabilities or senior
1380 citizens for the purchase of assistive technology and adaptive
1381 equipment and services. Each such loan shall be made for a term of not
1382 more than ten years. Any loans made under this section after July 1,
1383 2013, shall bear interest at a fixed rate not to exceed six per cent. Said
1384 commissioner is authorized to expend any funds necessary for the
1385 reasonable direct expenses relating to the administration of said fund.
1386 Said commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
1387 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of this section.

1388 (b) The State Bond Commission shall have power from time to time
1389 to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series in
1390 accordance with section 3-20 and in a principal amount necessary to
1391 carry out the purposes of this section, but not in excess of an aggregate
1392 amount of one million dollars. All of said bonds shall be payable at
1393 such place or places as may be determined by the Treasurer pursuant
1394 to section 3-19 and shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or
1395 times, not exceeding five years from their respective dates, bear
1396 interest at such rate or different or varying rates and payable at such
1397 time or times, be in such denominations, be in such form with or
1398 without interest coupons attached, carry such registration and transfer
1399 privileges, be payable in such medium of payment and be subject to
1400 such terms of redemption with or without premium as, irrespective of
1401 the provisions of said section 3-20, may be provided by the
1402 authorization of the State Bond Commission or fixed in accordance
1403 therewith. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be deposited in
1404 the Assistive Technology Revolving Fund created by this section. Such
1405 bonds shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
1406 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the

1407 principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due.
1408 Accordingly, and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
1409 such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
1410 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made and the
1411 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
1412 due. Net earnings on investments or reinvestments of proceeds,
1413 accrued interest and premiums on the issuance of such bonds, after
1414 payment therefrom of expenses incurred by the Treasurer or State
1415 Bond Commission in connection with their issuance, shall be deposited
1416 in the General Fund of the state.

1417 (c) The Connecticut Tech Act Project, within the Department of
1418 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and as authorized by 29
1419 USC 3001, may provide assistive technology evaluation and training
1420 services upon the request of any person or any public or private entity,
1421 to the extent persons who provide assistive technology services are
1422 available. The project may charge a fee to any person or entity
1423 receiving such assistive technology evaluation and training services to
1424 reimburse the department for its costs. The Commissioner of
1425 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall establish fees at
1426 reasonable rates that will cover the department's direct and indirect
1427 costs.

1428 Sec. 64. Section 17b-612 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1429 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1430 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1431 shall establish a program to assist public school students with
1432 disabilities in preparing for and obtaining competitive employment
1433 and to strengthen the linkage between vocational rehabilitation
1434 services and public schools. Under the program, the Department of
1435 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall provide, within the
1436 limits of available appropriations, vocational evaluations and other
1437 appropriate transitional services and shall provide vocational
1438 rehabilitation counselors to school districts throughout the state. The
1439 counselors shall, if requested, assist those persons planning in-school

1440 skill development programs. The counselors shall, with planning and
1441 placement team members, develop transition plans and individual
1442 education and work rehabilitation plans for students with disabilities
1443 who will no longer be eligible for continued public school services.
1444 Students whose termination date for receipt of public school services is
1445 most immediate shall be given priority.

1446 Sec. 65. Section 17b-614 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1447 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1448 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1449 Services shall establish and maintain a state-wide network of centers
1450 for independent living.

1451 (b) Not more than five per cent of the amount appropriated in any
1452 fiscal year for the purposes of this section may be used by the
1453 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services to
1454 provide state-wide administration, evaluation and technical assistance
1455 relating to the implementation of this section.

1456 Sec. 66. Subsection (b) of section 17b-615 of the general statutes is
1457 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1458 *October 1, 2019*):

1459 (b) The council shall meet regularly with the Commissioner of
1460 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and shall perform the
1461 following duties: (1) Issue an annual report by January first, with
1462 recommendations regarding independent living services and centers,
1463 to the Governor and the chairpersons of the joint standing committee
1464 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1465 human services, and (2) consult with, advise and make
1466 recommendations to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1467 Disability Services concerning independent living and related policy,
1468 management and budgetary issues.

1469 Sec. 67. Section 17b-650a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1470 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1471 (a) There is created a Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1472 Disability Services. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1473 Disability Services shall be responsible for providing the following: (1)
1474 Services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; (2) services for
1475 persons who are blind or visually impaired; (3) rehabilitation services
1476 in accordance with the provisions of the general statutes concerning
1477 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services; and
1478 (4) services for older persons and their families. The Department of
1479 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall constitute a
1480 successor authority to the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services in
1481 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

1482 (b) The department head shall be the Commissioner of
1483 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, who shall be appointed
1484 by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-
1485 8, inclusive, as amended by this act, and shall have the powers and
1486 duties described in said sections. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
1487 Aging and Disability Services shall appoint such persons as may be
1488 necessary to administer the provisions of public act 11-44 and the
1489 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall fix the compensation of
1490 such persons in accordance with the provisions of section 4-40. The
1491 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may
1492 create such sections within the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1493 and Disability Services as will facilitate such administration, including
1494 a disability determinations section for which one hundred per cent
1495 federal funds may be accepted for the operation of such section in
1496 conformity with applicable state and federal regulations. The
1497 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may
1498 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1499 implement the purposes of the department as established by statute.

1500 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1501 Services shall, annually, in accordance with section 4-60, submit to the
1502 Governor a report in electronic format on the activities of the
1503 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services relating
1504 to services provided by the department to persons who (1) are blind or

1505 visually impaired, (2) are deaf or hard of hearing, (3) receive vocational
1506 rehabilitation services, or (4) are older persons or their families. The
1507 report shall include the data the department provides to the federal
1508 government that relates to the evaluation standards and performance
1509 indicators for the vocational rehabilitation services program. The
1510 commissioner shall submit the report in electronic format, in
1511 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
1512 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1513 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
1514 agencies.

1515 (d) The functions, powers, duties and personnel of the former
1516 Department on Aging, or any subsequent division or portion of a
1517 division with similar functions, powers, duties and personnel, shall be
1518 transferred to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1519 Services pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

1520 (e) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1521 shall constitute a successor department to the former Department on
1522 Aging, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and
1523 4-39. Wherever the words "Commissioner on Aging" are used in the
1524 general statutes, the words "Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1525 and Disability Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Wherever
1526 the words "Department on Aging" are used in the general statutes, the
1527 words "Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services"
1528 shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Any order or regulation of the
1529 former Department on Aging that is in force on the effective date of
1530 this section shall continue in force and effect as an order or regulation
1531 of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1532 until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

1533 (f) The Governor may, with the approval of the Finance Advisory
1534 Committee, transfer funds between the Department of Social Services
1535 and the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1536 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-87 during the fiscal year ending
1537 June 30, 2018.

1538 (g) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1539 Services is designated as the State Unit on Aging to administer,
1540 manage, design and advocate for benefits, programs and services for
1541 older persons and their families pursuant to the Older Americans Act.
1542 The department shall study continuously the conditions and needs of
1543 older persons in this state in relation to nutrition, transportation, home
1544 care, housing, income, employment, health, recreation and other
1545 matters. The department shall be responsible, in cooperation with
1546 federal, state, local and area planning agencies on aging, for the overall
1547 planning, development and administration of a comprehensive and
1548 integrated social service delivery system for older persons. The
1549 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
1550 designated as the state agency for the administration of nutritional
1551 programs for elderly persons described in section 17a-302, as amended
1552 by this act, the fall prevention program described in section 17a-303a,
1553 as amended by this act, the CHOICES program described in section
1554 17a-314, as amended by this act, the Aging and Disability Resource
1555 Center Program described in section 17a-316a, as amended by this act,
1556 and the Alzheimer's respite program described in section 17b-349e, as
1557 amended by this act.

1558 Sec. 68. Section 17b-650e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1559 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1560 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1561 may provide necessary services to persons who are deaf or hard of
1562 hearing, including, but not limited to, nonreimbursable interpreter
1563 services and message relay services for persons using
1564 telecommunication devices for persons who are deaf.

1565 Sec. 69. Section 17b-651a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1566 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1567 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1568 shall inquire into the criminal history of any applicant, who is not at
1569 the time of application employed by the Department of
1570 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, for a position of

1571 employment with the department's disability determination services
1572 unit. Such inquiry shall be conducted in accordance with the
1573 provisions of section 31-51i. The commissioner shall require each such
1574 applicant to state whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a
1575 crime, whether criminal charges are pending against the applicant at
1576 the time of application, and, if so, to identify the charges and court in
1577 which such charges are pending. Each such applicant offered a
1578 position of employment with the department's disability
1579 determination services unit shall be required to submit to
1580 fingerprinting and state and national criminal history records checks,
1581 as provided in section 29-17a.

1582 Sec. 70. Section 17b-653 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1583 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1584 (a) Vocational rehabilitation services shall be provided, with or
1585 without public cost, directly or through public or private
1586 instrumentalities, as part of an individual plan for employment for a
1587 person with disabilities determined to be eligible by the Department of
1588 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, in accordance with Title
1589 I of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 USC 701 et seq., as amended from time to
1590 time. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that an
1591 individual's ability or inability to share in the cost of vocational
1592 rehabilitation services may be taken into account during the
1593 determination of eligibility for such services.

1594 (b) If vocational rehabilitation services cannot be provided for all
1595 eligible persons with disabilities who apply for such services, the
1596 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
1597 determine, in accordance with Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
1598 29 USC 701 et seq., and federal regulations, as amended from time to
1599 time, the order to be followed in selecting those to whom such services
1600 will be provided.

1601 (c) Nothing in section 17b-650 or subsection (a) of this section shall
1602 be construed to preclude provision of vocational rehabilitation
1603 services, with or without public cost, to a person with a disability

1604 under an extended evaluation for a total period not in excess of
1605 eighteen months, in accordance with Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of
1606 1973, 29 USC 701 et seq., as amended from time to time.

1607 (d) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1608 Services may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of
1609 chapter 54 to establish standards and procedures governing the
1610 provision of vocational rehabilitation services and, where appropriate,
1611 a means test to determine, based upon the financial need of each
1612 eligible person with disabilities, the extent to which such services will
1613 be provided at public cost. Any funds received by the Department of
1614 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services from individuals or
1615 third parties for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services shall
1616 be used by the department to provide such services. The regulations
1617 may also prescribe the procedures to be used when payment is made
1618 by individuals required to contribute to the cost of vocational
1619 rehabilitation services. Regulations developed to implement a means
1620 test shall include, but not be limited to: (1) An exemption for any
1621 individual with an income of less than one hundred per cent of the
1622 state median income and assets which are less than five thousand
1623 dollars; (2) an exemption for services covered in an individual plan for
1624 employment in effect at the time of implementation of the means test;
1625 (3) an exclusion from an individual's income of the costs of necessary
1626 and reasonable disability-related expenses including, but not limited
1627 to, personal attendant services and medications for which payment is
1628 unavailable to the individual through other benefits or resources; (4)
1629 an exclusion from the individual's assets of the value of the
1630 individual's primary residence and motor vehicle; (5) a method by
1631 which the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1632 Services may reduce the level of required contributions by an
1633 individual in the case of undue hardship; and (6) a requirement that
1634 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services notify
1635 an individual of the results of the means test analysis within thirty
1636 days of receipt of necessary financial information from the individual.
1637 Such means test shall not apply to services covered under a
1638 determination of financial need made by an institution of higher

1639 education. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1640 Services shall develop the regulations in consultation with
1641 representatives of providers of vocational rehabilitation services and
1642 recipients of such services or their representatives.

1643 Sec. 71. Section 17b-654 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1644 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1645 (a) Any applicant for or recipient of vocational rehabilitation
1646 services may request an informal review of any decision made by the
1647 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services pursuant
1648 to section 17b-653, as amended by this act.

1649 (b) Regardless of whether a person requests an informal review
1650 under subsection (a) of this section, any applicant for or recipient of
1651 vocational rehabilitation services who is aggrieved by a decision made
1652 by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1653 pursuant to section 17b-653, as amended by this act, may request an
1654 administrative hearing, by making written request to the
1655 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

1656 (c) An individual who is aggrieved by a final agency decision made
1657 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may appeal therefrom in
1658 accordance with section 4-183. Such appeals shall be privileged cases
1659 to be heard by the court as soon after the return day as shall be
1660 practicable.

1661 Sec. 72. Section 17b-655 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1662 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1663 (a) In carrying out sections 17b-650 to 17b-663, inclusive, the
1664 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
1665 cooperate with other departments, agencies and institutions, both
1666 public and private, in providing for the vocational rehabilitation of
1667 persons with disabilities, in studying the problems involved therein
1668 and in establishing, developing and providing such programs,
1669 facilities and services as it deems necessary or desirable.

1670 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
1671 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall not
1672 be required to pay that portion of the cost of a program of
1673 postsecondary education or training which is properly designated as
1674 expected parental or family contribution in accordance with state and
1675 federal law regarding eligibility for student financial aid.

1676 (b) Subject to the approval of all real estate acquisitions by the
1677 Commissioner of Administrative Services and the State Properties
1678 Review Board, in carrying out said sections, the Department of
1679 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may (1) establish,
1680 operate, foster and promote the establishment of rehabilitation
1681 facilities and make grants to public and other nonprofit and
1682 nonsectarian organizations for such purposes; (2) assist persons with
1683 significant disabilities to establish and operate small businesses; and
1684 (3) make studies, investigations, demonstrations and reports, and
1685 provide training and instruction, including the establishment and
1686 maintenance of such research fellowships and traineeships with such
1687 stipends and allowances as may be deemed necessary, in matters
1688 relating to vocational rehabilitation.

1689 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1690 Services shall develop and maintain a program of public education
1691 and information. The program shall include, but not be limited to,
1692 education of the public concerning services available from the
1693 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, its
1694 policies and goals, an outreach effort to discover persons with
1695 disabilities, including such persons who are minorities as defined in
1696 subsection (a) of section 32-9n, who may benefit from the services it
1697 offers and the dissemination of printed materials to persons at their
1698 initial meeting with staff of the department, including a statement of
1699 such person's rights. Each state agency providing services to persons
1700 with disabilities shall furnish to each person applying for such
1701 services, at the time of initial application, a written summary of all
1702 state programs for persons with disabilities. Such summary shall be
1703 developed by the Department of Social Services as the lead agency for

1704 services to persons with disabilities pursuant to section 17b-606. The
1705 Department of Social Services shall distribute sufficient copies of the
1706 summary to all state agencies providing services to persons with
1707 disabilities in order that such copies may be furnished in accordance
1708 with this subsection.

1709 Sec. 73. Section 17b-657 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1710 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1711 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
1712 authorized to provide such medical, diagnostic, physical restoration,
1713 training and other rehabilitation services as may be needed to enable
1714 persons with disabilities to attain the maximum degree of self care. The
1715 powers herein delegated and authorized to the Department of
1716 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall be in addition to
1717 those authorized by any other law and shall become effective upon
1718 authorization of federal grant-in-aid funds for participation in the cost
1719 of independent living rehabilitation services for persons with
1720 disabilities. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1721 Services shall be authorized to cooperate with whatever federal agency
1722 is directed to administer the federal aspects of such program and to
1723 comply with such requirements and conditions as may be established
1724 for the receipt and disbursement of federal grant-in-aid funds which
1725 may be made available to the state of Connecticut in carrying out such
1726 program.

1727 Sec. 74. Section 17b-658 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1728 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1729 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
1730 authorized to cooperate with the federal government in carrying out
1731 the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to vocational
1732 rehabilitation, to adopt such methods of administration as it finds
1733 necessary for the proper and efficient operation of agreements or plans
1734 for vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as
1735 may be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes to
1736 this state.

1737 Sec. 75. Section 17b-659 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1738 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1739 The State Treasurer is designated as the custodian of all funds
1740 received from the federal government for the purpose of carrying out
1741 any federal statutes pertaining to vocational rehabilitation or any
1742 agreements authorized by sections 17b-650 to 17b-663, inclusive, and
1743 shall make disbursements from such funds and from all state funds
1744 available for vocational rehabilitation purposes upon certification by
1745 the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

1746 Sec. 76. Section 17b-660 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1747 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1748 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1749 is authorized to accept and use gifts made unconditionally by will or
1750 otherwise for carrying out the purposes of the general statutes
1751 concerning the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1752 Services. Gifts made under such conditions as in the judgment of the
1753 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services are
1754 proper and consistent with the provisions of said sections may be so
1755 accepted and shall be held, invested, reinvested and used in
1756 accordance with the conditions of the gift.

1757 Sec. 77. Section 17b-661 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1758 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1759 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
1760 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may,
1761 within the limits of appropriations, purchase (1) wheelchairs and
1762 placement equipment directly and without the issuance of a purchase
1763 order, provided the cost of such purchases shall not be in excess of
1764 twenty thousand dollars per unit, and (2) adaptive equipment,
1765 including equipment to modify vehicles for persons with disabilities
1766 directly and without the issuance of a purchase order, provided the
1767 cost of such purchases of adaptive equipment shall not be in excess of
1768 one hundred twenty thousand dollars per unit. All such purchases

1769 shall be made in the open market, but shall, when possible, be based
1770 on at least three competitive bids. Such bids shall be solicited by
1771 sending notice to prospective suppliers and by posting notice on the
1772 Internet web site of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1773 Disability Services. Each bid shall be opened publicly at the time stated
1774 in the notice soliciting such bid. Acceptance of a bid by the Department
1775 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall be based on
1776 standard specifications as may be adopted by said department.

1777 Sec. 78. Section 17b-666 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1778 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1779 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1780 Services may receive state and federal funds to administer, within
1781 available appropriations, an employment opportunities program to
1782 serve individuals with the most significant disabilities who do not
1783 meet the eligibility requirements of supported employment programs
1784 administered by the Departments of Developmental Services, Social
1785 Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services. For the purposes
1786 of this section, "individuals with the most significant disabilities"
1787 means those individuals who (1) have serious employment limitations
1788 in a total of three or more functional areas including, but not limited
1789 to, mobility, communication, self-care, interpersonal skills, work
1790 tolerance or work skills, or (2) will require significant ongoing
1791 disability-related services on the job in order to maintain employment.

1792 (b) The employment opportunities program shall provide extended
1793 services, as defined in 34 CFR 361.5(b)(19), that are necessary for
1794 individuals with the most significant disabilities to maintain supported
1795 employment. Such services shall include coaching and other related
1796 services that allow participants to obtain and maintain employment
1797 and maximize economic self-sufficiency.

1798 (c) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1799 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement
1800 the provisions of this section.

1801 Sec. 79. Section 21a-3a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1802 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1803 The Department of Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the
1804 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, shall
1805 conduct a public awareness campaign, within available funding, to
1806 educate elderly consumers and caregivers on ways to resist aggressive
1807 marketing tactics and scams.

1808 Sec. 80. Section 23-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the
1809 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1810 (a) Not later than December 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, any
1811 person who has a contractual agreement with the Department of
1812 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services for the operation in any
1813 state park of any food service facility, vending machine or stand for the
1814 vending of goods shall report to the Department of [Rehabilitation]
1815 Aging and Disability Services the amount of revenue that such person
1816 generated during the calendar year as a result of such contract. Not
1817 later than January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Department of
1818 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall compile any
1819 reports received pursuant to this subsection and transmit such reports
1820 to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

1821 (b) On or before January 30, 2016, and each year thereafter, the
1822 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall compile
1823 the following information: (1) The number of food service facilities,
1824 vending machines and stands for the vending of goods that are located
1825 in the state parks and the location of the respective parks that have
1826 such facilities, machines or stands, (2) the amount of revenues
1827 generated from such food service facilities, vending machines and
1828 stands for the vending of goods, as reported to the commissioner by
1829 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1830 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (3) the contractual agreement
1831 or provision of law that provides for the payment of any portion of
1832 such revenues to the state or that prohibits or limits the payment of
1833 such revenues to the state, (4) the amount of such revenues paid to the

1834 state in the subject calendar year, and (5) the manner in which such
1835 revenues were used by the state, if identifiable by the commissioner.

1836 Sec. 81. Section 26-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1837 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1838 No fee shall be charged for any sport fishing license issued under
1839 this chapter to any person who is blind, and such license shall be a
1840 lifetime license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35.
1841 Proof of such blindness shall be furnished, in the case of a veteran, by
1842 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and, in the case of
1843 any other person, by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1844 Disability Services. For the purpose of this section, a person shall be
1845 blind only if his or her central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in
1846 the better eye with correcting lenses, or if his or her visual acuity is
1847 greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of
1848 vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an
1849 angle no greater than twenty degrees.

1850 Sec. 82. Subsection (d) of section 31-280 of the general statutes is
1851 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1852 *October 1, 2019*):

1853 (d) The chairman and the Comptroller, as soon as practicable after
1854 August first in each year, shall ascertain the total amount of expenses
1855 incurred by the commission, including, in addition to the direct cost of
1856 personnel services, the cost of maintenance and operation, rentals for
1857 space occupied in state leased offices and all other direct and indirect
1858 costs, incurred by the commission and the expenses incurred by the
1859 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in
1860 providing rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable
1861 injuries in accordance with the provisions of section 31-283a, as
1862 amended by this act, during the preceding fiscal year in connection
1863 with the administration of the Workers' Compensation Act and the
1864 total noncontributory payments required to be made to the Treasurer
1865 towards commissioners' retirement salaries as provided in sections 51-
1866 49, 51-50, 51-50a and 51-50b. An itemized statement of the expenses as

1867 so ascertained shall be available for public inspection in the office of
1868 the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission for thirty
1869 days after notice to all insurance carriers, and to all employers
1870 permitted to pay compensation directly affected thereby.

1871 Sec. 83. Section 31-283a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1872 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1873 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1874 Services shall provide rehabilitation programs for employees with
1875 compensable injuries within the provisions of this chapter, which
1876 injuries prevented such employees from performing their customary
1877 or most recent work. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1878 Disability Services shall establish rehabilitation programs which shall
1879 best suit the needs of such employees and shall make the programs
1880 available in convenient locations throughout the state. After
1881 consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of
1882 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may establish fees for
1883 the programs, so as to provide the most effective rehabilitation
1884 programs at a minimum rate. In order to carry out the provisions of
1885 this section, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1886 Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
1887 chapter 54, and, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, provide for the
1888 employment of necessary assistants.

1889 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1890 Services shall be authorized to (1) enter into agreements with other
1891 state or federal agencies to carry out the purposes of this section and
1892 expend money for that purpose, and (2) on behalf of the state of
1893 Connecticut, develop matching programs or activities to secure federal
1894 grants or funds for the purposes of this section and may pledge or use
1895 funds supplied from the administrative costs fund, as provided in
1896 section 31-345, as amended by this act, to finance the state's share of
1897 the programs or activities.

1898 Sec. 84. Subsection (a) of section 31-296 of the general statutes is
1899 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

1900 *October 1, 2019*):

1901 (a) If an employer and an injured employee, or in case of fatal injury
1902 the employee's legal representative or dependent, at a date not earlier
1903 than the expiration of the waiting period, reach an agreement in regard
1904 to compensation, such agreement shall be submitted in writing to the
1905 commissioner by the employer with a statement of the time, place and
1906 nature of the injury upon which it is based; and, if such commissioner
1907 finds such agreement to conform to the provisions of this chapter in
1908 every regard, the commissioner shall so approve it. A copy of the
1909 agreement, with a statement of the commissioner's approval, shall be
1910 delivered to each of the parties and thereafter it shall be as binding
1911 upon both parties as an award by the commissioner. The
1912 commissioner's statement of approval shall also inform the employee
1913 or the employee's dependent, as the case may be, of any rights the
1914 individual may have to an annual cost-of-living adjustment or to
1915 participate in a rehabilitation program administered by the
1916 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services under
1917 the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner shall retain the
1918 original agreement, with the commissioner's approval thereof, in the
1919 commissioner's office and, if an application is made to the superior
1920 court for an execution, the commissioner shall, upon the request of
1921 said court, file in the court a certified copy of the agreement and
1922 statement of approval.

1923 Sec. 85. Section 31-300 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1924 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1925 As soon as may be after the conclusion of any hearing, but no later
1926 than one hundred twenty days after such conclusion, the
1927 commissioner shall send to each party a written copy of the
1928 commissioner's findings and award. The commissioner shall, as part of
1929 the written award, inform the employee or the employee's dependent,
1930 as the case may be, of any rights the individual may have to an annual
1931 cost-of-living adjustment or to participate in a rehabilitation program
1932 administered by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and

1933 Disability Services under the provisions of this chapter. The
1934 commissioner shall retain the original findings and award in said
1935 commissioner's office. If no appeal from the decision is taken by either
1936 party within twenty days thereafter, such award shall be final and may
1937 be enforced in the same manner as a judgment of the Superior Court.
1938 The court may issue execution upon any uncontested or final award of
1939 a commissioner in the same manner as in cases of judgments rendered
1940 in the Superior Court; and, upon the filing of an application to the
1941 court for an execution, the commissioner in whose office the award is
1942 on file shall, upon the request of the clerk of said court, send to the
1943 clerk a certified copy of such findings and award. In cases where,
1944 through the fault or neglect of the employer or insurer, adjustments of
1945 compensation have been unduly delayed, or where through such fault
1946 or neglect, payments have been unduly delayed, the commissioner
1947 may include in the award interest at the rate prescribed in section 37-
1948 3a and a reasonable attorney's fee in the case of undue delay in
1949 adjustments of compensation and may include in the award in the case
1950 of undue delay in payments of compensation, interest at twelve per
1951 cent per annum and a reasonable attorney's fee. Payments not
1952 commenced within thirty-five days after the filing of a written notice of
1953 claim shall be presumed to be unduly delayed unless a notice to
1954 contest the claim is filed in accordance with section 31-297. In cases
1955 where there has been delay in either adjustment or payment, which
1956 delay has not been due to the fault or neglect of the employer or
1957 insurer, whether such delay was caused by appeals or otherwise, the
1958 commissioner may allow interest at such rate, not to exceed the rate
1959 prescribed in section 37-3a, as may be fair and reasonable, taking into
1960 account whatever advantage the employer or insurer, as the case may
1961 be, may have had from the use of the money, the burden of showing
1962 that the rate in such case should be less than the rate prescribed in
1963 section 37-3a to be upon the employer or insurer. In cases where the
1964 claimant prevails and the commissioner finds that the employer or
1965 insurer has unreasonably contested liability, the commissioner may
1966 allow to the claimant a reasonable attorney's fee. No employer or
1967 insurer shall discontinue or reduce payment on account of total or

1968 partial incapacity under any such award, if it is claimed by or on
1969 behalf of the injured person that such person's incapacity still
1970 continues, unless such employer or insurer notifies the commissioner
1971 and the employee of such proposed discontinuance or reduction in the
1972 manner prescribed in section 31-296, as amended by this act, and the
1973 commissioner specifically approves such discontinuance or reduction
1974 in writing. The commissioner shall render the decision within fourteen
1975 days of receipt of such notice and shall forward to all parties to the
1976 claim a copy of the decision not later than seven days after the decision
1977 has been rendered. If the decision of the commissioner finds for the
1978 employer or insurer, the injured person shall return any wrongful
1979 payments received from the day designated by the commissioner as
1980 the effective date for the discontinuance or reduction of benefits. Any
1981 employee whose benefits for total incapacity are discontinued under
1982 the provisions of this section and who is entitled to receive benefits for
1983 partial incapacity as a result of an award, shall receive those benefits
1984 commencing the day following the designated effective date for the
1985 discontinuance of benefits for total incapacity. In any case where the
1986 commissioner finds that the employer or insurer has discontinued or
1987 reduced any such payment without having given such notice and
1988 without the commissioner having approved such discontinuance or
1989 reduction in writing, the commissioner shall allow the claimant a
1990 reasonable attorney's fee together with interest at the rate prescribed in
1991 section 37-3a on the discontinued or reduced payments.

1992 Sec. 86. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-345 of the
1993 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1994 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1995 (2) The chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission shall
1996 annually, on or after July first of each fiscal year, determine an amount
1997 sufficient in the chairman's judgment to meet the expenses incurred by
1998 the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Department of
1999 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in providing
2000 rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable injuries in
2001 accordance with section 31-283a, as amended by this act. Such

2002 expenses shall include (A) the costs of the Division of Workers'
2003 Rehabilitation and the programs established by its director, for fiscal
2004 years prior to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, (B) the costs of the
2005 Division of Worker Education and the programs established by its
2006 director, and (C) funding for the occupational health clinic program
2007 created pursuant to sections 31-396 to 31-402, inclusive. The Treasurer
2008 shall thereupon assess upon and collect from each employer, other
2009 than the state and any municipality participating for purposes of its
2010 liability under this chapter as a member in an interlocal risk
2011 management agency pursuant to chapter 113a, the proportion of such
2012 expenses, based on the immediately preceding fiscal year, that the total
2013 compensation and payment for hospital, medical and nursing care
2014 made by such self-insured employer or private insurance carrier acting
2015 on behalf of any such employer bore to the total compensation and
2016 payments for the immediately preceding fiscal year for hospital,
2017 medical and nursing care made by such insurance carriers and
2018 self-insurers. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, and June 30,
2019 2001, such assessments shall not exceed five per cent of such total
2020 compensation and payments made by such insurance carriers and self-
2021 insurers. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003,
2022 such assessments shall not exceed four and one-half per cent of such
2023 total compensation and payments made by such insurance carriers and
2024 self-insurers. For any fiscal year ending on or after June 30, 2004, such
2025 assessment shall not exceed four per cent of such total compensation
2026 and payments made by such insurance carriers and self-insurers. Such
2027 assessments and expenses shall not exceed the budget estimates
2028 submitted in accordance with subsection (c) of section 31-280. For each
2029 fiscal year, such assessment shall be reduced pro rata by the amount of
2030 any surplus from the assessments of prior fiscal years. Said surplus
2031 shall be determined in accordance with subdivision (3) of this
2032 subsection. Such assessments shall be made in one annual assessment
2033 upon receipt of the chairman's expense determination by the
2034 Treasurer. All assessments shall be paid not later than sixty days
2035 following the date of the assessment by the Treasurer. Any employer
2036 who fails to pay such assessment to the Treasurer within the time

2037 prescribed by this subdivision shall pay interest to the Treasurer on the
2038 assessment at the rate of eight per cent per annum from the date the
2039 assessment is due until the date of payment. All assessments received
2040 by the Treasurer pursuant to this subdivision to meet the expenses of
2041 the Workers' Compensation Commission shall be deposited in the
2042 Workers' Compensation Administration Fund established under
2043 section 31-344a. All assessments received by the Treasurer pursuant to
2044 this subdivision to meet the expenses incurred by the Department of
2045 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in providing
2046 rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable injuries in
2047 accordance with section 31-283a, as amended by this act, shall be
2048 deposited in the Workers' Compensation Administration Fund. The
2049 Treasurer is hereby authorized to make credits or rebates for
2050 overpayments made under this subsection by any employer for any
2051 fiscal year.

2052 Sec. 87. Subsection (a) of section 31-349b of the general statutes is
2053 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2054 *October 1, 2019*):

2055 (a) Any employee who has suffered a compensable injury under the
2056 provisions of this chapter, and who is receiving benefits for such injury
2057 from the Second Injury Fund pursuant to the provisions of section 31-
2058 349, may file a written request with the commissioner in the district
2059 where the original claim was filed for a hearing to determine whether
2060 the employee's injury constitutes a permanent vocational disability.
2061 The hearing shall be held within sixty days of the date the request was
2062 filed. Upon the request of the commissioner and prior to the
2063 conclusion of such hearing, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
2064 Aging and Disability Services shall, after receiving such information
2065 on the case which the commissioner deems necessary, submit written
2066 recommendations concerning the case to the commissioner for his
2067 consideration. The commissioner shall issue his decision, in writing,
2068 within ten days after the conclusion of the hearing. If the commissioner
2069 determines that the employee's injury is a permanent vocational
2070 disability, the employee shall be issued a certificate of disability by the

2071 commissioner. Such certificate shall be effective for a stated period of
2072 time of from one to five years, as determined by the commissioner. The
2073 decision of the commissioner may be appealed in accordance with the
2074 provisions of section 31-301.

2075 Sec. 88. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 38a-47 of the
2076 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2077 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2078 (4) The amount appropriated to the Department of [Rehabilitation]
2079 Aging and Disability Services for the fall prevention program
2080 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, from the
2081 Insurance Fund for the fiscal year.

2082 Sec. 89. Subsection (b) of section 38a-48 of the general statutes is
2083 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2084 *October 1, 2019*):

2085 (b) On or before July thirty-first, annually, the Insurance
2086 Commissioner and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall render
2087 to each domestic insurance company or other domestic entity liable for
2088 payment under section 38a-47, as amended by this act: (1) A statement
2089 that includes (A) the amount appropriated to the Insurance
2090 Department, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate and the Office of
2091 Health Strategy from the Insurance Fund established under section
2092 38a-52a for the fiscal year beginning July first of the same year, (B) the
2093 cost of fringe benefits for department and office personnel for such
2094 year, as estimated by the Comptroller, (C) the estimated expenditures
2095 on behalf of the department and the offices from the Capital
2096 Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9 for such year, not
2097 including such estimated expenditures made on behalf of the Health
2098 Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, and (D) the
2099 amount appropriated to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2100 Disability Services for the fall prevention program established in
2101 section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, from the Insurance Fund for
2102 the fiscal year; (2) a statement of the total taxes imposed on all
2103 domestic insurance companies and domestic insurance entities under

2104 chapter 207 on business done in this state during the preceding
2105 calendar year; and (3) the proposed assessment against that company
2106 or entity, calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c)
2107 of this section, provided for the purposes of this calculation the
2108 amount appropriated to the Insurance Department, the Office of the
2109 Healthcare Advocate and the Office of Health Strategy from the
2110 Insurance Fund plus the cost of fringe benefits for department and
2111 office personnel and the estimated expenditures on behalf of the
2112 department and the office from the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund
2113 pursuant to section 4a-9, not including such expenditures made on
2114 behalf of the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health
2115 Strategy shall be deemed to be the actual expenditures of the
2116 department and the office, and the amount appropriated to the
2117 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services from the
2118 Insurance Fund for the fiscal year for the fall prevention program
2119 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, shall be
2120 deemed to be the actual expenditures for the program.

2121 Sec. 90. Subsection (g) of section 38a-48 of the general statutes is
2122 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2123 *October 1, 2019*):

2124 (g) If the actual expenditures for the fall prevention program
2125 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, are less than
2126 the amount allocated, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2127 Disability Services shall notify the Insurance Commissioner and the
2128 Healthcare Advocate. Immediately following the close of the fiscal
2129 year, the Insurance Commissioner and the Healthcare Advocate shall
2130 recalculate the proposed assessment for each domestic insurance
2131 company or other domestic entity in accordance with subsection (c) of
2132 this section using the actual expenditures made during the fiscal year
2133 by the Insurance Department, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate
2134 and the Office of Health Strategy from the Insurance Fund, the actual
2135 expenditures made on behalf of the department and the offices from
2136 the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9, not
2137 including such expenditures made on behalf of the Health Systems

2138 Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, and the actual
2139 expenditures for the fall prevention program. On or before July thirty-
2140 first, the Insurance Commissioner and the Healthcare Advocate shall
2141 render to each such domestic insurance company and other domestic
2142 entity a statement showing the difference between their respective
2143 recalculated assessments and the amount they have previously paid.
2144 On or before August thirty-first, the Insurance Commissioner and the
2145 Healthcare Advocate, after receiving any objections to such statements,
2146 shall make such adjustments which in their opinion may be indicated,
2147 and shall render an adjusted assessment, if any, to the affected
2148 companies.

2149 Sec. 91. Section 38a-475 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2150 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2151 The Insurance Department shall only precertify long-term care
2152 insurance policies that (1) alert the purchaser to the availability of
2153 consumer information and public education provided by the
2154 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services pursuant
2155 to section 17b-251, as amended by this act; (2) offer the option of home
2156 and community-based services in addition to nursing home care; (3) in
2157 all home care plans, include case management services delivered by an
2158 access agency approved by the Office of Policy and Management and
2159 the Department of Social Services as meeting the requirements for such
2160 agency as defined in regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (e) of
2161 section 17b-342, which services shall include, but need not be limited
2162 to, the development of a comprehensive individualized assessment
2163 and care plan and, as needed, the coordination of appropriate services
2164 and the monitoring of the delivery of such services; (4) provide
2165 inflation protection; (5) provide for the keeping of records and an
2166 explanation of benefit reports on insurance payments which count
2167 toward Medicaid resource exclusion; and (6) provide the management
2168 information and reports necessary to document the extent of Medicaid
2169 resource protection offered and to evaluate the Connecticut
2170 Partnership for Long-Term Care. No policy shall be precertified if it
2171 requires prior hospitalization or a prior stay in a nursing home as a

2172 condition of providing benefits. The commissioner may adopt
2173 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the
2174 precertification provisions of this section.

2175 Sec. 92. Subsection (a) of section 46a-28 of the general statutes is
2176 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2177 *October 1, 2019*):

2178 (a) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of
2179 Hearing shall consist of the following sixteen members appointed by
2180 the Governor: (1) The consultant appointed by the State Board of
2181 Education in accordance with section 10-316a, or the consultant's
2182 designee; (2) the president of the Connecticut Council of Organizations
2183 Serving the Deaf, or the president's designee; (3) the president of the
2184 Connecticut Association of the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the
2185 president of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or
2186 the president's designee; (5) the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
2187 Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the
2188 executive director of the American School for the Deaf, or the executive
2189 director's designee; (7) a parent of a student in a predominantly oral
2190 education program; (8) a parent of a student at the American School
2191 for the Deaf; (9) a person who is deaf; (10) a person who is hard of
2192 hearing; (11) a person who is deaf and blind; (12) an interpreting
2193 professional who serves deaf or hard of hearing persons; (13) a
2194 healthcare professional who works with persons who are deaf or hard
2195 of hearing; (14) the Governor's liaison to the disability community; (15)
2196 an educator who works with children who are deaf or hard of hearing;
2197 and (16) the director of the Connecticut Chapter of We the Deaf
2198 People. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2199 Services, the Governor's liaison to the disability community and a
2200 member chosen by the majority of the board shall be the chairpersons
2201 of the advisory board.

2202 Sec. 93. Subsection (a) of section 46a-29 of the general statutes is
2203 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2204 *October 1, 2019*):

2205 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2206 Services may request and shall receive from any department, division,
2207 board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or of any political
2208 subdivision thereof such assistance and data as will enable the
2209 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services to
2210 properly carry out its activities under sections 17b-650e, as amended
2211 by this act, and 46a-30 to 46a-33b, inclusive, as amended by this act,
2212 and to effectuate the purposes therein set forth.

2213 Sec. 94. Section 46a-30 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2214 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2215 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2216 Services may receive moneys from any source, including gifts, grants,
2217 bequests and reimbursements which moneys may be expended for the
2218 purposes designated by the donor or to effectuate the provisions of
2219 sections 17b-650e, as amended by this act, and 46a-29 to 46a-33b,
2220 inclusive, as amended by this act.

2221 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2222 Services is empowered to expend its appropriation and receipts to
2223 initiate and support the provisions of said sections by contract or other
2224 arrangement and to contract for and engage consultants.

2225 Sec. 95. Subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 46a-33a of the
2226 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2227 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2228 (b) All persons providing interpreting services shall register,
2229 annually, with the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2230 Services. Such registration shall be on a form prescribed or furnished
2231 by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
2232 and shall include the registrant's name, address, phone number, place
2233 of employment as interpreter and interpreter certification or
2234 credentials. The department shall issue identification cards for those
2235 who register in accordance with this section.

2236 (c) No person shall provide interpreting services unless such person
2237 is registered with the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2238 Disability Services according to the provisions of this section and (1)
2239 has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written
2240 generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National
2241 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
2242 examination, holds a level three certification provided by the National
2243 Association of the Deaf, documents the achievement of two continuing
2244 education units per year for a maximum of five years of training
2245 approved by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2246 Disability Services, and on or before the fifth anniversary of having
2247 passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written
2248 generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National
2249 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
2250 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the
2251 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the
2252 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter
2253 certification examination, (2) has passed the National Registry of
2254 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test or the National
2255 Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
2256 certification knowledge examination and is a graduate of an accredited
2257 interpreter training program and documents the achievement of two
2258 continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of
2259 training approved by the commissioner, and on or before the fifth
2260 anniversary of having passed the National Registry of Interpreters for
2261 the Deaf written generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-
2262 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
2263 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the
2264 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the
2265 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter
2266 certification examination, (3) holds a level four or higher certification
2267 from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds certification by the
2268 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations
2269 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the
2270 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for situations

2271 requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds certification from the
2272 National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed
2273 the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist
2274 test, (7) holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter
2275 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or (8) holds a
2276 National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for
2277 the Deaf national interpreting certificate.

2278 (d) No person shall provide interpreting services in a medical
2279 setting unless such person is registered with the Department of
2280 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services according to the
2281 provisions of this section and (1) holds a comprehensive skills
2282 certificate from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (2)
2283 holds a certificate of interpretation or a certificate of transliteration
2284 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) holds a level
2285 four or higher certification from the National Association of the Deaf,
2286 (4) holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter
2287 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for
2288 situations requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification
2289 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for
2290 situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds
2291 certification from the National Training, Evaluation and Certification
2292 Unit and has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
2293 written generalist test, or (7) holds a National Association of the Deaf-
2294 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting
2295 certificate.

2296 (e) No person shall provide interpreting services in a legal setting
2297 unless such person is registered with the Department of
2298 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services according to the
2299 provisions of this section and (1) holds a comprehensive skills
2300 certificate from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (2)
2301 holds a certificate of interpretation and a certificate of transliteration
2302 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) holds a level
2303 five certification from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds a
2304 reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter under the

2305 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations
2306 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the
2307 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for situations
2308 requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds certification from the
2309 National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed
2310 the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist
2311 test, or (7) holds a National Association of the Deaf-National Registry
2312 of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting certificate.

2313 Sec. 96. Section 46a-33b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2314 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2315 Upon the request of any person or any public or private entity, the
2316 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may
2317 provide interpreting services to assist such person or entity to the
2318 extent such persons who provide interpreting services are available.
2319 Any person or entity receiving interpreting services through the
2320 department shall reimburse the department for such services at a rate
2321 set by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2322 Services. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with
2323 the provisions of chapter 54 to establish the manner of rate setting.

2324 Sec. 97. Section 46a-33c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2325 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2326 For purposes of this section, "state agency" has the same meaning as
2327 provided in section 9-612 and "interpreting" has the same meaning as
2328 provided in section 46a-33a, as amended by this act. Any state agency
2329 that is unable to fulfill a request for interpreting services with its own
2330 interpreting staff shall first request such services from the Department
2331 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and may seek such
2332 services elsewhere if (1) the department is unable to fulfill the request
2333 in two business days, or (2) the agency shows good cause that it needs
2334 such services immediately. The provisions of this section shall not (A)
2335 apply to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2336 Services if the department needs interpreting services related to an
2337 internal matter and the use of department interpreters may raise

2338 confidentiality concerns, or (B) affect any preexisting contract for
 2339 interpreting services. Interpreting services provided by a state agency
 2340 shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 46a-33a, as
 2341 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	3-123aa(c)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-5
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	4-5
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-38c
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	4-38c
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-61aa(a)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-89(g)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-274(7)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4a-82(a)(1)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4a-82(h) to (k)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	5-175a(a)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	5-198(22)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	5-259(e)
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	7-127b
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	8-119f
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	9-20(c)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-76i(a)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-76y(a)
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-293(b)(1)
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-295
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-296
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-297
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-297a
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-298
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-303
Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-305
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-306
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-307
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-308
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-308a
Sec. 31	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-309
Sec. 32	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	10-311a

Sec. 33	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	12-217oo(a)(4)
Sec. 34	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	12-217pp(a)(7)
Sec. 35	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	12-217pp(e)(1)
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-11b
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-253a(b)
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-215d(a)
Sec. 39	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-248(9)
Sec. 40	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-302(a)
Sec. 41	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-302a
Sec. 42	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-303a
Sec. 43	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-304
Sec. 44	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-305
Sec. 45	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-306
Sec. 46	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-310
Sec. 47	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-313
Sec. 48	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-314
Sec. 49	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-316a(a)
Sec. 50	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-405(a) and (b)
Sec. 51	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-407
Sec. 52	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-411(c)
Sec. 53	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-416
Sec. 54	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-417
Sec. 55	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-422(c)
Sec. 56	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17a-667(b)
Sec. 57	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-4(b)
Sec. 58	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-28(c)(11)
Sec. 59	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-251
Sec. 60	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-337(c)
Sec. 61	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-349e(b)
Sec. 62	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-352(d)
Sec. 63	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-607
Sec. 64	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-612
Sec. 65	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-614
Sec. 66	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-615(b)
Sec. 67	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-650a
Sec. 68	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-650e
Sec. 69	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-651a
Sec. 70	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-653
Sec. 71	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-654
Sec. 72	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-655
Sec. 73	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-657

Sec. 74	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-658
Sec. 75	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-659
Sec. 76	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-660
Sec. 77	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-661
Sec. 78	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	17b-666
Sec. 79	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	21a-3a
Sec. 80	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	23-15c
Sec. 81	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	26-29
Sec. 82	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-280(d)
Sec. 83	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-283a
Sec. 84	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-296(a)
Sec. 85	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-300
Sec. 86	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-345(b)(2)
Sec. 87	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-349b(a)
Sec. 88	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	38a-47(a)(4)
Sec. 89	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	38a-48(b)
Sec. 90	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	38a-48(g)
Sec. 91	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	38a-475
Sec. 92	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	46a-28(a)
Sec. 93	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	46a-29(a)
Sec. 94	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	46a-30
Sec. 95	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	46a-33a(b) to (e)
Sec. 96	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	46a-33b
Sec. 97	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	46a-33c

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Sections 2 and 5 were deleted, a new Section 5 was added and the sections were renumbered accordingly for accuracy. In renumbered Section 2, "Commissioner on Aging" was bracketed and in renumbered Section 4, "Department of Aging" was bracketed, for accuracy.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Rehabilitation Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	5,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which changes the name of the Department of Rehabilitation Services to the Department of Aging and Disability Services, is anticipated to result in a cost of approximately \$5,000 in FY 20 related to the signage required for the renaming. It is assumed that the administrative changes related to the renaming of the agency will be phased-in over FY 20.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7163

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes technical changes throughout statute in reference to the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) being renamed the "Department of Aging and Disability Services" and adds the new agency title to the statutory list of executive branch agencies.

The bill also deletes two obsolete references to the Department of Aging. PA 18-169 transferred the functions, powers, duties, and personnel of the former State Department on Aging from the Department of Social Services to DORS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019, except two technical changes are effective July 1, 2020.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/19/2019)