



# House of Representatives

**File No. 967**

General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**(Reprint of File No. 264)**

Substitute House Bill No. 7163  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 22, 2019

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES AND MEALS ON WHEELS.**

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  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18 public act 18-91, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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] Department of  
1481 Rehabilitation Services in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-  
1482 38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

1483 (b) The department head shall be the Commissioner of  
1484 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, who shall be appointed  
1485 by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-  
1486 8, inclusive, as amended by this act, and shall have the powers and  
1487 duties described in said sections. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]  
1488 Aging and Disability Services shall appoint such persons as may be  
1489 necessary to administer the provisions of public act 11-44 and the

1490 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall fix the compensation of  
1491 such persons in accordance with the provisions of section 4-40. The  
1492 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may  
1493 create such sections within the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging  
1494 and Disability Services as will facilitate such administration, including  
1495 a disability determinations section for which one hundred per cent  
1496 federal funds may be accepted for the operation of such section in  
1497 conformity with applicable state and federal regulations. The  
1498 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may  
1499 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to  
1500 implement the purposes of the department as established by statute.

1501 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1502 Services shall, annually, in accordance with section 4-60, submit to the  
1503 Governor a report in electronic format on the activities of the  
1504 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services relating  
1505 to services provided by the department to persons who (1) are blind or  
1506 visually impaired, (2) are deaf or hard of hearing, (3) receive vocational  
1507 rehabilitation services, or (4) are older persons or their families. The  
1508 report shall include the data the department provides to the federal  
1509 government that relates to the evaluation standards and performance  
1510 indicators for the vocational rehabilitation services program. The  
1511 commissioner shall submit the report in electronic format, in  
1512 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
1513 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
1514 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state  
1515 agencies.

1516 (d) The functions, powers, duties and personnel of the former  
1517 Department on Aging, or any subsequent division or portion of a  
1518 division with similar functions, powers, duties and personnel, shall be  
1519 transferred to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1520 Services pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

1521 (e) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
1522 shall constitute a successor department to the former Department on



1523 Aging, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and  
1524 4-39. Wherever the words "Commissioner on Aging" are used in the  
1525 general statutes, the words "Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging  
1526 and Disability Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Wherever  
1527 the words "Department on Aging" are used in the general statutes, the  
1528 words "Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services"  
1529 shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Any order or regulation of the  
1530 former Department on Aging that is in force on the effective date of  
1531 this section shall continue in force and effect as an order or regulation  
1532 of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
1533 until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

1534 (f) The Governor may, with the approval of the Finance Advisory  
1535 Committee, transfer funds between the Department of Social Services  
1536 and the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
1537 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-87 during the fiscal year ending  
1538 June 30, 2018.

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

1557 and the Alzheimer's respite program described in section 17b-349e, as  
1558 amended by this act.

1559 Sec. 68. Section 17b-650e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1560 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1561 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
1562 may provide necessary services to persons who are deaf or hard of  
1563 hearing, including, but not limited to, nonreimbursable interpreter  
1564 services and message relay services for persons using  
1565 telecommunication devices for persons who are deaf.

1566 Sec. 69. Section 17b-651a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1567 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1568 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
1569 shall inquire into the criminal history of any applicant, who is not at  
1570 the time of application employed by the Department of  
1571 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, for a position of  
1572 employment with the department's disability determination services  
1573 unit. Such inquiry shall be conducted in accordance with the  
1574 provisions of section 31-51i. The commissioner shall require each such  
1575 applicant to state whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a  
1576 crime, whether criminal charges are pending against the applicant at  
1577 the time of application, and, if so, to identify the charges and court in  
1578 which such charges are pending. Each such applicant offered a  
1579 position of employment with the department's disability  
1580 determination services unit shall be required to submit to  
1581 fingerprinting and state and national criminal history records checks,  
1582 as provided in section 29-17a.

1583 Sec. 70. Section 17b-653 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1584 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1585 (a) Vocational rehabilitation services shall be provided, with or  
1586 without public cost, directly or through public or private  
1587 instrumentalities, as part of an individual plan for employment for a

1588 person with disabilities determined to be eligible by the Department of  
1589 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, in accordance with Title  
1590 I of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 USC 701 et seq., as amended from time to  
1591 time. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that an  
1592 individual's ability or inability to share in the cost of vocational  
1593 rehabilitation services may be taken into account during the  
1594 determination of eligibility for such services.

1595 (b) If vocational rehabilitation services cannot be provided for all  
1596 eligible persons with disabilities who apply for such services, the  
1597 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall  
1598 determine, in accordance with Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,  
1599 29 USC 701 et seq., and federal regulations, as amended from time to  
1600 time, the order to be followed in selecting those to whom such services  
1601 will be provided.

1602 (c) Nothing in section 17b-650 or subsection (a) of this section shall  
1603 be construed to preclude provision of vocational rehabilitation  
1604 services, with or without public cost, to a person with a disability  
1605 under an extended evaluation for a total period not in excess of  
1606 eighteen months, in accordance with Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of  
1607 1973, 29 USC 701 et seq., as amended from time to time.

1608 (d) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1609 Services may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of  
1610 chapter 54 to establish standards and procedures governing the  
1611 provision of vocational rehabilitation services and, where appropriate,  
1612 a means test to determine, based upon the financial need of each  
1613 eligible person with disabilities, the extent to which such services will  
1614 be provided at public cost. Any funds received by the Department of  
1615 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services from individuals or  
1616 third parties for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services shall  
1617 be used by the department to provide such services. The regulations  
1618 may also prescribe the procedures to be used when payment is made  
1619 by individuals required to contribute to the cost of vocational  
1620 rehabilitation services. Regulations developed to implement a means

1621 test shall include, but not be limited to: (1) An exemption for any  
1622 individual with an income of less than one hundred per cent of the  
1623 state median income and assets which are less than five thousand  
1624 dollars; (2) an exemption for services covered in an individual plan for  
1625 employment in effect at the time of implementation of the means test;  
1626 (3) an exclusion from an individual's income of the costs of necessary  
1627 and reasonable disability-related expenses including, but not limited  
1628 to, personal attendant services and medications for which payment is  
1629 unavailable to the individual through other benefits or resources; (4)  
1630 an exclusion from the individual's assets of the value of the  
1631 individual's primary residence and motor vehicle; (5) a method by  
1632 which the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1633 Services may reduce the level of required contributions by an  
1634 individual in the case of undue hardship; and (6) a requirement that  
1635 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services notify  
1636 an individual of the results of the means test analysis within thirty  
1637 days of receipt of necessary financial information from the individual.  
1638 Such means test shall not apply to services covered under a  
1639 determination of financial need made by an institution of higher  
1640 education. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1641 Services shall develop the regulations in consultation with  
1642 representatives of providers of vocational rehabilitation services and  
1643 recipients of such services or their representatives.

1644 Sec. 71. Section 17b-654 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1645 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1646 (a) Any applicant for or recipient of vocational rehabilitation  
1647 services may request an informal review of any decision made by the  
1648 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services pursuant  
1649 to section 17b-653, as amended by this act.

1650 (b) Regardless of whether a person requests an informal review  
1651 under subsection (a) of this section, any applicant for or recipient of  
1652 vocational rehabilitation services who is aggrieved by a decision made  
1653 by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services

1654 pursuant to section 17b-653, as amended by this act, may request an  
1655 administrative hearing, by making written request to the  
1656 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

1657 (c) An individual who is aggrieved by a final agency decision made  
1658 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may appeal therefrom in  
1659 accordance with section 4-183. Such appeals shall be privileged cases  
1660 to be heard by the court as soon after the return day as shall be  
1661 practicable.

1662 Sec. 72. Section 17b-655 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1663 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1664 (a) In carrying out sections 17b-650 to 17b-663, inclusive, the  
1665 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall  
1666 cooperate with other departments, agencies and institutions, both  
1667 public and private, in providing for the vocational rehabilitation of  
1668 persons with disabilities, in studying the problems involved therein  
1669 and in establishing, developing and providing such programs,  
1670 facilities and services as it deems necessary or desirable.  
1671 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the  
1672 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall not  
1673 be required to pay that portion of the cost of a program of  
1674 postsecondary education or training which is properly designated as  
1675 expected parental or family contribution in accordance with state and  
1676 federal law regarding eligibility for student financial aid.

1677 (b) Subject to the approval of all real estate acquisitions by the  
1678 Commissioner of Administrative Services and the State Properties  
1679 Review Board, in carrying out said sections, the Department of  
1680 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may (1) establish,  
1681 operate, foster and promote the establishment of rehabilitation  
1682 facilities and make grants to public and other nonprofit and  
1683 nonsectarian organizations for such purposes; (2) assist persons with  
1684 significant disabilities to establish and operate small businesses; and  
1685 (3) make studies, investigations, demonstrations and reports, and

1686 provide training and instruction, including the establishment and  
1687 maintenance of such research fellowships and traineeships with such  
1688 stipends and allowances as may be deemed necessary, in matters  
1689 relating to vocational rehabilitation.

1690 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1691 Services shall develop and maintain a program of public education  
1692 and information. The program shall include, but not be limited to,  
1693 education of the public concerning services available from the  
1694 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, its  
1695 policies and goals, an outreach effort to discover persons with  
1696 disabilities, including such persons who are minorities as defined in  
1697 subsection (a) of section 32-9n, who may benefit from the services it  
1698 offers and the dissemination of printed materials to persons at their  
1699 initial meeting with staff of the department, including a statement of  
1700 such person's rights. Each state agency providing services to persons  
1701 with disabilities shall furnish to each person applying for such  
1702 services, at the time of initial application, a written summary of all  
1703 state programs for persons with disabilities. Such summary shall be  
1704 developed by the Department of Social Services as the lead agency for  
1705 services to persons with disabilities pursuant to section 17b-606. The  
1706 Department of Social Services shall distribute sufficient copies of the  
1707 summary to all state agencies providing services to persons with  
1708 disabilities in order that such copies may be furnished in accordance  
1709 with this subsection.

1710 Sec. 73. Section 17b-657 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1711 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1712 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is  
1713 authorized to provide such medical, diagnostic, physical restoration,  
1714 training and other rehabilitation services as may be needed to enable  
1715 persons with disabilities to attain the maximum degree of self care. The  
1716 powers herein delegated and authorized to the Department of  
1717 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall be in addition to  
1718 those authorized by any other law and shall become effective upon

1719 authorization of federal grant-in-aid funds for participation in the cost  
1720 of independent living rehabilitation services for persons with  
1721 disabilities. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1722 Services shall be authorized to cooperate with whatever federal agency  
1723 is directed to administer the federal aspects of such program and to  
1724 comply with such requirements and conditions as may be established  
1725 for the receipt and disbursement of federal grant-in-aid funds which  
1726 may be made available to the state of Connecticut in carrying out such  
1727 program.

1728 Sec. 74. Section 17b-658 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1729 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1730 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is  
1731 authorized to cooperate with the federal government in carrying out  
1732 the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to vocational  
1733 rehabilitation, to adopt such methods of administration as it finds  
1734 necessary for the proper and efficient operation of agreements or plans  
1735 for vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as  
1736 may be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes to  
1737 this state.

1738 Sec. 75. Section 17b-659 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1739 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1740 The State Treasurer is designated as the custodian of all funds  
1741 received from the federal government for the purpose of carrying out  
1742 any federal statutes pertaining to vocational rehabilitation or any  
1743 agreements authorized by sections 17b-650 to 17b-663, inclusive, and  
1744 shall make disbursements from such funds and from all state funds  
1745 available for vocational rehabilitation purposes upon certification by  
1746 the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

1747 Sec. 76. Section 17b-660 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1748 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1749 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services

1750 is authorized to accept and use gifts made unconditionally by will or  
1751 otherwise for carrying out the purposes of the general statutes  
1752 concerning the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1753 Services. Gifts made under such conditions as in the judgment of the  
1754 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services are  
1755 proper and consistent with the provisions of said sections may be so  
1756 accepted and shall be held, invested, reinvested and used in  
1757 accordance with the conditions of the gift.

1758 Sec. 77. Section 17b-661 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1759 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1760 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the  
1761 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may,  
1762 within the limits of appropriations, purchase (1) wheelchairs and  
1763 placement equipment directly and without the issuance of a purchase  
1764 order, provided the cost of such purchases shall not be in excess of  
1765 twenty thousand dollars per unit, and (2) adaptive equipment,  
1766 including equipment to modify vehicles for persons with disabilities  
1767 directly and without the issuance of a purchase order, provided the  
1768 cost of such purchases of adaptive equipment shall not be in excess of  
1769 one hundred twenty thousand dollars per unit. All such purchases  
1770 shall be made in the open market, but shall, when possible, be based  
1771 on at least three competitive bids. Such bids shall be solicited by  
1772 sending notice to prospective suppliers and by posting notice on the  
1773 Internet web site of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
1774 Disability Services. Each bid shall be opened publicly at the time stated  
1775 in the notice soliciting such bid. Acceptance of a bid by the Department  
1776 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall be based on  
1777 standard specifications as may be adopted by said department.

1778 Sec. 78. Section 17b-666 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1779 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1780 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1781 Services may receive state and federal funds to administer, within



1782 available appropriations, an employment opportunities program to  
1783 serve individuals with the most significant disabilities who do not  
1784 meet the eligibility requirements of supported employment programs  
1785 administered by the Departments of Developmental Services, Social  
1786 Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services. For the purposes  
1787 of this section, "individuals with the most significant disabilities"  
1788 means those individuals who (1) have serious employment limitations  
1789 in a total of three or more functional areas including, but not limited  
1790 to, mobility, communication, self-care, interpersonal skills, work  
1791 tolerance or work skills, or (2) will require significant ongoing  
1792 disability-related services on the job in order to maintain employment.

1793 (b) The employment opportunities program shall provide extended  
1794 services, as defined in 34 CFR 361.5(b)(19), that are necessary for  
1795 individuals with the most significant disabilities to maintain supported  
1796 employment. Such services shall include coaching and other related  
1797 services that allow participants to obtain and maintain employment  
1798 and maximize economic self-sufficiency.

1799 (c) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
1800 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement  
1801 the provisions of this section.

1802 Sec. 79. Section 21a-3a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1803 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1804 The Department of Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the  
1805 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, shall  
1806 conduct a public awareness campaign, within available funding, to  
1807 educate elderly consumers and caregivers on ways to resist aggressive  
1808 marketing tactics and scams.

1809 Sec. 80. Section 23-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1810 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1811 (a) Not later than December 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, any  
1812 person who has a contractual agreement with the Department of

1813 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services for the operation in any  
1814 state park of any food service facility, vending machine or stand for the  
1815 vending of goods shall report to the Department of [Rehabilitation]  
1816 Aging and Disability Services the amount of revenue that such person  
1817 generated during the calendar year as a result of such contract. Not  
1818 later than January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Department of  
1819 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall compile any  
1820 reports received pursuant to this subsection and transmit such reports  
1821 to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

1822 (b) On or before January 30, 2016, and each year thereafter, the  
1823 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall compile  
1824 the following information: (1) The number of food service facilities,  
1825 vending machines and stands for the vending of goods that are located  
1826 in the state parks and the location of the respective parks that have  
1827 such facilities, machines or stands, (2) the amount of revenues  
1828 generated from such food service facilities, vending machines and  
1829 stands for the vending of goods, as reported to the commissioner by  
1830 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
1831 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (3) the contractual agreement  
1832 or provision of law that provides for the payment of any portion of  
1833 such revenues to the state or that prohibits or limits the payment of  
1834 such revenues to the state, (4) the amount of such revenues paid to the  
1835 state in the subject calendar year, and (5) the manner in which such  
1836 revenues were used by the state, if identifiable by the commissioner.

1837 Sec. 81. Section 26-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1838 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1839 No fee shall be charged for any sport fishing license issued under  
1840 this chapter to any person who is blind, and such license shall be a  
1841 lifetime license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35.  
1842 Proof of such blindness shall be furnished, in the case of a veteran, by  
1843 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and, in the case of  
1844 any other person, by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
1845 Disability Services. For the purpose of this section, a person shall be

1846 blind only if his or her central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in  
1847 the better eye with correcting lenses, or if his or her visual acuity is  
1848 greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of  
1849 vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an  
1850 angle no greater than twenty degrees.

1851 Sec. 82. Subsection (d) of section 31-280 of the general statutes is  
1852 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
1853 *October 1, 2019*):

1854 (d) The chairman and the Comptroller, as soon as practicable after  
1855 August first in each year, shall ascertain the total amount of expenses  
1856 incurred by the commission, including, in addition to the direct cost of  
1857 personnel services, the cost of maintenance and operation, rentals for  
1858 space occupied in state leased offices and all other direct and indirect  
1859 costs, incurred by the commission and the expenses incurred by the  
1860 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in  
1861 providing rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable  
1862 injuries in accordance with the provisions of section 31-283a, as  
1863 amended by this act, during the preceding fiscal year in connection  
1864 with the administration of the Workers' Compensation Act and the  
1865 total noncontributory payments required to be made to the Treasurer  
1866 towards commissioners' retirement salaries as provided in sections 51-  
1867 49, 51-50, 51-50a and 51-50b. An itemized statement of the expenses as  
1868 so ascertained shall be available for public inspection in the office of  
1869 the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission for thirty  
1870 days after notice to all insurance carriers, and to all employers  
1871 permitted to pay compensation directly affected thereby.

1872 Sec. 83. Section 31-283a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1873 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1874 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1875 Services shall provide rehabilitation programs for employees with  
1876 compensable injuries within the provisions of this chapter, which  
1877 injuries prevented such employees from performing their customary

1878 or most recent work. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
1879 Disability Services shall establish rehabilitation programs which shall  
1880 best suit the needs of such employees and shall make the programs  
1881 available in convenient locations throughout the state. After  
1882 consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of  
1883 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may establish fees for  
1884 the programs, so as to provide the most effective rehabilitation  
1885 programs at a minimum rate. In order to carry out the provisions of  
1886 this section, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1887 Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of  
1888 chapter 54, and, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, provide for the  
1889 employment of necessary assistants.

1890 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
1891 Services shall be authorized to (1) enter into agreements with other  
1892 state or federal agencies to carry out the purposes of this section and  
1893 expend money for that purpose, and (2) on behalf of the state of  
1894 Connecticut, develop matching programs or activities to secure federal  
1895 grants or funds for the purposes of this section and may pledge or use  
1896 funds supplied from the administrative costs fund, as provided in  
1897 section 31-345, as amended by this act, to finance the state's share of  
1898 the programs or activities.

1899 Sec. 84. Subsection (a) of section 31-296 of the general statutes is  
1900 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
1901 *October 1, 2019*):

1902 (a) If an employer and an injured employee, or in case of fatal injury  
1903 the employee's legal representative or dependent, at a date not earlier  
1904 than the expiration of the waiting period, reach an agreement in regard  
1905 to compensation, such agreement shall be submitted in writing to the  
1906 commissioner by the employer with a statement of the time, place and  
1907 nature of the injury upon which it is based; and, if such commissioner  
1908 finds such agreement to conform to the provisions of this chapter in  
1909 every regard, the commissioner shall so approve it. A copy of the  
1910 agreement, with a statement of the commissioner's approval, shall be

1911 delivered to each of the parties and thereafter it shall be as binding  
1912 upon both parties as an award by the commissioner. The  
1913 commissioner's statement of approval shall also inform the employee  
1914 or the employee's dependent, as the case may be, of any rights the  
1915 individual may have to an annual cost-of-living adjustment or to  
1916 participate in a rehabilitation program administered by the  
1917 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services under  
1918 the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner shall retain the  
1919 original agreement, with the commissioner's approval thereof, in the  
1920 commissioner's office and, if an application is made to the superior  
1921 court for an execution, the commissioner shall, upon the request of  
1922 said court, file in the court a certified copy of the agreement and  
1923 statement of approval.

1924 Sec. 85. Section 31-300 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1925 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1926 As soon as may be after the conclusion of any hearing, but no later  
1927 than one hundred twenty days after such conclusion, the  
1928 commissioner shall send to each party a written copy of the  
1929 commissioner's findings and award. The commissioner shall, as part of  
1930 the written award, inform the employee or the employee's dependent,  
1931 as the case may be, of any rights the individual may have to an annual  
1932 cost-of-living adjustment or to participate in a rehabilitation program  
1933 administered by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
1934 Disability Services under the provisions of this chapter. The  
1935 commissioner shall retain the original findings and award in said  
1936 commissioner's office. If no appeal from the decision is taken by either  
1937 party within twenty days thereafter, such award shall be final and may  
1938 be enforced in the same manner as a judgment of the Superior Court.  
1939 The court may issue execution upon any uncontested or final award of  
1940 a commissioner in the same manner as in cases of judgments rendered  
1941 in the Superior Court; and, upon the filing of an application to the  
1942 court for an execution, the commissioner in whose office the award is  
1943 on file shall, upon the request of the clerk of said court, send to the  
1944 clerk a certified copy of such findings and award. In cases where,

1945 through the fault or neglect of the employer or insurer, adjustments of  
1946 compensation have been unduly delayed, or where through such fault  
1947 or neglect, payments have been unduly delayed, the commissioner  
1948 may include in the award interest at the rate prescribed in section 37-  
1949 3a and a reasonable attorney's fee in the case of undue delay in  
1950 adjustments of compensation and may include in the award in the case  
1951 of undue delay in payments of compensation, interest at twelve per  
1952 cent per annum and a reasonable attorney's fee. Payments not  
1953 commenced within thirty-five days after the filing of a written notice of  
1954 claim shall be presumed to be unduly delayed unless a notice to  
1955 contest the claim is filed in accordance with section 31-297. In cases  
1956 where there has been delay in either adjustment or payment, which  
1957 delay has not been due to the fault or neglect of the employer or  
1958 insurer, whether such delay was caused by appeals or otherwise, the  
1959 commissioner may allow interest at such rate, not to exceed the rate  
1960 prescribed in section 37-3a, as may be fair and reasonable, taking into  
1961 account whatever advantage the employer or insurer, as the case may  
1962 be, may have had from the use of the money, the burden of showing  
1963 that the rate in such case should be less than the rate prescribed in  
1964 section 37-3a to be upon the employer or insurer. In cases where the  
1965 claimant prevails and the commissioner finds that the employer or  
1966 insurer has unreasonably contested liability, the commissioner may  
1967 allow to the claimant a reasonable attorney's fee. No employer or  
1968 insurer shall discontinue or reduce payment on account of total or  
1969 partial incapacity under any such award, if it is claimed by or on  
1970 behalf of the injured person that such person's incapacity still  
1971 continues, unless such employer or insurer notifies the commissioner  
1972 and the employee of such proposed discontinuance or reduction in the  
1973 manner prescribed in section 31-296, as amended by this act, and the  
1974 commissioner specifically approves such discontinuance or reduction  
1975 in writing. The commissioner shall render the decision within fourteen  
1976 days of receipt of such notice and shall forward to all parties to the  
1977 claim a copy of the decision not later than seven days after the decision  
1978 has been rendered. If the decision of the commissioner finds for the  
1979 employer or insurer, the injured person shall return any wrongful

1980 payments received from the day designated by the commissioner as  
1981 the effective date for the discontinuance or reduction of benefits. Any  
1982 employee whose benefits for total incapacity are discontinued under  
1983 the provisions of this section and who is entitled to receive benefits for  
1984 partial incapacity as a result of an award, shall receive those benefits  
1985 commencing the day following the designated effective date for the  
1986 discontinuance of benefits for total incapacity. In any case where the  
1987 commissioner finds that the employer or insurer has discontinued or  
1988 reduced any such payment without having given such notice and  
1989 without the commissioner having approved such discontinuance or  
1990 reduction in writing, the commissioner shall allow the claimant a  
1991 reasonable attorney's fee together with interest at the rate prescribed in  
1992 section 37-3a on the discontinued or reduced payments.

1993 Sec. 86. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-345 of the  
1994 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1995 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1996 (2) The chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission shall  
1997 annually, on or after July first of each fiscal year, determine an amount  
1998 sufficient in the chairman's judgment to meet the expenses incurred by  
1999 the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Department of  
2000 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in providing  
2001 rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable injuries in  
2002 accordance with section 31-283a, as amended by this act. Such  
2003 expenses shall include (A) the costs of the Division of Workers'  
2004 Rehabilitation and the programs established by its director, for fiscal  
2005 years prior to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, (B) the costs of the  
2006 Division of Worker Education and the programs established by its  
2007 director, and (C) funding for the occupational health clinic program  
2008 created pursuant to sections 31-396 to 31-402, inclusive. The Treasurer  
2009 shall thereupon assess upon and collect from each employer, other  
2010 than the state and any municipality participating for purposes of its  
2011 liability under this chapter as a member in an interlocal risk  
2012 management agency pursuant to chapter 113a, the proportion of such  
2013 expenses, based on the immediately preceding fiscal year, that the total

2014 compensation and payment for hospital, medical and nursing care  
2015 made by such self-insured employer or private insurance carrier acting  
2016 on behalf of any such employer bore to the total compensation and  
2017 payments for the immediately preceding fiscal year for hospital,  
2018 medical and nursing care made by such insurance carriers and  
2019 self-insurers. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, and June 30,  
2020 2001, such assessments shall not exceed five per cent of such total  
2021 compensation and payments made by such insurance carriers and self-  
2022 insurers. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003,  
2023 such assessments shall not exceed four and one-half per cent of such  
2024 total compensation and payments made by such insurance carriers and  
2025 self-insurers. For any fiscal year ending on or after June 30, 2004, such  
2026 assessment shall not exceed four per cent of such total compensation  
2027 and payments made by such insurance carriers and self-insurers. Such  
2028 assessments and expenses shall not exceed the budget estimates  
2029 submitted in accordance with subsection (c) of section 31-280. For each  
2030 fiscal year, such assessment shall be reduced pro rata by the amount of  
2031 any surplus from the assessments of prior fiscal years. Said surplus  
2032 shall be determined in accordance with subdivision (3) of this  
2033 subsection. Such assessments shall be made in one annual assessment  
2034 upon receipt of the chairman's expense determination by the  
2035 Treasurer. All assessments shall be paid not later than sixty days  
2036 following the date of the assessment by the Treasurer. Any employer  
2037 who fails to pay such assessment to the Treasurer within the time  
2038 prescribed by this subdivision shall pay interest to the Treasurer on the  
2039 assessment at the rate of eight per cent per annum from the date the  
2040 assessment is due until the date of payment. All assessments received  
2041 by the Treasurer pursuant to this subdivision to meet the expenses of  
2042 the Workers' Compensation Commission shall be deposited in the  
2043 Workers' Compensation Administration Fund established under  
2044 section 31-344a. All assessments received by the Treasurer pursuant to  
2045 this subdivision to meet the expenses incurred by the Department of  
2046 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in providing  
2047 rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable injuries in  
2048 accordance with section 31-283a, as amended by this act, shall be



2049 deposited in the Workers' Compensation Administration Fund. The  
2050 Treasurer is hereby authorized to make credits or rebates for  
2051 overpayments made under this subsection by any employer for any  
2052 fiscal year.

2053 Sec. 87. Subsection (a) of section 31-349b of the general statutes is  
2054 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
2055 *October 1, 2019*):

2056 (a) Any employee who has suffered a compensable injury under the  
2057 provisions of this chapter, and who is receiving benefits for such injury  
2058 from the Second Injury Fund pursuant to the provisions of section 31-  
2059 349, may file a written request with the commissioner in the district  
2060 where the original claim was filed for a hearing to determine whether  
2061 the employee's injury constitutes a permanent vocational disability.  
2062 The hearing shall be held within sixty days of the date the request was  
2063 filed. Upon the request of the commissioner and prior to the  
2064 conclusion of such hearing, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]  
2065 Aging and Disability Services shall, after receiving such information  
2066 on the case which the commissioner deems necessary, submit written  
2067 recommendations concerning the case to the commissioner for his  
2068 consideration. The commissioner shall issue his decision, in writing,  
2069 within ten days after the conclusion of the hearing. If the commissioner  
2070 determines that the employee's injury is a permanent vocational  
2071 disability, the employee shall be issued a certificate of disability by the  
2072 commissioner. Such certificate shall be effective for a stated period of  
2073 time of from one to five years, as determined by the commissioner. The  
2074 decision of the commissioner may be appealed in accordance with the  
2075 provisions of section 31-301.

2076 Sec. 88. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 38a-47 of the  
2077 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2078 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2079 (4) The amount appropriated to the Department of [Rehabilitation]  
2080 Aging and Disability Services for the fall prevention program

2081 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, from the  
2082 Insurance Fund for the fiscal year.

2083 Sec. 89. Subsection (b) of section 38a-48 of the general statutes is  
2084 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
2085 *October 1, 2019*):

2086 (b) On or before July thirty-first, annually, the Insurance  
2087 Commissioner and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall render  
2088 to each domestic insurance company or other domestic entity liable for  
2089 payment under section 38a-47, as amended by this act: (1) A statement  
2090 that includes (A) the amount appropriated to the Insurance  
2091 Department, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate and the Office of  
2092 Health Strategy from the Insurance Fund established under section  
2093 38a-52a for the fiscal year beginning July first of the same year, (B) the  
2094 cost of fringe benefits for department and office personnel for such  
2095 year, as estimated by the Comptroller, (C) the estimated expenditures  
2096 on behalf of the department and the offices from the Capital  
2097 Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9 for such year, not  
2098 including such estimated expenditures made on behalf of the Health  
2099 Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, and (D) the  
2100 amount appropriated to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
2101 Disability Services for the fall prevention program established in  
2102 section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, from the Insurance Fund for  
2103 the fiscal year; (2) a statement of the total taxes imposed on all  
2104 domestic insurance companies and domestic insurance entities under  
2105 chapter 207 on business done in this state during the preceding  
2106 calendar year; and (3) the proposed assessment against that company  
2107 or entity, calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c)  
2108 of this section, provided for the purposes of this calculation the  
2109 amount appropriated to the Insurance Department, the Office of the  
2110 Healthcare Advocate and the Office of Health Strategy from the  
2111 Insurance Fund plus the cost of fringe benefits for department and  
2112 office personnel and the estimated expenditures on behalf of the  
2113 department and the office from the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund  
2114 pursuant to section 4a-9, not including such expenditures made on

2115 behalf of the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health  
2116 Strategy shall be deemed to be the actual expenditures of the  
2117 department and the office, and the amount appropriated to the  
2118 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services from the  
2119 Insurance Fund for the fiscal year for the fall prevention program  
2120 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, shall be  
2121 deemed to be the actual expenditures for the program.

2122 Sec. 90. Subsection (g) of section 38a-48 of the general statutes is  
2123 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
2124 *October 1, 2019*):

2125 (g) If the actual expenditures for the fall prevention program  
2126 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, are less than  
2127 the amount allocated, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
2128 Disability Services shall notify the Insurance Commissioner and the  
2129 Healthcare Advocate. Immediately following the close of the fiscal  
2130 year, the Insurance Commissioner and the Healthcare Advocate shall  
2131 recalculate the proposed assessment for each domestic insurance  
2132 company or other domestic entity in accordance with subsection (c) of  
2133 this section using the actual expenditures made during the fiscal year  
2134 by the Insurance Department, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate  
2135 and the Office of Health Strategy from the Insurance Fund, the actual  
2136 expenditures made on behalf of the department and the offices from  
2137 the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9, not  
2138 including such expenditures made on behalf of the Health Systems  
2139 Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, and the actual  
2140 expenditures for the fall prevention program. On or before July thirty-  
2141 first, the Insurance Commissioner and the Healthcare Advocate shall  
2142 render to each such domestic insurance company and other domestic  
2143 entity a statement showing the difference between their respective  
2144 recalculated assessments and the amount they have previously paid.  
2145 On or before August thirty-first, the Insurance Commissioner and the  
2146 Healthcare Advocate, after receiving any objections to such statements,  
2147 shall make such adjustments which in their opinion may be indicated,  
2148 and shall render an adjusted assessment, if any, to the affected

2149 companies.

2150 Sec. 91. Section 38a-475 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2151 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2152 The Insurance Department shall only precertify long-term care  
2153 insurance policies that (1) alert the purchaser to the availability of  
2154 consumer information and public education provided by the  
2155 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services pursuant  
2156 to section 17b-251, as amended by this act; (2) offer the option of home  
2157 and community-based services in addition to nursing home care; (3) in  
2158 all home care plans, include case management services delivered by an  
2159 access agency approved by the Office of Policy and Management and  
2160 the Department of Social Services as meeting the requirements for such  
2161 agency as defined in regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (e) of  
2162 section 17b-342, which services shall include, but need not be limited  
2163 to, the development of a comprehensive individualized assessment  
2164 and care plan and, as needed, the coordination of appropriate services  
2165 and the monitoring of the delivery of such services; (4) provide  
2166 inflation protection; (5) provide for the keeping of records and an  
2167 explanation of benefit reports on insurance payments which count  
2168 toward Medicaid resource exclusion; and (6) provide the management  
2169 information and reports necessary to document the extent of Medicaid  
2170 resource protection offered and to evaluate the Connecticut  
2171 Partnership for Long-Term Care. No policy shall be precertified if it  
2172 requires prior hospitalization or a prior stay in a nursing home as a  
2173 condition of providing benefits. The commissioner may adopt  
2174 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the  
2175 precertification provisions of this section.

2176 Sec. 92. Subsection (a) of section 46a-28 of the general statutes is  
2177 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
2178 *October 1, 2019*):

2179 (a) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of  
2180 Hearing shall consist of the following sixteen members appointed by

2181 the Governor: (1) The consultant appointed by the State Board of  
2182 Education in accordance with section 10-316a, or the consultant's  
2183 designee; (2) the president of the Connecticut Council of Organizations  
2184 Serving the Deaf, or the president's designee; (3) the president of the  
2185 Connecticut Association of the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the  
2186 president of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or  
2187 the president's designee; (5) the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]  
2188 Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the  
2189 executive director of the American School for the Deaf, or the executive  
2190 director's designee; (7) a parent of a student in a predominantly oral  
2191 education program; (8) a parent of a student at the American School  
2192 for the Deaf; (9) a person who is deaf; (10) a person who is hard of  
2193 hearing; (11) a person who is deaf and blind; (12) an interpreting  
2194 professional who serves deaf or hard of hearing persons; (13) a  
2195 healthcare professional who works with persons who are deaf or hard  
2196 of hearing; (14) the Governor's liaison to the disability community; (15)  
2197 an educator who works with children who are deaf or hard of hearing;  
2198 and (16) the director of the Connecticut Chapter of We the Deaf  
2199 People. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
2200 Services, the Governor's liaison to the disability community and a  
2201 member chosen by the majority of the board shall be the chairpersons  
2202 of the advisory board.

2203 Sec. 93. Subsection (a) of section 46a-29 of the general statutes is  
2204 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
2205 *October 1, 2019*):

2206 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
2207 Services may request and shall receive from any department, division,  
2208 board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or of any political  
2209 subdivision thereof such assistance and data as will enable the  
2210 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services to  
2211 properly carry out its activities under sections 17b-650e, as amended  
2212 by this act, and 46a-30 to 46a-33b, inclusive, as amended by this act,  
2213 and to effectuate the purposes therein set forth.

2214 Sec. 94. Section 46a-30 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2215 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2216 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
2217 Services may receive moneys from any source, including gifts, grants,  
2218 bequests and reimbursements which moneys may be expended for the  
2219 purposes designated by the donor or to effectuate the provisions of  
2220 sections 17b-650e, as amended by this act, and 46a-29 to 46a-33b,  
2221 inclusive, as amended by this act.

2222 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
2223 Services is empowered to expend its appropriation and receipts to  
2224 initiate and support the provisions of said sections by contract or other  
2225 arrangement and to contract for and engage consultants.

2226 Sec. 95. Subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 46a-33a of the  
2227 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2228 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2229 (b) All persons providing interpreting services shall register,  
2230 annually, with the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
2231 Services. Such registration shall be on a form prescribed or furnished  
2232 by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services  
2233 and shall include the registrant's name, address, phone number, place  
2234 of employment as interpreter and interpreter certification or  
2235 credentials. The department shall issue identification cards for those  
2236 who register in accordance with this section.

2237 (c) No person shall provide interpreting services unless such person  
2238 is registered with the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
2239 Disability Services according to the provisions of this section and (1)  
2240 has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written  
2241 generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National  
2242 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge  
2243 examination, holds a level three certification provided by the National  
2244 Association of the Deaf, documents the achievement of two continuing  
2245 education units per year for a maximum of five years of training

2246 approved by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and  
2247 Disability Services, and on or before the fifth anniversary of having  
2248 passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written  
2249 generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National  
2250 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge  
2251 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the  
2252 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the  
2253 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter  
2254 certification examination, (2) has passed the National Registry of  
2255 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test or the National  
2256 Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf  
2257 certification knowledge examination and is a graduate of an accredited  
2258 interpreter training program and documents the achievement of two  
2259 continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of  
2260 training approved by the commissioner, and on or before the fifth  
2261 anniversary of having passed the National Registry of Interpreters for  
2262 the Deaf written generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-  
2263 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge  
2264 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the  
2265 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the  
2266 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter  
2267 certification examination, (3) holds a level four or higher certification  
2268 from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds certification by the  
2269 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations  
2270 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the  
2271 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for situations  
2272 requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds certification from the  
2273 National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed  
2274 the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist  
2275 test, (7) holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter  
2276 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or (8) holds a  
2277 National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for  
2278 the Deaf national interpreting certificate.

2279 (d) No person shall provide interpreting services in a medical

2280 setting unless such person is registered with the Department of  
2281 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services according to the  
2282 provisions of this section and (1) holds a comprehensive skills  
2283 certificate from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (2)  
2284 holds a certificate of interpretation or a certificate of transliteration  
2285 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) holds a level  
2286 four or higher certification from the National Association of the Deaf,  
2287 (4) holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter  
2288 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for  
2289 situations requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification  
2290 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for  
2291 situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds  
2292 certification from the National Training, Evaluation and Certification  
2293 Unit and has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf  
2294 written generalist test, or (7) holds a National Association of the Deaf-  
2295 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting  
2296 certificate.

2297 (e) No person shall provide interpreting services in a legal setting  
2298 unless such person is registered with the Department of  
2299 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services according to the  
2300 provisions of this section and (1) holds a comprehensive skills  
2301 certificate from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (2)  
2302 holds a certificate of interpretation and a certificate of transliteration  
2303 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) holds a level  
2304 five certification from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds a  
2305 reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter under the  
2306 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations  
2307 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the  
2308 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for situations  
2309 requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds certification from the  
2310 National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed  
2311 the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist  
2312 test, or (7) holds a National Association of the Deaf-National Registry  
2313 of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting certificate.



2314 Sec. 96. Section 46a-33b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2315 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2316 Upon the request of any person or any public or private entity, the  
2317 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may  
2318 provide interpreting services to assist such person or entity to the  
2319 extent such persons who provide interpreting services are available.  
2320 Any person or entity receiving interpreting services through the  
2321 department shall reimburse the department for such services at a rate  
2322 set by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
2323 Services. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with  
2324 the provisions of chapter 54 to establish the manner of rate setting.

2325 Sec. 97. Section 46a-33c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2326 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2327 For purposes of this section, "state agency" has the same meaning as  
2328 provided in section 9-612 and "interpreting" has the same meaning as  
2329 provided in section 46a-33a, as amended by this act. Any state agency  
2330 that is unable to fulfill a request for interpreting services with its own  
2331 interpreting staff shall first request such services from the Department  
2332 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and may seek such  
2333 services elsewhere if (1) the department is unable to fulfill the request  
2334 in two business days, or (2) the agency shows good cause that it needs  
2335 such services immediately. The provisions of this section shall not (A)  
2336 apply to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability  
2337 Services if the department needs interpreting services related to an  
2338 internal matter and the use of department interpreters may raise  
2339 confidentiality concerns, or (B) affect any preexisting contract for  
2340 interpreting services. Interpreting services provided by a state agency  
2341 shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 46a-33a, as  
2342 amended by this act.

2343 Sec. 98. Section 17b-343 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2344 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

2345 The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish annually the

2346 maximum allowable rate to be paid by agencies for homemaker  
2347 services, chore person services, companion services, respite care, meals  
2348 on wheels, adult day care services, case management and assessment  
2349 services, transportation, mental health counseling and elderly foster  
2350 care. [, except that the maximum allowable rates in effect July 1, 1990,  
2351 shall remain in effect during the fiscal years ending June 30, 1992, and  
2352 June 30, 1993.] The Commissioner of Social Services shall prescribe  
2353 uniform forms on which agencies providing such services shall report  
2354 their costs for such services. Such rates shall be determined on the  
2355 basis of a reasonable payment for necessary services rendered. The  
2356 maximum allowable rates established by the Commissioner of Social  
2357 Services for the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly  
2358 established under section 17b-342 shall constitute the rates required  
2359 under this section until revised in accordance with this section. The  
2360 Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a fee schedule, to be  
2361 effective on and after July 1, 1994, for homemaker services, chore  
2362 person services, companion services, respite care, meals on wheels,  
2363 adult day care services, case management and assessment services,  
2364 transportation, mental health counseling and elderly foster care. The  
2365 commissioner may annually increase [any fee in] the fee schedule  
2366 based on an increase in the cost of services. The commissioner shall  
2367 increase the fee schedule effective July 1, 2000, by not less than five per  
2368 cent, for adult day care services. The commissioner shall increase the  
2369 fee schedule effective July 1, 2011, by four dollars per person, per day  
2370 for adult day care services. Effective July 1, 2020, and annually  
2371 thereafter, the commissioner may increase the fee schedule for meals  
2372 on wheels providers serving participants in the Connecticut home-care  
2373 program for the elderly by, at a minimum, the cost-of-living  
2374 adjustment as measured by the consumer price index. The  
2375 commissioner may increase any fee payable to a meals on wheels  
2376 provider upon the application of such provider evidencing  
2377 extraordinary costs related to delivery of meals on wheels in sparsely  
2378 populated rural regions of the state. Nothing contained in this section  
2379 shall authorize a payment by the state to any agency for such services  
2380 in excess of the amount charged by such agency for such services to

2381 the general public.

2382 Sec. 99. Subsection (c) of section 17a-305 of the general statutes is  
2383 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
2384 *1, 2019*):

2385 (c) The Department of Rehabilitation Services, in consultation with  
2386 the five area agencies on aging, shall review the method of allocation  
2387 set forth in subsection (a) of this section and shall report any findings  
2388 or recommendations, as well as data on service levels and costs, to the  
2389 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
2390 of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies  
2391 and human services. Providers of meals under the department's  
2392 elderly nutrition program shall annually provide the department with  
2393 data on service levels and costs.

2394 Sec. 100. Subsection (b) of section 19a-127l of the general statutes is  
2395 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
2396 *1, 2019*):

2397 (b) In carrying out its responsibilities under subsection (a) of this  
2398 section, the department shall develop the following for the quality of  
2399 care program:

2400 (1) Comparable performance measures to be reported;

2401 (2) Selection of patient satisfaction survey measures and  
2402 instruments;

2403 (3) Methods and format of standardized data collection;

2404 (4) Format for a public quality performance measurement report;

2405 (5) Human resources and quality measurements;

2406 (6) Medical error reduction methods;

2407 (7) Systems for sharing and implementing universally accepted best

- 2408 practices;
- 2409 (8) Systems for reporting outcome data;
- 2410 (9) Systems for continuum of care;
- 2411 (10) Recommendations concerning the use of an ISO 9000 quality  
2412 auditing program;
- 2413 (11) Recommendations concerning the types of statutory protection  
2414 needed prior to collecting any data or information under this section  
2415 and sections 19a-127m and 19a-127n; [and]
- 2416 (12) Recommendations concerning the collection and analysis of  
2417 data on patient malnutrition for the purposes of improving quality of  
2418 care; and
- 2419 [(12)] (13) Any other issues that the department deems appropriate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	3-123aa(c)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2019	4-5
Sec. 3	July 1, 2020	4-5
Sec. 4	October 1, 2019	4-38c
Sec. 5	July 1, 2020	4-38c
Sec. 6	October 1, 2019	4-61aa(a)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2019	4-89(g)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2019	4-274(7)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2019	4a-82(a)(1)
Sec. 10	October 1, 2019	4a-82(h) to (k)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2019	5-175a(a)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2019	5-198(22)
Sec. 13	October 1, 2019	5-259(e)
Sec. 14	October 1, 2019	7-127b
Sec. 15	October 1, 2019	8-119f
Sec. 16	October 1, 2019	9-20(c)
Sec. 17	October 1, 2019	10-76i(a)
Sec. 18	October 1, 2019	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
Sec. 98	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	17b-343

Sec. 99	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	17a-305(c)
Sec. 100	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	19a-1271(b)

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 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	None	at least 100,000
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 (DORS) 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 bill could result in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with allowing DSS to increase the rate paid for Meals on Wheels under the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders (CHCPE). To the extent that DSS chooses to increase rates in accordance with the provisions of the bill, it will result in a state cost of at least \$100,000 beginning in FY 21.<sup>1</sup> The bill allows DSS to further increase fees for providers with extraordinary costs related to delivery of meals in sparsely populated rural regions.

<sup>1</sup> While the bill does not specify the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that must be applied to the reimbursement rate for Meals-on-Wheels, this estimate assumes the calendar year increase in the CPI for urban consumers (CPI-U).



The bill makes other changes that are technical in nature and have no fiscal impact.

House "A" allows DSS to increase the rate paid for Meals on Wheels under CHCPE and results in the potential cost described above. The amendment, which also makes changes to certain information DORS must review and requires the Department of Public Health to make recommendations, is not anticipated to result in a cost to the state or municipalities.

### ***The Out Years***

The potential cost associated with a Meals on Wheels rate increase will continue into the future subject to cost-of-living adjustments as measured by the consumer price index.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 7163 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, beginning July 1, 2020, to annually increase the reimbursement rate for meals-on-wheels providers under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (see BACKGROUND) by at least the consumer price index's cost of living adjustment. It also allows the commissioner to further increase a provider's rate if the provider submits evidence of extraordinary costs related to delivering these meals in sparsely populated rural areas of the state.

Under current law, the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) must (1) review, in consultation with the five area agencies on aging (AAAs), its method for allocating federal Older Americans Act (OAA) funds to the AAAs for supportive services and elderly nutrition and (2) report any findings and recommendations from its review to the Appropriations and Human Services committees. The bill adds service level and cost data to this reporting requirement and requires elderly nutrition program providers to annually provide DORS with such information.

The bill also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), as part of its quality of care program for licensed health care facilities (e.g., hospitals and nursing homes), to develop recommendations on collecting and analyzing data on patient malnutrition to improve quality of care. By law, the program must develop a standardized data set to measure health care facilities' clinical performance and require

such data to be periodically collected and reported to DPH.

Additionally, the 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.

Lastly, it deletes obsolete provisions, including two references to the Department of Aging. PA 18-169 transferred the functions, powers, duties, and personnel of the former State Department on Aging from DSS to DORS.

\*House Amendment “A” adds the provisions about (1) meals-on-wheels provider reimbursement rates, (2) an additional DORS reporting requirement, and (3) DPH recommendations on collecting and analyzing patient malnutrition data.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019, except the three amendment provisions referenced above are effective July 1, 2019, and two technical changes are effective July 1, 2020.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE)***

CHCPE is a Medicaid waiver and state-funded program that provides a range of home- and community-based services for eligible individuals age 65 and older who are at risk of institutionalization. To be eligible for CHCPE, individuals must be under income and asset limits.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/19/2019)