



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Governor's Bill No. 7163

LCO No. 4509



* 0 4 5 0 9 *

Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.

REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND
DISABILITY SERVICES.***

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

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*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

4 (c) There is established an advisory committee to the Connecticut
5 Homecare Option Program for the Elderly, which shall consist of the
6 State Treasurer, the State Comptroller, the Commissioner of Social
7 Services, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Ageing 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 Section 4-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

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39 public act 18-91, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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

41 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
42 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,

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

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

65 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
66 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
67 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner of Revenue
68 Services, Banking Commissioner, Commissioner of Children and
69 Families, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, Commissioner of
70 Correction, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
71 State Board of Education, Commissioner of Emergency Services and
72 Public Protection, Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
73 Protection, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public
74 Health, Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner
75 of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social

76 Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of
77 Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of
78 Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner of
79 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, the Commissioner of
80 Early Childhood, the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs
81 and the executive director of the Technical Education and Career
82 System. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means
83 the Commissioner of Education.

84 Sec. 5. Section 4-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the
85 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

101 Sec. 6. Section 4-38c of the general statutes, as amended by section
102 13 of public act 18-169, is repealed and the following is substituted in
103 lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

104 There shall be within the executive branch of state government the
105 following departments: Office of Policy and Management, Department
106 of Administrative Services, Department on Aging, Department of

107 Revenue Services, Department of Banking, Department of Agriculture,
108 Department of Children and Families, Department of Consumer
109 Protection, Department of Correction, Department of Economic and
110 Community Development, State Board of Education, Department of
111 Emergency Services and Public Protection, Department of Energy and
112 Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Board of
113 Regents for Higher Education, Insurance Department, Labor
114 Department, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
115 Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services,
116 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services,
117 Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles and
118 Department of Veterans Affairs.

119 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 4-61aa of the general statutes is
120 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
121 *October 1, 2019*):

122 (a) For purposes of this section, "state Americans with Disabilities
123 Act coordinator" means the person appointed by the Governor to
124 coordinate state compliance with the federal Americans with
125 Disabilities Act of 1990. There is established a committee to advise the
126 state Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator. The state Americans
127 with Disabilities Act coordinator shall appoint the members of the
128 committee, which shall be chaired by said coordinator, or his designee,
129 and include at least one representative of each of the following:

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

131 (2) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of
132 Hearing;

133 (3) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
134 Services;

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

136 (5) The Department of Developmental Services;

137 (6) The Labor Department;

138 (7) The Department of Administrative Services; and

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

140 Sec. 8. Subsection (g) of section 4-89 of the general statutes is
141 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
142 *October 1, 2019*):

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

150 Sec. 9. Subdivision (7) of section 4-274 of the general statutes is
151 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
152 *October 1, 2019*):

153 (7) "State-administered health or human services program" means
154 programs administered by any of the following: The Department of
155 Children and Families, the Department of Developmental Services, the
156 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department
157 of Public Health, the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
158 Disability Services, the Department of Social Services, the Office of
159 Early Childhood, and the Office of the State Comptroller, for the State
160 Employee and Retiree Health programs, as well as other health care
161 programs administered by the Office of the State Comptroller, and the
162 Department of Administrative Services, for Workers' Compensation
163 medical claims, including such programs reimbursed in whole or in
164 part by the federal government.

165 Sec. 10. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 4a-82 of the
166 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
167 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

168 (1) "Person with a disability" means any individual with a disability,
169 excluding blindness, as such term is applied by the Department of
170 Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of
171 Developmental Services, the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
172 Disability Services or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
173 and who is certified by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
174 Disability Services as qualified to participate in a qualified partnership,
175 as described in subsections (e) to (l), inclusive, of this section;

176 Sec. 11. Subsections (h) to (k), inclusive, of section 4a-82 of the
177 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
178 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

185 (i) Any qualified partnership awarded a janitorial or service contract
186 pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this
187 section shall provide to the Connecticut Community Providers
188 Association, not later than six months after the commencement date of
189 such contract and annually thereafter, a list of the persons with
190 disabilities and persons with a disadvantage employed by such
191 contractor that includes the date of hire and employment location for
192 each such person. Such association shall certify annually to the
193 Department of Administrative Services, the Judicial Branch or the
194 Board of Regents for Higher Education, as applicable, in such manner
195 and form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Administrative

196 Services, Chief Court Administrator or the president of the Board of
197 Regents for Higher Education, that the requisite number of persons
198 with disabilities for such contract continue to be employed by such
199 contractor in positions equivalent to those created under such contract
200 and have been integrated into the general workforce of such
201 contractor.

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

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

210 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 5-175a of the general statutes is
211 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
212 *October 1, 2019*):

213 (a) Vending stand operators, operating stands under permits held
214 by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
215 pursuant to section 10-303, as amended by this act, shall be members of
216 the state employees retirement system, part A, exclusive of the Social
217 Security option and benefits in the state employees' retirement system
218 dependent thereon. Each such person shall annually, on or before June
219 thirtieth, pay five per cent of his adjusted gross income, arising out of
220 the operation of such stand, as determined under the Internal Revenue
221 Code, during the calendar year preceding to the Department of
222 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services which shall, as the state
223 administering agency for such persons, certify such payment and pay
224 it over to the State Retirement Commission, provided membership of
225 such persons in said system shall be exclusive of disability retirement
226 upon the grounds of defects of vision.

227 Sec. 13. Subdivision (22) of section 5-198 of the general statutes is
228 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
229 *October 1, 2019*):

230 (22) Professional employees in the education professions bargaining
231 unit of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
232 Services;

233 Sec. 14. Subsection (e) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
234 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
235 *October 1, 2019*):

236 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
237 vending stand operators eligible for membership in the state
238 employees retirement system pursuant to section 5-175a, as amended
239 by this act, shall be eligible for coverage under the group
240 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plans procured
241 under this section, provided the cost for such operators' insurance
242 coverage shall be paid by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
243 and Disability Services from vending machine income pursuant to
244 section 10-303, as amended by this act.

245 Sec. 15. Section 7-127b of the general statutes is repealed and the
246 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

247 (a) The chief elected official or the chief executive officer if by
248 ordinance of each municipality shall appoint a municipal agent for
249 elderly persons. Such agent shall be a member of an agency that serves
250 elderly persons in the municipality or a responsible resident of the
251 municipality who has demonstrated an interest in the elderly or has
252 been involved in programs in the field of aging.

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

257 persons to apply for federal and other benefits available to such
258 persons; and (3) reporting to the chief elected official or chief executive
259 officer of the municipality and the Department of [Rehabilitation]
260 Aging and Disability Services any needs and problems of the elderly
261 and any recommendations for action to improve services to the
262 elderly.

263 (c) Each municipal agent shall serve for a term of two or four years,
264 at the discretion of the appointing authority of each municipality, and
265 may be reappointed. If more than one agent is necessary to carry out
266 the purposes of this section, the appointing authority, in its discretion,
267 may appoint one or more assistant agents. The town clerk in each
268 municipality shall notify the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
269 Disability Services immediately of the appointment of a new municipal
270 agent. Each municipality may provide to its municipal agent resources
271 sufficient for such agent to perform the duties of the office.

272 (d) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
273 Services shall adopt and disseminate to municipalities guidelines as to
274 the role and duties of municipal agents and such informational and
275 technical materials as may assist such agents in performance of their
276 duties. The department, in cooperation with the area agencies on
277 aging, may provide training for municipal agents within the available
278 resources of the department and of the agencies on aging.

279 Sec. 16. Section 8-119f of the general statutes is repealed and the
280 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

281 The Commissioner of Housing shall design, implement, operate and
282 monitor a program of congregate housing. For the purpose of this
283 program, the Commissioner of Housing shall consult with the
284 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services for the
285 provision of services for persons with physical disabilities in order to
286 comply with the requirements of section 29-271.

287 Sec. 17. Subsection (c) of section 9-20 of the general statutes is

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

290 (c) The application for admission as an elector shall include a
291 statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an
292 attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (3)
293 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. Each
294 registrar of voters and town clerk shall maintain a copy of such
295 statement in braille, large print and audio form. The Department of
296 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall produce a
297 videotape presenting such statement in voice and sign language and
298 provide the videotape to the Secretary of the State who shall make
299 copies of the videotape and provide a copy to the registrars of voters of
300 any municipality, upon request and at a cost equal to the cost of
301 making the copy. If a person applies for admission as an elector in
302 person to an admitting official, such admitting official shall, upon the
303 request of the applicant, administer the elector's oath.

304 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 10-76i of the general statutes is
305 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
306 *October 1, 2019*):

307 (a) There shall be an Advisory Council for Special Education which
308 shall advise the General Assembly, State Board of Education and the
309 Commissioner of Education, and which shall engage in such other
310 activities as described in this section. On and after July 1, 2012, the
311 advisory council shall consist of the following members: (1) Nine
312 appointed by the Commissioner of Education, (A) six of whom shall be
313 (i) the parents of children with disabilities, provided such children are
314 under the age of twenty-seven, or (ii) individuals with disabilities, (B)
315 one of whom shall be an official of the Department of Education, (C)
316 one of whom shall be a state or local official responsible for carrying
317 out activities under Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento
318 Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as amended from time
319 to time, and (D) one of whom shall be a representative of an institution

320 of higher education in the state that prepares teacher and related
321 services personnel; (2) one appointed by the Commissioner of
322 Developmental Services who shall be an official of the department; (3)
323 one appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families who
324 shall be an official of the department; (4) one appointed by the
325 Commissioner of Correction who shall be an official of the department;
326 (5) one appointed by the director of the Parent Leadership Training
327 Institute within the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors
328 who shall be (A) the parent of a child with a disability, provided such
329 child is under the age of twenty-seven, or (B) an individual with a
330 disability; (6) a representative from the parent training and
331 information center for Connecticut established pursuant to the
332 Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as
333 amended from time to time; (7) the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
334 Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee; (8) five
335 who are members of the General Assembly who shall serve as
336 nonvoting members of the advisory council, one appointed by the
337 speaker of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the
338 majority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the
339 minority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the
340 president pro tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the
341 minority leader of the Senate; (9) one appointed by the president pro
342 tempore of the Senate who shall be a member of the Connecticut
343 Speech-Language-Hearing Association; (10) one appointed by the
344 majority leader of the Senate who shall be a public school teacher; (11)
345 one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who shall be a
346 representative of a vocational, community or business organization
347 concerned with the provision of transitional services to children with
348 disabilities; (12) one appointed by the speaker of the House of
349 Representatives who shall be a member of the Connecticut Council of
350 Special Education Administrators and who is a local education official;
351 (13) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
352 Representatives who shall be a representative of charter schools; (14)
353 one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives

354 who shall be a member of the Connecticut Association of Private
355 Special Education Facilities; (15) one appointed by the Chief Court
356 Administrator of the Judicial Department who shall be an official of
357 such department responsible for the provision of services to
358 adjudicated children and youth; (16) seven appointed by the Governor,
359 all of whom shall be (A) the parents of children with disabilities,
360 provided such children are under the age of twenty-seven, or (B)
361 individuals with disabilities; (17) the executive director of the
362 nonprofit entity designated by the Governor in accordance with
363 section 46a-10b to serve as the Connecticut protection and advocacy
364 system, or the executive director's designee; and (18) such other
365 members as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education
366 Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time, appointed by
367 the Commissioner of Education. Appointments made pursuant to the
368 provisions of this section shall be representative of the ethnic and
369 racial diversity of, and the types of disabilities found in, the state
370 population. The terms of the members of the council serving on June 8,
371 2010, shall expire on June 30, 2010. Appointments shall be made to the
372 council by July 1, 2010. Members shall serve two-year terms, except
373 that members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive,
374 of this subsection whose terms commenced July 1, 2010, shall serve
375 three-year terms and the successors to such members appointed
376 pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection shall
377 serve two-year terms.

378 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 10-76y of the general statutes is
379 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
380 *October 1, 2019*):

381 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, school
382 districts, regional educational service centers, the Department of
383 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, and all other state and
384 local governmental agencies concerned with education may loan, lease
385 or transfer an assistive device for the use and benefit of a student with
386 a disability to such student or the parent or guardian of such student

387 or to any other public or private nonprofit agency providing services
388 to or on behalf of individuals with disabilities including, but not
389 limited to, an agency providing educational, health or rehabilitative
390 services. Such device may be sold or transferred pursuant to this
391 section regardless of whether the device was declared surplus. The sale
392 or transfer shall be recorded in an agreement between the parties and
393 based upon the depreciated value of the device. For the purposes of
394 this section, "assistive device" means any item, piece of equipment or
395 product system, whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf,
396 modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve
397 the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

398 Sec. 20. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-293 of the
399 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
400 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

401 (b) (1) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Blind or Visually
402 Impaired shall consist of members appointed as follows: Six appointed
403 by the Governor, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the
404 Senate, one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
405 one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one appointed by
406 the minority leader of the Senate, one appointed by the majority leader
407 of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the minority
408 leader of the House of Representatives and all shall be residents of the
409 state. The Commissioner of Social Services shall be an ex-officio
410 member. One of the members appointed by the Governor shall be the
411 parent of a child who receives services provided by the Department of
412 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, and not less than two of
413 the members appointed by the Governor shall be persons who are
414 blind.

415 Sec. 21. Section 10-295 of the general statutes is repealed and the
416 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

417 (a) All residents of this state, regardless of age, who, because of

418 blindness or impaired vision, require specialized vision-related
419 educational programs, goods and services, on the signed
420 recommendation of the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
421 Disability Services, shall be entitled to receive such instruction,
422 programs, goods and services for such length of time as is deemed
423 expedient by said commissioner. Upon the petition of any parent or
424 guardian of a child who is blind or visually impaired, a local board of
425 education may provide such instruction within the town or it may
426 provide for such instruction by agreement with other towns as
427 provided in subsection (d) of section 10-76d. All educational privileges
428 prescribed in part V of chapter 164, not inconsistent with the
429 provisions of this chapter, shall apply to the pupils covered by this
430 subsection.

431 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
432 Services shall expend funds for the services made available pursuant
433 to subsection (a) of this section from the educational aid for children
434 who are blind or visually impaired account in accordance with the
435 provisions of this subsection. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
436 Aging and Disability Services may adopt, in accordance with the
437 provisions of chapter 54, such regulations as the commissioner deems
438 necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this subsection.

439 (1) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
440 Services shall provide, upon written request from any interested
441 school district, the services of teachers who instruct students who are
442 visually impaired, based on the levels established in the individualized
443 education or service plan. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging
444 and Disability Services shall also make available resources, including,
445 but not limited to, the braille and large print library, to all teachers of
446 public and nonpublic school children. The commissioner may also
447 provide vision-related professional development and training to all
448 school districts and cover the actual cost for paraprofessionals from
449 school districts to participate in agency-sponsored braille training
450 programs. The commissioner shall utilize education consultant

451 positions, funded by moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to
452 supplement new staffing that will be made available through the
453 educational aid for children who are blind or visually impaired
454 account, which shall be governed by formal written policies
455 established by the commissioner.

456 (2) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
457 Services may use funds appropriated to said account to provide
458 specialized books, materials, equipment, supplies, adaptive technology
459 services and devices, specialist examinations and aids, preschool
460 programs and vision-related independent living services, excluding
461 primary educational placement, for eligible children.

462 (3) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
463 Services may, within available appropriations, employ certified
464 teachers who instruct students who are visually impaired in sufficient
465 numbers to meet the requests for services received from school
466 districts. In responding to such requests, the commissioner shall utilize
467 a formula for determining the number of teachers needed to serve the
468 school districts, crediting six points for each child learning braille and
469 one point for each other child, with one full-time certified teacher who
470 instructs students who are visually impaired assigned for every
471 twenty-five points credited. The commissioner shall exercise due
472 diligence to employ the needed number of certified teachers who
473 instruct students who are visually impaired, but shall not be liable for
474 lack of resources. Funds appropriated to said account may also be
475 utilized to employ additional staff in numbers sufficient to provide
476 compensatory skills, evaluations and training to children who are
477 blind or visually impaired, special assistants and other support staff
478 necessary to ensure the efficient operation of service delivery. Not later
479 than October first of each year, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
480 Aging and Disability Services shall determine the number of teachers
481 needed based on the formula provided in this subdivision. Based on
482 such determination, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
483 Disability Services shall estimate the funding needed to pay such

484 teachers' salaries and related expenses.

485 (4) In any fiscal year, when funds appropriated to cover the
486 combined costs associated with providing the services set forth in
487 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection are projected to be
488 insufficient, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
489 Services may collect revenue from all school districts that have
490 requested such services on a per student pro rata basis, in the sums
491 necessary to cover the projected portion of these services for which
492 there are insufficient appropriations.

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

497 (d) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
498 Services may expend up to ten thousand dollars per fiscal year per
499 person twenty-one years of age or older who is both blind or visually
500 impaired and deaf, in addition to any other expenditures for such
501 person, for the purpose of providing community inclusion services
502 through specialized public and private entities from which such
503 person can benefit. The commissioner may determine the criteria by
504 which a person is eligible to receive specialized services and may
505 adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
506 subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "community inclusion
507 services" means the assistance provided to persons with disabilities to
508 enable them to connect with their peers without disabilities and with
509 the community at large.

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

513 Sec. 22. Section 10-296 of the general statutes is repealed and the
514 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

515 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
516 may, within available appropriations, contract with public or private
517 entities, individuals or private enterprises for the instruction of
518 persons who are blind.

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

521 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
522 is authorized to aid in securing employment for persons who are
523 legally blind. Said commissioner may aid persons who are legally
524 blind in such way as said commissioner deems expedient, expending
525 for such purpose such sum as the General Assembly appropriates.

526 Sec. 24. Section 10-297a of the general statutes is repealed and the
527 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

532 Sec. 25. Section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the
533 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

534 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
535 Services shall prepare and maintain a register of persons who are blind
536 in this state which shall describe their condition, cause of blindness
537 and capacity for education and rehabilitative training. The
538 commissioner may register cases of persons who are liable to become
539 visually impaired or blind, and may take such measures in cooperation
540 with other authorities as the commissioner deems advisable for the
541 prevention of blindness or conservation of eyesight and, in appropriate
542 cases, for the education of children and for the vocational guidance of
543 adults whose eyesight approaches visual impairment or blindness. The
544 commissioner shall establish criteria for low vision care and maintain a

545 list of ophthalmologists and optometrists that are exclusively
546 authorized to receive agency funds through established and existing
547 state fee schedules for the delivery of specifically defined low vision
548 services that increase the capacity of eligible recipients of such services
549 to maximize the use of their remaining vision.

550 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
551 Services may accept and receive any bequest or gift of money or
552 personal property and, subject to the consent of the Governor and
553 Attorney General as provided in section 4b-22, any devise or gift of
554 real property made to the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
555 Disability Services, and may hold and use such money or property for
556 the purposes, if any, specified in connection with such bequest, devise
557 or gift.

558 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
559 Services shall provide the Department of Motor Vehicles with the
560 names of all individuals sixteen years of age or older who, on or after
561 October 1, 2005, have been determined to be blind by a physician, an
562 advanced practice registered nurse or an optometrist, as provided in
563 section 10-305, as amended by this act. The Commissioner of
564 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall provide
565 simultaneous written notification to any individual whose name is
566 being transmitted by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
567 Disability Services to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The
568 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
569 update the list of names provided to the Department of Motor Vehicles
570 on a quarterly basis. The list shall also contain the address and date of
571 birth for each individual reported, as shown on the records of the
572 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services. The
573 Department of Motor Vehicles shall maintain such list on a
574 confidential basis, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-46d.
575 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
576 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the
577 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to effectuate the purposes of this

578 subsection.

579 Sec. 26. Section 10-303 of the general statutes is repealed and the
580 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

581 (a) The authority in charge of any building or property owned,
582 operated or leased by the state or any municipality therein shall grant
583 to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services a
584 permit to operate in such building or on such property a food service
585 facility, a vending machine or a stand for the vending of newspapers,
586 periodicals, confections, tobacco products, food and such other articles
587 as such authority approves when, in the opinion of such authority,
588 such facility, machine or stand is desirable in such location. Any
589 person operating such a stand in any such location on October 1, 1945,
590 shall be permitted to continue such operation, but upon such person's
591 ceasing such operation such authority shall grant a permit for
592 continued operation to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
593 Disability Services. The department may establish a training facility at
594 any such location.

595 (b) Pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act, 49 Stat.
596 1559 (1936), 20 USC 107, as amended from time to time, the
597 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
598 authorized to maintain a nonlapsing account and to accrue interest
599 thereon for federal vending machine income which, in accordance with
600 federal regulations, shall be used for the payment of fringe benefits to
601 the vending facility operators by the Department of [Rehabilitation]
602 Aging and Disability Services.

603 (c) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
604 may maintain a nonlapsing account and accrue interest thereon for
605 state and local vending machine income which shall be used for the
606 payment of fringe benefits, training and support to vending facilities
607 operators, to provide entrepreneurial and independent-living training
608 and equipment to children who are blind or visually impaired and

609 adults who are blind and for other vocational rehabilitation programs
610 and services for adults who are blind.

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

614 Sec. 27. Section 10-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
615 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

616 Each physician, advanced practice registered nurse and optometrist
617 shall report in writing to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
618 Disability Services not later than thirty days after a person who is blind
619 comes under his or her private or institutional care within this state.
620 The report of such person shall include the name, address, Social
621 Security number, date of birth, date of diagnosis of blindness and
622 degree of vision. Such reports shall not be open to public inspection.

623 Sec. 28. Section 10-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the
624 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

632 Sec. 29. Section 10-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the
633 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

634 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
635 empowered to receive any federal funds made available to this state
636 under which vocational rehabilitation is provided for a person whose
637 visual acuity has been impaired and to expend such funds for the

638 purpose or purposes for which they are made available. The State
639 Treasurer shall be the custodian of such funds.

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

642 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
643 may cooperate, pursuant to agreements, with the federal government
644 in carrying out the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to
645 vocational rehabilitation, and is authorized to adopt such methods of
646 administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary
647 for the proper and efficient operation of such agreements or plans for
648 vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as may
649 be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes.

650 Sec. 31. Section 10-308a of the general statutes is repealed and the
651 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

652 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
653 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to determine
654 the order to be followed in selecting those eligible persons to whom
655 vocational rehabilitation services will be provided, in accordance with
656 federal regulations.

657 Sec. 32. Section 10-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the
658 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

659 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
660 may place in remunerative occupations persons whose capacity to earn
661 a living has been lost or impaired by lessened visual acuity and who,
662 in the opinion of the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
663 Disability Services, are susceptible of placement, and may make such
664 regulations as are necessary for the administration of the provisions of
665 this section and sections 10-306 to 10-308a, inclusive, as amended by
666 this act.

667 Sec. 33. Section 10-311a of the general statutes is repealed and the
668 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

669 The case records of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
670 Disability Services maintained for the purposes of this chapter shall be
671 confidential and the names and addresses of recipients of assistance
672 under this chapter shall not be published or used for purposes not
673 directly connected with the administration of this chapter, except as
674 necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 10-298, as amended by
675 this act, and 17b-6.

676 Sec. 34. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 12-217oo of the
677 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
678 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

679 (4) "New qualifying employee" means a person who (A) is receiving
680 vocational rehabilitation services from the Department of
681 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, and (B) is hired by the
682 employer to fill a new job after May 6, 2010, during the employer's
683 income years commencing on or after January 1, 2010, and prior to
684 January 1, 2012. A new qualifying employee does not include a person
685 receiving vocational rehabilitation services pursuant to subparagraph
686 (A) of this subdivision and who was employed in this state by a related
687 person with respect to the employer during the prior twelve months;

688 Sec. 35. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 12-217pp of the
689 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
690 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

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

696 (B) Is (i) receiving vocational rehabilitation services from the
697 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, (ii)
698 receiving employment services from the Department of Mental Health
699 and Addiction Services, or (iii) participating in employment
700 opportunities and day services, as defined in section 17a-226, operated
701 or funded by the Department of Developmental Services;

702 Sec. 36. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 12-217pp of the
703 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
704 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

705 (e) (1) To be eligible to claim the credit, a taxpayer shall apply to the
706 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this section. The
707 application shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and shall
708 contain sufficient information as required by the commissioner,
709 including, but not limited to, the activities that the taxpayer primarily
710 engages in, the North American Industrial Classification System code
711 of the taxpayer, the current number of employees employed by the
712 taxpayer as of the application date, and if applicable, the name and
713 position or job title of the new, qualifying or veteran employee. The
714 commissioner shall consult with the Labor Commissioner, the
715 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, the
716 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, the Commissioner of Mental Health
717 and Addiction Services or the Commissioner of Developmental
718 Services, as applicable, for any verification the commissioner deems
719 necessary of unemployment compensation or vocational rehabilitation
720 services received by a qualifying employee, or of service in the armed
721 forces of the United States by a veteran employee. The commissioner
722 may impose a fee for such application as the commissioner deems
723 appropriate.

724 Sec. 37. Section 14-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the
725 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

726 (a) There shall be within the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging

727 and Disability Services a unit for the purpose of evaluating and
728 training persons with disabilities in the operation of motor vehicles.
729 There shall be assigned to the driver training unit for persons with
730 disabilities such staff as is necessary for the orderly administration of
731 the driver training program for persons with disabilities. The
732 personnel assigned to the driver training unit for persons with
733 disabilities shall, while engaged in the evaluation or instruction of a
734 person with disabilities, have the authority and immunities with
735 respect to such activities as are granted under the general statutes to
736 motor vehicle inspectors. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
737 permit a person whose license has been withdrawn as a result of a
738 condition that makes such person eligible for evaluation and training
739 under this section to operate a motor vehicle while accompanied by
740 personnel assigned to the driver training unit for persons with
741 disabilities. When a person with disabilities has successfully completed
742 the driver training program for persons with disabilities, the
743 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
744 certify such completion in writing to the Commissioner of Motor
745 Vehicles and shall recommend any license restrictions or limitations to
746 be placed on the license of such person. The Commissioner of Motor
747 Vehicles may accept such certification in lieu of the driving skills
748 portion of the examination prescribed under subsection (e) of section
749 14-36. If such person with disabilities has met all other requirements
750 for obtaining a license, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue
751 a license with such restrictions recommended by the Department of
752 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

753 (b) Any resident of this state who has a serious physical or mental
754 disability which does not render the resident incapable of operating a
755 motor vehicle and who must utilize special equipment in order to
756 operate a motor vehicle and who cannot obtain instruction in the
757 operation of a motor vehicle through any alternate program, including,
758 but not limited to, other state, federal or privately operated drivers'
759 schools shall be eligible for instruction under the Department of

760 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services driver training program
761 for persons with disabilities.

762 Sec. 38. Subsection (b) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
763 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
764 *October 1, 2019*):

765 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications
766 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from (1)
767 any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; (2) any person with
768 disabilities; (3) any parent or guardian of any person who is blind or
769 any person with disabilities, if such person is under eighteen years of
770 age at the time of application; (4) any parent or guardian of any person
771 who is blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is unable to
772 request or complete an application; and (5) any organization which
773 meets criteria established by the commissioner and which certifies to
774 the commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for which a placard is
775 requested is primarily used to transport persons who are blind or
776 persons with disabilities. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
777 section, on and after October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept
778 applications for special license plates, but shall accept renewal
779 applications for such plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.
780 No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section
781 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's
782 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions
783 of section 1-1h. The commissioner is authorized to adopt regulations
784 for the issuance of placards to persons who, by reason of hardship, do
785 not hold or cannot obtain an operator's license or identification card.
786 The commissioner shall maintain a record of each placard issued to
787 any such person. Such applications and renewal applications shall be
788 on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application and
789 renewal application shall include: (A) Certification by a licensed
790 physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse
791 licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 378, or a member
792 of the driver training unit for persons with disabilities established

793 pursuant to section 14-11b, as amended by this act, that the applicant
794 meets the definition of a person with a disability which limits or
795 impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2; or (B)
796 certification by a psychiatrist who is employed by, or under contract
797 with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that the
798 applicant (i) is a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
799 who has post-traumatic stress disorder certified as service-connected
800 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and (ii) meets the
801 definition of a person with a disability which limits or impairs the
802 ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2. In the case of
803 persons who are blind, the application or renewal application shall
804 include certification of legal blindness made by the Department of
805 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, an ophthalmologist or
806 an optometrist. Any person who makes a certification required by this
807 subsection shall sign the application or renewal application under
808 penalty of false statement pursuant to section 53a-157b. The
809 commissioner, in said commissioner's discretion, may accept the
810 discharge papers of a disabled veteran, as defined in section 14-254, in
811 lieu of such certification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
812 require additional certification at the time of the original application or
813 at any time thereafter. If a person who has been requested to submit
814 additional certification fails to do so within thirty days of the request,
815 or if such additional certification is deemed by the Commissioner of
816 Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the commissioner
817 may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or revoke such
818 special license plate or placard. The commissioner shall not issue more
819 than one placard per applicant. The fee for the issuance of a temporary
820 removable windshield placard shall be five dollars. Any person whose
821 application has been denied or whose special license plate or placard
822 has been suspended or revoked shall be afforded an opportunity for a
823 hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

824 Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 17a-215d of the general statutes is
825 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

826 *October 1, 2019*):

827 (a) There is established the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory
828 Council. The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The
829 Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; (2)
830 the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
831 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
832 designee; (4) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
833 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of
834 Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of
835 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's
836 designee; (7) the Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
837 commissioner's designee; (8) the Commissioner of Early Childhood, or
838 the commissioner's designee; (9) the Secretary of the Office of Policy
839 and Management, or the secretary's designee; (10) two persons with
840 autism spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and
841 the speaker of the House of Representatives; (11) two persons who are
842 parents or guardians of a child with autism spectrum disorder, one
843 each appointed by the Governor and the minority leader of the Senate;
844 (12) two persons who are parents or guardians of an adult with autism
845 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the president pro tempore
846 of the Senate and the majority leader of the House of Representatives;
847 (13) two persons who are advocates for persons with autism spectrum
848 disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the speaker of the
849 House of Representatives; (14) two persons who are licensed
850 professionals working in the field of autism spectrum disorder, one
851 each appointed by the Governor and the majority leader of the Senate;
852 (15) two persons who provide services for persons with autism
853 spectrum disorder, one each appointed by the Governor and the
854 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (16) two persons who
855 shall be representatives of an institution of higher education in the
856 state with experience in the field of autism spectrum disorder, one
857 each appointed by the Governor and the president pro tempore of the
858 Senate; (17) the executive director of the nonprofit entity designated by

859 the Governor in accordance with section 46a-10b to serve as the
860 Connecticut protection and advocacy system, or the executive
861 director's designee; and (18) one person who is a physician who treats
862 or diagnoses persons with autism spectrum disorder, appointed by the
863 Governor.

864 Sec. 40. Subdivision (9) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is
865 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
866 *October 1, 2019*):

867 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the
868 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children
869 and Families and Developmental Services, the Office of Early
870 Childhood, the Insurance Department and the Department of
871 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

872 Sec. 41. Subsection (a) of section 17a-302 of the general statutes is
873 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
874 *October 1, 2019*):

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

881 Sec. 42. Section 17a-302a of the general statutes is repealed and the
882 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

883 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
884 shall hold quarterly meetings with nutrition service stakeholders to (1)
885 develop recommendations to address complexities in the
886 administrative processes of nutrition services programs, (2) establish
887 quality control benchmarks in such programs, and (3) help move
888 toward greater quality, efficiency and transparency in the elderly

889 nutrition program. Stakeholders shall include, but need not be limited
890 to, (A) one representative of each of the following: (i) Area agencies on
891 aging, (ii) access agencies, (iii) the Commission on Women, Children
892 and Seniors, and (iv) nutrition providers, and (B) one or more
893 representatives of (i) food security programs, (ii) contractors, (iii)
894 nutrition host sites, and (iv) consumers.

895 Sec. 43. Section 17a-303a of the general statutes is repealed and the
896 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

900 (1) Promote and support research to: (A) Improve the identification,
901 diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of older persons and others
902 who have a high risk of falling; (B) improve data collection and
903 analysis to identify risk factors for falls and factors that reduce the
904 likelihood of falls; (C) design, implement and evaluate the most
905 effective fall prevention interventions; (D) improve intervention
906 strategies that have been proven effective in reducing falls by tailoring
907 such strategies to specific populations of older persons; (E) maximize
908 the dissemination of proven, effective fall prevention interventions; (F)
909 assess the risk of falls occurring in various settings; (G) identify
910 barriers to the adoption of proven interventions with respect to the
911 prevention of falls among older persons; (H) develop, implement and
912 evaluate the most effective approaches to reducing falls among high-
913 risk older persons living in communities and long-term care and
914 assisted living facilities; and (I) evaluate the effectiveness of
915 community programs designed to prevent falls among older persons;

916 (2) Establish, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
917 Health, a professional education program in fall prevention, evaluation
918 and management for physicians, allied health professionals and other
919 health care providers who provide services for older persons in this

920 state. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
921 Services may contract for the establishment of such program through
922 (A) a request for proposal process, (B) a competitive grant program, or
923 (C) cooperative agreements with qualified organizations, institutions
924 or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions;

925 (3) Oversee and support demonstration and research projects to be
926 carried out by organizations, institutions or consortia of organizations
927 and institutions deemed qualified by the Commissioner of
928 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services. Such demonstration
929 and research projects may be in the following areas:

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

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

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

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

942 (4) Award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative
943 agreements with, organizations, institutions or consortia of
944 organizations and institutions deemed qualified by the Commissioner
945 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services to design, implement
946 and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention
947 strategies in residential and institutional settings.

948 (b) In awarding any grants or entering into any contracts or

949 agreements pursuant to this section, after October 1, 2017, the
950 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
951 determine appropriate data and program outcome measures,
952 including fall prevention program outcome measures, as applicable,
953 that the recipient organization, institution or consortia of organizations
954 and institutions shall collect and report to the commissioner and the
955 frequency of such reports.

956 Sec. 44. Section 17a-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the
957 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

958 The state shall be divided into five elderly planning and service
959 areas, in accordance with federal law and regulations, each having an
960 area agency on aging to carry out the mandates of the federal Older
961 Americans Act of 1965, as amended. The area agencies shall (1)
962 represent older persons within their geographic areas, (2) develop an
963 area plan for approval by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
964 and Disability Services and upon such approval administer the plan,
965 (3) coordinate and assist local public and nonprofit, private agencies in
966 the development of programs, (4) receive and distribute federal and
967 state funds for such purposes, in accordance with applicable law, and
968 (5) carry out any additional duties and functions required by federal
969 law and regulations.

970 Sec. 45. Section 17a-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
971 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

972 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
973 Services shall equitably allocate, in accordance with federal law,
974 federal funds received under Title IIIB and IIIC of the Older Americans
975 Act to the five area agencies on aging established pursuant to section
976 17a-304, as amended by this act. The department, before seeking
977 federal approval to spend any amount above that allotted for
978 administrative expenses under said act, shall inform the joint standing
979 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

980 relating to aging and human services that it is seeking such approval.

981 (b) Sixty per cent of the state funds appropriated to the five area
982 agencies on aging for elderly nutrition and social services shall be
983 allocated in the same proportion as allocations made pursuant to
984 subsection (a) of this section. Forty per cent of all state funds
985 appropriated to the five area agencies on aging for elderly nutrition
986 and social services used for purposes other than the required
987 nonfederal matching funds shall be allocated at the discretion of the
988 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, in
989 consultation with the five area agencies on aging, based on their need
990 for such funds. Any state funds appropriated to the five area agencies
991 on aging for administrative expenses shall be allocated equally.

992 (c) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
993 Services, in consultation with the five area agencies on aging, shall
994 review the method of allocation set forth in subsection (a) of this
995 section and shall report any findings or recommendations to the joint
996 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
997 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies
998 and human services.

999 (d) An area agency may request a person participating in the elderly
1000 nutrition program to pay a voluntary fee for meals furnished, except
1001 that no eligible person shall be denied a meal due to an inability to pay
1002 such fee.

1003 Sec. 46. Section 17a-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1004 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1005 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1006 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter
1007 54, to carry out the purposes, programs and services authorized
1008 pursuant to the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended from time to
1009 time. The department may operate under any new policy necessary to
1010 conform to a requirement of a federal or joint state and federal

1011 program while it is in the process of adopting the policy in regulation
1012 form, provided the department posts such policy on the eRegulations
1013 System not later than twenty days after adopting the policy. Such
1014 policy shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

1015 Sec. 47. Section 17a-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1016 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1017 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1018 may make a grant to any city, town or borough or public or private
1019 agency, organization or institution for the following purposes: (1) For
1020 community planning and coordination of programs carrying out the
1021 purposes of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended; (2) for
1022 demonstration programs or activities particularly valuable in carrying
1023 out such purposes; (3) for training of special personnel needed to carry
1024 out such programs and activities; (4) for establishment of new or
1025 expansion of existing programs to carry out such purposes, including
1026 establishment of new or expansion of existing centers of service for
1027 older persons, providing recreational, cultural and other leisure time
1028 activities, and informational, transportation, referral and preretirement
1029 and postretirement counseling services for older persons and assisting
1030 such persons in providing volunteer community or civic services,
1031 except that no costs of construction, other than for minor alterations
1032 and repairs, shall be included in such establishment or expansion; and
1033 (5) for programs to develop or demonstrate approaches, methods and
1034 techniques for achieving or improving coordination of community
1035 services for older or aging persons and such other programs and
1036 services as may be allowed under Title III of the Older Americans Act
1037 of 1965, as amended, or to evaluate these approaches, techniques and
1038 methods, as well as others which may assist older or aging persons to
1039 enjoy wholesome and meaningful living and to continue to contribute
1040 to the strength and welfare of the state and nation.

1041 Sec. 48. Section 17a-313 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1042 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1043 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1044 may use moneys appropriated for the purposes of section 17a-310, as
1045 amended by this act, for the expenses of administering the grant
1046 program under said section, provided the total of such moneys so used
1047 shall not exceed five per cent of the moneys so appropriated.

1048 Sec. 49. Section 17a-314 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1049 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1050 (a) As used in this section:

1051 (1) "CHOICES" means Connecticut's programs for health insurance
1052 assistance, outreach, information and referral, counseling and
1053 eligibility screening; and

1054 (2) "CHOICES health insurance assistance program" means the
1055 federally recognized state health insurance assistance program funded
1056 pursuant to P.L. 101-508 and administered by the Department of
1057 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, in conjunction with the
1058 area agencies on aging and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, that
1059 provides free information and assistance related to health insurance
1060 issues and concerns of older persons and other Medicare beneficiaries
1061 in Connecticut.

1062 (b) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1063 Services shall administer the CHOICES health insurance assistance
1064 program, which shall be a comprehensive Medicare advocacy program
1065 that provides assistance to Connecticut residents who are Medicare
1066 beneficiaries.

1067 (c) The program shall provide: (1) Toll-free telephone access for
1068 consumers to obtain advice and information on Medicare benefits,
1069 including prescription drug benefits available through the Medicare
1070 Part D program, the Medicare appeals process, health insurance
1071 matters applicable to Medicare beneficiaries and long-term care
1072 options available in the state at least five days per week during normal

1073 business hours; (2) information, advice and representation, where
1074 appropriate, concerning the Medicare appeals process, by a qualified
1075 attorney or paralegal at least five days per week during normal
1076 business hours; (3) information through appropriate means and
1077 format, including written materials, to Medicare beneficiaries, their
1078 families, senior citizens and organizations regarding Medicare
1079 benefits, including prescription drug benefits available through
1080 Medicare Part D and other pharmaceutical drug company programs
1081 and long-term care options available in the state; (4) information
1082 concerning Medicare plans and services, private insurance policies and
1083 federal and state-funded programs that are available to beneficiaries to
1084 supplement Medicare coverage; (5) information permitting Medicare
1085 beneficiaries to compare and evaluate their options for delivery of
1086 Medicare and supplemental insurance services; (6) information
1087 concerning the procedure to appeal a denial of care and the procedure
1088 to request an expedited appeal of a denial of care; and (7) any other
1089 information the program or the Commissioner of Rehabilitation
1090 Services deems relevant to Medicare beneficiaries.

1091 (d) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1092 Services may include any additional functions necessary to conform to
1093 federal grant requirements.

1094 (e) All hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490, which treat persons
1095 covered by Medicare Part A shall: (1) Notify incoming patients covered
1096 by Medicare of the availability of the services established pursuant to
1097 subsection (c) of this section, (2) post or cause to be posted in a
1098 conspicuous place therein the toll-free number established pursuant to
1099 subsection (c) of this section, and (3) provide each Medicare patient
1100 with the toll-free number and information on how to access the
1101 CHOICES program.

1102 (f) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1103 Services may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, as
1104 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

1105 Sec. 50. Subsection (a) of section 17a-316a of the general statutes is
1106 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1107 *October 1, 2019*):

1108 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1109 Services shall develop and administer a program to provide a single,
1110 coordinated system of information and access for individuals seeking
1111 long-term support, including in-home, community-based and
1112 institutional services. The program shall be the state Aging and
1113 Disability Resource Center Program in accordance with the federal
1114 Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006, P.L. 109-365 and shall be
1115 administered as part of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1116 Disability Services' CHOICES program in accordance with subdivision
1117 (1) of subsection (a) of section 17a-314, as amended by this act.
1118 Consumers served by the program shall include, but not be limited to,
1119 those sixty years of age or older and those eighteen years of age or
1120 older with disabilities and caregivers.

1121 Sec. 51. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17a-405 of the general
1122 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1123 (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1124 (a) As used in this chapter:

1125 (1) "State agency" means the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1126 and Disability Services.

1127 (2) "Office" or "Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman" means
1128 the organizational unit which is headed by the State Long-Term Care
1129 Ombudsman established in this section.

1130 (3) "State Ombudsman" means the individual who heads the office
1131 established in this section.

1132 (4) "Program" means the long-term care ombudsman program
1133 established in this section.

1134 (5) "Representative of the office" includes a regional ombudsman, a
1135 residents' advocate or an employee of the Office of the Long-Term
1136 Care Ombudsman who is individually designated by the State
1137 Ombudsman.

1138 (6) "Resident" means an individual who resides in a long-term care
1139 facility.

1140 (7) "Long-term care facility" means any skilled nursing facility, as
1141 defined in Section 1819(a) of the Social Security Act, (42 USC 1395i-
1142 3(a)) any nursing facility, as defined in Section 1919(a) of the Social
1143 Security Act, (42 USC 1396r(a)) a board and care facility as defined in
1144 Section 102(19) of the federal Older Americans Act, (42 USC 3002(19))
1145 and for purposes of ombudsman program coverage, an institution
1146 regulated by the state pursuant to Section 1616(e) of the Social Security
1147 Act, (42 USC 1382e(e)) and any other adult care home similar to a
1148 facility or nursing facility or board and care home.

1149 (8) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
1150 Aging and Disability Services.

1151 (9) "Applicant" means an individual who has applied for admission
1152 to a long-term care facility.

1153 (10) "Resident representative" means (A) an individual chosen by
1154 the resident to act on behalf of the resident in order to support the
1155 resident in decision making, accessing medical, social or other personal
1156 information of the resident, managing financial matters, or receiving
1157 notifications; (B) a person authorized by state or federal law to act on
1158 behalf of the resident in order to support the resident in decision
1159 making, accessing medical, social or other personal information of the
1160 resident, managing financial matters, or receiving notifications; (C) a
1161 legal representative, as used in Section 712 of the Older Americans Act;
1162 or (D) the court-appointed guardian or conservator of a resident.

1163 (b) There is established an independent Office of the Long-Term

1164 Care Ombudsman within the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1165 and Disability Services. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1166 and Disability Services shall appoint a State Ombudsman who shall be
1167 selected from among individuals with expertise and experience in the
1168 fields of long-term care and advocacy to head the office and the State
1169 Ombudsman shall appoint regional ombudsmen. In the event the State
1170 Ombudsman or a regional ombudsman is unable to fulfill the duties of
1171 the office, the commissioner shall appoint an acting State Ombudsman
1172 and the State Ombudsman shall appoint an acting regional
1173 ombudsman.

1174 Sec. 52. Section 17a-407 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1175 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1176 No person may perform any functions as a residents' advocate until
1177 the person has successfully completed a course of training required by
1178 the State Ombudsman. Any residents' advocate who fails to complete
1179 such a course within a reasonable time after appointment may be
1180 removed by the State Ombudsman or the regional ombudsman for the
1181 region in which such residents' advocate serves. The Commissioner of
1182 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, after consultation with
1183 the State Ombudsman, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
1184 provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this section.
1185 Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the course of
1186 training required by this section.

1187 Sec. 53. Subsection (c) of section 17a-411 of the general statutes is
1188 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1189 *October 1, 2019*):

1190 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1191 Services shall have authority to seek funding for the purposes
1192 contained in this section from public and private sources, including,
1193 but not limited to, any federal or state funded programs.

1194 Sec. 54. Section 17a-416 of the general statutes is repealed and the

1195 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1196 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services,
1197 after consultation with the State Ombudsman, shall adopt regulations
1198 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the
1199 provisions of sections 17a-405 to 17a-417, inclusive, as amended by this
1200 act, 19a-531 and 19a-532.

1201 Sec. 55. Section 17a-417 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1202 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1203 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1204 shall require the State Ombudsman to:

1205 (1) Prepare an annual report:

1206 (A) Describing the activities carried out by the office in the year for
1207 which the report is prepared;

1208 (B) Containing and analyzing the data collected under section 17a-
1209 418;

1210 (C) Evaluating the problems experienced by and the complaints
1211 made by or on behalf of residents;

1212 (D) Containing recommendations for (i) improving the quality of
1213 the care and life of the residents, and (ii) protecting the health, safety,
1214 welfare and rights of the residents;

1215 (E) (i) Analyzing the success of the program including success in
1216 providing services to residents of long-term care facilities; and (ii)
1217 identifying barriers that prevent the optimal operation of the program;
1218 and

1219 (F) Providing policy, regulatory and legislative recommendations to
1220 solve identified problems, to resolve the complaints, to improve the
1221 quality of the care and life of residents, to protect the health, safety,

1222 welfare and rights of residents and to remove the barriers that prevent
1223 the optimal operation of the program.

1224 (2) Analyze, comment on and monitor the development and
1225 implementation of federal, state and local laws, regulations and other
1226 government policies and actions that pertain to long-term care facilities
1227 and services, and to the health, safety, welfare and rights of residents
1228 in the state, and recommend any changes in such laws, regulations and
1229 policies as the office determines to be appropriate.

1230 (3) (A) Provide such information as the office determines to be
1231 necessary to public and private agencies, legislators and other persons,
1232 regarding (i) the problems and concerns of older individuals residing
1233 in long-term care facilities; and (ii) recommendations related to the
1234 problems and concerns; and (B) make available to the public and
1235 submit to the federal assistant secretary for aging, the Governor, the
1236 General Assembly, the Department of Public Health and other
1237 appropriate governmental entities, each report prepared under
1238 subdivision (1) of this section.

1239 Sec. 56. Subsection (c) of section 17a-422 of the general statutes is
1240 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1241 *October 1, 2019*):

1242 (c) Not later than June 30, 2005, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
1243 shall submit a report on the pilot program to the Commissioners of
1244 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and Public Health, to the
1245 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
1246 of matters relating to human services, public health and
1247 appropriations, and to the select committee of the General Assembly
1248 having cognizance of matters relating to aging. The report shall be
1249 submitted in accordance with section 11-4a.

1250 Sec. 57. Subsection (b) of section 17a-667 of the general statutes is
1251 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1252 *October 1, 2019*):

1253 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The
1254 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's
1255 designee; (2) the Commissioners of Children and Families, Consumer
1256 Protection, Correction, Education, Mental Health and Addiction
1257 Services, Public Health, Emergency Services and Public Protection,
1258 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and Social Services, and
1259 the Insurance Commissioner, or their designees; (3) the Chief Court
1260 Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee; (4) the
1261 chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or the
1262 chairperson's designee; (5) the president of The University of
1263 Connecticut, or the president's designee; (6) the Chief State's Attorney,
1264 or the Chief State's Attorney's designee; (7) the Chief Public Defender,
1265 or the Chief Public Defender's designee; and (8) the cochairpersons
1266 and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General
1267 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health,
1268 criminal justice and appropriations, or their designees. The
1269 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the
1270 Commissioner of Children and Families shall be cochairpersons of the
1271 council and may jointly appoint up to seven individuals to the council
1272 as follows: (A) Two individuals in recovery from a substance use
1273 disorder or representing an advocacy group for individuals with a
1274 substance use disorder; (B) a provider of community-based substance
1275 abuse services for adults; (C) a provider of community-based
1276 substance abuse services for adolescents; (D) an addiction medicine
1277 physician; (E) a family member of an individual in recovery from a
1278 substance use disorder; and (F) an emergency medicine physician
1279 currently practicing in a Connecticut hospital. The cochairpersons of
1280 the council may establish subcommittees and working groups and
1281 may appoint individuals other than members of the council to serve as
1282 members of the subcommittees or working groups. Such individuals
1283 may include, but need not be limited to: (i) Licensed alcohol and drug
1284 counselors; (ii) pharmacists; (iii) municipal police chiefs; (iv)
1285 emergency medical services personnel; and (v) representatives of
1286 organizations that provide education, prevention, intervention,

1287 referrals, rehabilitation or support services to individuals with
1288 substance use disorder or chemical dependency.

1289 Sec. 58. Subsection (b) of section 17b-4 of the general statutes is
1290 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1291 *October 1, 2019*):

1292 (b) The Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the
1293 Department of Public Health and the Department of [Rehabilitation]
1294 Aging and Disability Services, may adopt regulations in accordance
1295 with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish requirements with
1296 respect to the submission of reports concerning financial solvency and
1297 quality of care by nursing homes for the purpose of determining the
1298 financial viability of such homes, identifying homes that appear to be
1299 experiencing financial distress and examining the underlying reasons
1300 for such distress. Such reports shall be submitted to the Nursing Home
1301 Financial Advisory Committee established under section 17b-339.

1302 Sec. 59. Subdivision (11) of subsection (c) of section 17b-28 of the
1303 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1304 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1305 (11) The Commissioners of Social Services, Children and Families,
1306 Public Health, Developmental Services, [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1307 Disability Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, or their
1308 designees, who shall be ex-officio nonvoting members;

1309 Sec. 60. Section 17b-251 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1310 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1311 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1312 shall establish an outreach program to educate consumers as to: (1)
1313 The need for long-term care; (2) mechanisms for financing such care;
1314 (3) the availability of long-term care insurance; and (4) the asset
1315 protection provided under sections 17b-252 to 17b-254, inclusive, and
1316 38a-475, as amended by this act. The Department of [Rehabilitation]

1317 Aging and Disability Services shall provide public information to assist
1318 individuals in choosing appropriate insurance coverage.

1319 Sec. 61. Subsection (c) of section 17b-337 of the general statutes is
1320 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1321 *October 1, 2019*):

1322 (c) The Long-Term Care Planning Committee shall consist of: (1)
1323 The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
1324 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1325 relating to human services, public health, elderly services and long-
1326 term care; (2) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
1327 commissioner's designee; (3) one member of the Office of Policy and
1328 Management appointed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
1329 Management; (4) one member from the Department of Public Health
1330 appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health; (5) one member
1331 from the Department of Housing appointed by the Commissioner of
1332 Housing; (6) one member from the Department of Developmental
1333 Services appointed by the Commissioner of Developmental Services;
1334 (7) one member from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
1335 Services appointed by the Commissioner of Mental Health and
1336 Addiction Services; (8) one member from the Department of
1337 Transportation appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation; (9)
1338 one member from the Department of Children and Families appointed
1339 by the Commissioner of Children and Families; and (10) one member
1340 from the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy
1341 appointed by the executive director of the Office of Health Strategy;
1342 and (11) one member from the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1343 and Disability Services appointed by the Commissioner of
1344 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services. The committee shall
1345 convene no later than ninety days after June 4, 1998. Any vacancy shall
1346 be filled by the appointing authority. The chairperson shall be elected
1347 from among the members of the committee. The committee shall seek
1348 the advice and participation of any person, organization or state or
1349 federal agency it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this

1350 section.

1351 Sec. 62. Subsection (b) of section 17b-349e of the general statutes is
1352 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1353 *October 1, 2019*):

1354 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1355 Services shall operate a program, within available appropriations, to
1356 provide respite care services for caretakers of individuals with
1357 Alzheimer's disease, provided such individuals with Alzheimer's
1358 disease meet the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section.
1359 Such respite care services may include, but need not be limited to (1)
1360 homemaker services; (2) adult day care; (3) temporary care in a
1361 licensed medical facility; (4) home-health care; (5) companion services;
1362 or (6) personal care assistant services. Such respite care services may be
1363 administered directly by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1364 Disability Services, or through contracts for services with providers of
1365 such services, or by means of direct subsidy to caretakers of
1366 individuals with Alzheimer's disease to purchase such services.

1367 Sec. 63. Subsection (d) of section 17b-352 of the general statutes is
1368 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1369 *October 1, 2019*):

1370 (d) Any facility acting pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b)
1371 of this section shall provide written notice, at the same time it submits
1372 its letter of intent, to all patients, guardians or conservators, if any, or
1373 legally liable relatives or other responsible parties, if known, and shall
1374 post such notice in a conspicuous location at the facility. The facility's
1375 written notice shall be accompanied by an informational letter issued
1376 jointly from the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the
1377 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services on
1378 patients' rights and services available as they relate to the letter of
1379 intent. The notice shall state the following: (1) The projected date the
1380 facility will be submitting its certificate of need application, (2) that

1381 only the Department of Social Services has the authority to either
1382 grant, modify or deny the application, (3) that the Department of Social
1383 Services has up to ninety days to grant, modify or deny the certificate
1384 of need application, (4) a brief description of the reason or reasons for
1385 submitting a request for permission, (5) that no patient shall be
1386 involuntarily transferred or discharged within or from a facility
1387 pursuant to state and federal law because of the filing of the certificate
1388 of need application, (6) that all patients have a right to appeal any
1389 proposed transfer or discharge, and (7) the name, mailing address and
1390 telephone number of the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
1391 and local legal aid office.

1392 Sec. 64. Section 17b-607 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1393 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1394 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1395 Services is authorized to establish and administer a fund to be known
1396 as the Assistive Technology Revolving Fund. Said fund shall be used
1397 by said commissioner to make loans to persons with disabilities, senior
1398 citizens or the family members of persons with disabilities or senior
1399 citizens for the purchase of assistive technology and adaptive
1400 equipment and services. Each such loan shall be made for a term of not
1401 more than ten years. Any loans made under this section after July 1,
1402 2013, shall bear interest at a fixed rate not to exceed six per cent. Said
1403 commissioner is authorized to expend any funds necessary for the
1404 reasonable direct expenses relating to the administration of said fund.
1405 Said commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
1406 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of this section.

1407 (b) The State Bond Commission shall have power from time to time
1408 to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series in
1409 accordance with section 3-20 and in a principal amount necessary to
1410 carry out the purposes of this section, but not in excess of an aggregate
1411 amount of one million dollars. All of said bonds shall be payable at
1412 such place or places as may be determined by the Treasurer pursuant

1413 to section 3-19 and shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or
1414 times, not exceeding five years from their respective dates, bear
1415 interest at such rate or different or varying rates and payable at such
1416 time or times, be in such denominations, be in such form with or
1417 without interest coupons attached, carry such registration and transfer
1418 privileges, be payable in such medium of payment and be subject to
1419 such terms of redemption with or without premium as, irrespective of
1420 the provisions of said section 3-20, may be provided by the
1421 authorization of the State Bond Commission or fixed in accordance
1422 therewith. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be deposited in
1423 the Assistive Technology Revolving Fund created by this section. Such
1424 bonds shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
1425 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
1426 principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due.
1427 Accordingly, and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
1428 such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
1429 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made and the
1430 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
1431 due. Net earnings on investments or reinvestments of proceeds,
1432 accrued interest and premiums on the issuance of such bonds, after
1433 payment therefrom of expenses incurred by the Treasurer or State
1434 Bond Commission in connection with their issuance, shall be deposited
1435 in the General Fund of the state.

1436 (c) The Connecticut Tech Act Project, within the Department of
1437 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and as authorized by 29
1438 USC 3001, may provide assistive technology evaluation and training
1439 services upon the request of any person or any public or private entity,
1440 to the extent persons who provide assistive technology services are
1441 available. The project may charge a fee to any person or entity
1442 receiving such assistive technology evaluation and training services to
1443 reimburse the department for its costs. The Commissioner of
1444 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall establish fees at
1445 reasonable rates that will cover the department's direct and indirect

1446 costs.

1447 Sec. 65. Section 17b-612 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1448 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1449 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1450 shall establish a program to assist public school students with
1451 disabilities in preparing for and obtaining competitive employment
1452 and to strengthen the linkage between vocational rehabilitation
1453 services and public schools. Under the program, the Department of
1454 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall provide, within the
1455 limits of available appropriations, vocational evaluations and other
1456 appropriate transitional services and shall provide vocational
1457 rehabilitation counselors to school districts throughout the state. The
1458 counselors shall, if requested, assist those persons planning in-school
1459 skill development programs. The counselors shall, with planning and
1460 placement team members, develop transition plans and individual
1461 education and work rehabilitation plans for students with disabilities
1462 who will no longer be eligible for continued public school services.
1463 Students whose termination date for receipt of public school services is
1464 most immediate shall be given priority.

1465 Sec. 66. Section 17b-614 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1466 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1467 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1468 Services shall establish and maintain a state-wide network of centers
1469 for independent living.

1470 (b) Not more than five per cent of the amount appropriated in any
1471 fiscal year for the purposes of this section may be used by the
1472 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services to
1473 provide state-wide administration, evaluation and technical assistance
1474 relating to the implementation of this section.

1475 Sec. 67. Subsection (b) of section 17b-615 of the general statutes is

1476 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1477 *October 1, 2019*):

1478 (b) The council shall meet regularly with the Commissioner of
1479 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and shall perform the
1480 following duties: (1) Issue an annual report by January first, with
1481 recommendations regarding independent living services and centers,
1482 to the Governor and the chairpersons of the joint standing committee
1483 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1484 human services, and (2) consult with, advise and make
1485 recommendations to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1486 Disability Services concerning independent living and related policy,
1487 management and budgetary issues.

1488 Sec. 68. Section 17b-650a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1489 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1490 (a) There is created a Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1491 Disability Services. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1492 Disability Services shall be responsible for providing the following: (1)
1493 Services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; (2) services for
1494 persons who are blind or visually impaired; (3) rehabilitation services
1495 in accordance with the provisions of the general statutes concerning
1496 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services; and
1497 (4) services for older persons and their families. The Department of
1498 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall constitute a
1499 successor authority to the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services in
1500 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

1501 (b) The department head shall be the Commissioner of
1502 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, who shall be appointed
1503 by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-
1504 8, inclusive, as amended by this act, and shall have the powers and
1505 duties described in said sections. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
1506 Aging and Disability Services shall appoint such persons as may be

1507 necessary to administer the provisions of public act 11-44 and the
1508 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall fix the compensation of
1509 such persons in accordance with the provisions of section 4-40. The
1510 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may
1511 create such sections within the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1512 and Disability Services as will facilitate such administration, including
1513 a disability determinations section for which one hundred per cent
1514 federal funds may be accepted for the operation of such section in
1515 conformity with applicable state and federal regulations. The
1516 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may
1517 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1518 implement the purposes of the department as established by statute.

1519 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1520 Services shall, annually, in accordance with section 4-60, submit to the
1521 Governor a report in electronic format on the activities of the
1522 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services relating
1523 to services provided by the department to persons who (1) are blind or
1524 visually impaired, (2) are deaf or hard of hearing, (3) receive vocational
1525 rehabilitation services, or (4) are older persons or their families. The
1526 report shall include the data the department provides to the federal
1527 government that relates to the evaluation standards and performance
1528 indicators for the vocational rehabilitation services program. The
1529 commissioner shall submit the report in electronic format, in
1530 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
1531 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1532 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
1533 agencies.

1534 (d) The functions, powers, duties and personnel of the former
1535 Department on Aging, or any subsequent division or portion of a
1536 division with similar functions, powers, duties and personnel, shall be
1537 transferred to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1538 Services pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

1539 (e) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1540 shall constitute a successor department to the former Department on
1541 Aging, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and
1542 4-39. Wherever the words "Commissioner on Aging" are used in the
1543 general statutes, the words "Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging
1544 and Disability Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Wherever
1545 the words "Department on Aging" are used in the general statutes, the
1546 words "Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services"
1547 shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Any order or regulation of the
1548 former Department on Aging that is in force on the effective date of
1549 this section shall continue in force and effect as an order or regulation
1550 of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1551 until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

1552 (f) The Governor may, with the approval of the Finance Advisory
1553 Committee, transfer funds between the Department of Social Services
1554 and the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1555 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-87 during the fiscal year ending
1556 June 30, 2018.

1557 (g) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1558 Services is designated as the State Unit on Aging to administer,
1559 manage, design and advocate for benefits, programs and services for
1560 older persons and their families pursuant to the Older Americans Act.
1561 The department shall study continuously the conditions and needs of
1562 older persons in this state in relation to nutrition, transportation, home
1563 care, housing, income, employment, health, recreation and other
1564 matters. The department shall be responsible, in cooperation with
1565 federal, state, local and area planning agencies on aging, for the overall
1566 planning, development and administration of a comprehensive and
1567 integrated social service delivery system for older persons. The
1568 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
1569 designated as the state agency for the administration of nutritional
1570 programs for elderly persons described in section 17a-302, as amended
1571 by this act, the fall prevention program described in section 17a-303a,

1572 as amended by this act, the CHOICES program described in section
1573 17a-314, as amended by this act, the Aging and Disability Resource
1574 Center Program described in section 17a-316a, as amended by this act,
1575 and the Alzheimer's respite program described in section 17b-349e.

1576 Sec. 69. Section 17b-650e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1577 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1578 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1579 may provide necessary services to persons who are deaf or hard of
1580 hearing, including, but not limited to, nonreimbursable interpreter
1581 services and message relay services for persons using
1582 telecommunication devices for persons who are deaf.

1583 Sec. 70. Section 17b-651a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1584 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1585 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1586 shall inquire into the criminal history of any applicant, who is not at
1587 the time of application employed by the Department of
1588 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, for a position of
1589 employment with the department's disability determination services
1590 unit. Such inquiry shall be conducted in accordance with the
1591 provisions of section 31-51i. The commissioner shall require each such
1592 applicant to state whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a
1593 crime, whether criminal charges are pending against the applicant at
1594 the time of application, and, if so, to identify the charges and court in
1595 which such charges are pending. Each such applicant offered a
1596 position of employment with the department's disability
1597 determination services unit shall be required to submit to
1598 fingerprinting and state and national criminal history records checks,
1599 as provided in section 29-17a.

1600 Sec. 71. Section 17b-653 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1601 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1602 (a) Vocational rehabilitation services shall be provided, with or
1603 without public cost, directly or through public or private
1604 instrumentalities, as part of an individual plan for employment for a
1605 person with disabilities determined to be eligible by the Department of
1606 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, in accordance with Title
1607 I of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 USC 701 et seq., as amended from time to
1608 time. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that an
1609 individual's ability or inability to share in the cost of vocational
1610 rehabilitation services may be taken into account during the
1611 determination of eligibility for such services.

1612 (b) If vocational rehabilitation services cannot be provided for all
1613 eligible persons with disabilities who apply for such services, the
1614 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
1615 determine, in accordance with Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
1616 29 USC 701 et seq., and federal regulations, as amended from time to
1617 time, the order to be followed in selecting those to whom such services
1618 will be provided.

1619 (c) Nothing in section 17b-650 or subsection (a) of this section shall
1620 be construed to preclude provision of vocational rehabilitation
1621 services, with or without public cost, to a person with a disability
1622 under an extended evaluation for a total period not in excess of
1623 eighteen months, in accordance with Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of
1624 1973, 29 USC 701 et seq., as amended from time to time.

1625 (d) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1626 Services may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of
1627 chapter 54 to establish standards and procedures governing the
1628 provision of vocational rehabilitation services and, where appropriate,
1629 a means test to determine, based upon the financial need of each
1630 eligible person with disabilities, the extent to which such services will
1631 be provided at public cost. Any funds received by the Department of
1632 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services from individuals or
1633 third parties for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services shall

1634 be used by the department to provide such services. The regulations
1635 may also prescribe the procedures to be used when payment is made
1636 by individuals required to contribute to the cost of vocational
1637 rehabilitation services. Regulations developed to implement a means
1638 test shall include, but not be limited to: (1) An exemption for any
1639 individual with an income of less than one hundred per cent of the
1640 state median income and assets which are less than five thousand
1641 dollars; (2) an exemption for services covered in an individual plan for
1642 employment in effect at the time of implementation of the means test;
1643 (3) an exclusion from an individual's income of the costs of necessary
1644 and reasonable disability-related expenses including, but not limited
1645 to, personal attendant services and medications for which payment is
1646 unavailable to the individual through other benefits or resources; (4)
1647 an exclusion from the individual's assets of the value of the
1648 individual's primary residence and motor vehicle; (5) a method by
1649 which the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1650 Services may reduce the level of required contributions by an
1651 individual in the case of undue hardship; and (6) a requirement that
1652 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services notify
1653 an individual of the results of the means test analysis within thirty
1654 days of receipt of necessary financial information from the individual.
1655 Such means test shall not apply to services covered under a
1656 determination of financial need made by an institution of higher
1657 education. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1658 Services shall develop the regulations in consultation with
1659 representatives of providers of vocational rehabilitation services and
1660 recipients of such services or their representatives.

1661 Sec. 72. Section 17b-654 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1662 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1663 (a) Any applicant for or recipient of vocational rehabilitation
1664 services may request an informal review of any decision made by the
1665 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services pursuant
1666 to section 17b-653, as amended by this act.

1667 (b) Regardless of whether a person requests an informal review
1668 under subsection (a) of this section, any applicant for or recipient of
1669 vocational rehabilitation services who is aggrieved by a decision made
1670 by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1671 pursuant to section 17b-653, as amended by this act, may request an
1672 administrative hearing, by making written request to the
1673 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

1674 (c) An individual who is aggrieved by a final agency decision made
1675 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may appeal therefrom in
1676 accordance with section 4-183. Such appeals shall be privileged cases
1677 to be heard by the court as soon after the return day as shall be
1678 practicable.

1679 Sec. 73. Section 17b-655 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1680 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1681 (a) In carrying out sections 17b-650 to 17b-663, inclusive, the
1682 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall
1683 cooperate with other departments, agencies and institutions, both
1684 public and private, in providing for the vocational rehabilitation of
1685 persons with disabilities, in studying the problems involved therein
1686 and in establishing, developing and providing such programs,
1687 facilities and services as it deems necessary or desirable.
1688 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
1689 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall not
1690 be required to pay that portion of the cost of a program of
1691 postsecondary education or training which is properly designated as
1692 expected parental or family contribution in accordance with state and
1693 federal law regarding eligibility for student financial aid.

1694 (b) Subject to the approval of all real estate acquisitions by the
1695 Commissioner of Administrative Services and the State Properties
1696 Review Board, in carrying out said sections, the Department of
1697 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may (1) establish,

1698 operate, foster and promote the establishment of rehabilitation
1699 facilities and make grants to public and other nonprofit and
1700 nonsectarian organizations for such purposes; (2) assist persons with
1701 significant disabilities to establish and operate small businesses; and
1702 (3) make studies, investigations, demonstrations and reports, and
1703 provide training and instruction, including the establishment and
1704 maintenance of such research fellowships and traineeships with such
1705 stipends and allowances as may be deemed necessary, in matters
1706 relating to vocational rehabilitation.

1707 (c) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1708 Services shall develop and maintain a program of public education
1709 and information. The program shall include, but not be limited to,
1710 education of the public concerning services available from the
1711 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, its
1712 policies and goals, an outreach effort to discover persons with
1713 disabilities, including such persons who are minorities as defined in
1714 subsection (a) of section 32-9n, who may benefit from the services it
1715 offers and the dissemination of printed materials to persons at their
1716 initial meeting with staff of the department, including a statement of
1717 such person's rights. Each state agency providing services to persons
1718 with disabilities shall furnish to each person applying for such
1719 services, at the time of initial application, a written summary of all
1720 state programs for persons with disabilities. Such summary shall be
1721 developed by the Department of Social Services as the lead agency for
1722 services to persons with disabilities pursuant to section 17b-606. The
1723 Department of Social Services shall distribute sufficient copies of the
1724 summary to all state agencies providing services to persons with
1725 disabilities in order that such copies may be furnished in accordance
1726 with this subsection.

1727 Sec. 74. Section 17b-657 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1728 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1729 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is

1730 authorized to provide such medical, diagnostic, physical restoration,
1731 training and other rehabilitation services as may be needed to enable
1732 persons with disabilities to attain the maximum degree of self care. The
1733 powers herein delegated and authorized to the Department of
1734 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall be in addition to
1735 those authorized by any other law and shall become effective upon
1736 authorization of federal grant-in-aid funds for participation in the cost
1737 of independent living rehabilitation services for persons with
1738 disabilities. The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1739 Services shall be authorized to cooperate with whatever federal agency
1740 is directed to administer the federal aspects of such program and to
1741 comply with such requirements and conditions as may be established
1742 for the receipt and disbursement of federal grant-in-aid funds which
1743 may be made available to the state of Connecticut in carrying out such
1744 program.

1745 Sec. 75. Section 17b-658 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1746 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1747 The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services is
1748 authorized to cooperate with the federal government in carrying out
1749 the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to vocational
1750 rehabilitation, to adopt such methods of administration as it finds
1751 necessary for the proper and efficient operation of agreements or plans
1752 for vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as
1753 may be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes to
1754 this state.

1755 Sec. 76. Section 17b-659 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1756 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1757 The State Treasurer is designated as the custodian of all funds
1758 received from the federal government for the purpose of carrying out
1759 any federal statutes pertaining to vocational rehabilitation or any
1760 agreements authorized by sections 17b-650 to 17b-663, inclusive, and

1761 shall make disbursements from such funds and from all state funds
1762 available for vocational rehabilitation purposes upon certification by
1763 the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services.

1764 Sec. 77. Section 17b-660 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1765 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1766 The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1767 is authorized to accept and use gifts made unconditionally by will or
1768 otherwise for carrying out the purposes of the general statutes
1769 concerning the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1770 Services. Gifts made under such conditions as in the judgment of the
1771 Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services are
1772 proper and consistent with the provisions of said sections may be so
1773 accepted and shall be held, invested, reinvested and used in
1774 accordance with the conditions of the gift.

1775 Sec. 78. Section 17b-661 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1776 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1777 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
1778 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may,
1779 within the limits of appropriations, purchase (1) wheelchairs and
1780 placement equipment directly and without the issuance of a purchase
1781 order, provided the cost of such purchases shall not be in excess of
1782 twenty thousand dollars per unit, and (2) adaptive equipment,
1783 including equipment to modify vehicles for persons with disabilities
1784 directly and without the issuance of a purchase order, provided the
1785 cost of such purchases of adaptive equipment shall not be in excess of
1786 one hundred twenty thousand dollars per unit. All such purchases
1787 shall be made in the open market, but shall, when possible, be based
1788 on at least three competitive bids. Such bids shall be solicited by
1789 sending notice to prospective suppliers and by posting notice on the
1790 Internet web site of the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1791 Disability Services. Each bid shall be opened publicly at the time stated

1792 in the notice soliciting such bid. Acceptance of a bid by the Department
1793 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall be based on
1794 standard specifications as may be adopted by said department.

1795 Sec. 79. Section 17b-666 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1796 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1797 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1798 Services may receive state and federal funds to administer, within
1799 available appropriations, an employment opportunities program to
1800 serve individuals with the most significant disabilities who do not
1801 meet the eligibility requirements of supported employment programs
1802 administered by the Departments of Developmental Services, Social
1803 Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services. For the purposes
1804 of this section, "individuals with the most significant disabilities"
1805 means those individuals who (1) have serious employment limitations
1806 in a total of three or more functional areas including, but not limited
1807 to, mobility, communication, self-care, interpersonal skills, work
1808 tolerance or work skills, or (2) will require significant ongoing
1809 disability-related services on the job in order to maintain employment.

1810 (b) The employment opportunities program shall provide extended
1811 services, as defined in 34 CFR 361.5(b)(19), that are necessary for
1812 individuals with the most significant disabilities to maintain supported
1813 employment. Such services shall include coaching and other related
1814 services that allow participants to obtain and maintain employment
1815 and maximize economic self-sufficiency.

1816 (c) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1817 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement
1818 the provisions of this section.

1819 Sec. 80. Section 21a-3a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1820 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1821 The Department of Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the

1822 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services, shall
1823 conduct a public awareness campaign, within available funding, to
1824 educate elderly consumers and caregivers on ways to resist aggressive
1825 marketing tactics and scams.

1826 Sec. 81. Section 23-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the
1827 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1828 (a) Not later than December 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, any
1829 person who has a contractual agreement with the Department of
1830 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services for the operation in any
1831 state park of any food service facility, vending machine or stand for the
1832 vending of goods shall report to the Department of [Rehabilitation]
1833 Aging and Disability Services the amount of revenue that such person
1834 generated during the calendar year as a result of such contract. Not
1835 later than January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Department of
1836 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services shall compile any
1837 reports received pursuant to this subsection and transmit such reports
1838 to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

1839 (b) On or before January 30, 2016, and each year thereafter, the
1840 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall compile
1841 the following information: (1) The number of food service facilities,
1842 vending machines and stands for the vending of goods that are located
1843 in the state parks and the location of the respective parks that have
1844 such facilities, machines or stands, (2) the amount of revenues
1845 generated from such food service facilities, vending machines and
1846 stands for the vending of goods, as reported to the commissioner by
1847 the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
1848 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (3) the contractual agreement
1849 or provision of law that provides for the payment of any portion of
1850 such revenues to the state or that prohibits or limits the payment of
1851 such revenues to the state, (4) the amount of such revenues paid to the
1852 state in the subject calendar year, and (5) the manner in which such
1853 revenues were used by the state, if identifiable by the commissioner.

1854 Sec. 82. Section 26-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1855 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1856 No fee shall be charged for any sport fishing license issued under
1857 this chapter to any person who is blind, and such license shall be a
1858 lifetime license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35.
1859 Proof of such blindness shall be furnished, in the case of a veteran, by
1860 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and, in the case of
1861 any other person, by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1862 Disability Services. For the purpose of this section, a person shall be
1863 blind only if his or her central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in
1864 the better eye with correcting lenses, or if his or her visual acuity is
1865 greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of
1866 vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an
1867 angle no greater than twenty degrees.

1868 Sec. 83. Subsection (d) of section 31-280 of the general statutes is
1869 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1870 *October 1, 2019*):

1871 (d) The chairman and the Comptroller, as soon as practicable after
1872 August first in each year, shall ascertain the total amount of expenses
1873 incurred by the commission, including, in addition to the direct cost of
1874 personnel services, the cost of maintenance and operation, rentals for
1875 space occupied in state leased offices and all other direct and indirect
1876 costs, incurred by the commission and the expenses incurred by the
1877 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in
1878 providing rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable
1879 injuries in accordance with the provisions of section 31-283a, as
1880 amended by this act, during the preceding fiscal year in connection
1881 with the administration of the Workers' Compensation Act and the
1882 total noncontributory payments required to be made to the Treasurer
1883 towards commissioners' retirement salaries as provided in sections 51-
1884 49, 51-50, 51-50a and 51-50b. An itemized statement of the expenses as
1885 so ascertained shall be available for public inspection in the office of

1886 the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission for thirty
1887 days after notice to all insurance carriers, and to all employers
1888 permitted to pay compensation directly affected thereby.

1889 Sec. 84. Section 31-283a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1890 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1891 (a) The Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1892 Services shall provide rehabilitation programs for employees with
1893 compensable injuries within the provisions of this chapter, which
1894 injuries prevented such employees from performing their customary
1895 or most recent work. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1896 Disability Services shall establish rehabilitation programs which shall
1897 best suit the needs of such employees and shall make the programs
1898 available in convenient locations throughout the state. After
1899 consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of
1900 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may establish fees for
1901 the programs, so as to provide the most effective rehabilitation
1902 programs at a minimum rate. In order to carry out the provisions of
1903 this section, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1904 Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
1905 chapter 54, and, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, provide for the
1906 employment of necessary assistants.

1907 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
1908 Services shall be authorized to (1) enter into agreements with other
1909 state or federal agencies to carry out the purposes of this section and
1910 expend money for that purpose, and (2) on behalf of the state of
1911 Connecticut, develop matching programs or activities to secure federal
1912 grants or funds for the purposes of this section and may pledge or use
1913 funds supplied from the administrative costs fund, as provided in
1914 section 31-345, as amended by this act, to finance the state's share of
1915 the programs or activities.

1916 Sec. 85. Subsection (a) of section 31-296 of the general statutes is

1917 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1918 *October 1, 2019*):

1919 (a) If an employer and an injured employee, or in case of fatal injury
1920 the employee's legal representative or dependent, at a date not earlier
1921 than the expiration of the waiting period, reach an agreement in regard
1922 to compensation, such agreement shall be submitted in writing to the
1923 commissioner by the employer with a statement of the time, place and
1924 nature of the injury upon which it is based; and, if such commissioner
1925 finds such agreement to conform to the provisions of this chapter in
1926 every regard, the commissioner shall so approve it. A copy of the
1927 agreement, with a statement of the commissioner's approval, shall be
1928 delivered to each of the parties and thereafter it shall be as binding
1929 upon both parties as an award by the commissioner. The
1930 commissioner's statement of approval shall also inform the employee
1931 or the employee's dependent, as the case may be, of any rights the
1932 individual may have to an annual cost-of-living adjustment or to
1933 participate in a rehabilitation program administered by the
1934 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services under
1935 the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner shall retain the
1936 original agreement, with the commissioner's approval thereof, in the
1937 commissioner's office and, if an application is made to the superior
1938 court for an execution, the commissioner shall, upon the request of
1939 said court, file in the court a certified copy of the agreement and
1940 statement of approval.

1941 Sec. 86. Section 31-300 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1942 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

1943 As soon as may be after the conclusion of any hearing, but no later
1944 than one hundred twenty days after such conclusion, the
1945 commissioner shall send to each party a written copy of the
1946 commissioner's findings and award. The commissioner shall, as part of
1947 the written award, inform the employee or the employee's dependent,
1948 as the case may be, of any rights the individual may have to an annual

1949 cost-of-living adjustment or to participate in a rehabilitation program
1950 administered by the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
1951 Disability Services under the provisions of this chapter. The
1952 commissioner shall retain the original findings and award in said
1953 commissioner's office. If no appeal from the decision is taken by either
1954 party within twenty days thereafter, such award shall be final and may
1955 be enforced in the same manner as a judgment of the Superior Court.
1956 The court may issue execution upon any uncontested or final award of
1957 a commissioner in the same manner as in cases of judgments rendered
1958 in the Superior Court; and, upon the filing of an application to the
1959 court for an execution, the commissioner in whose office the award is
1960 on file shall, upon the request of the clerk of said court, send to the
1961 clerk a certified copy of such findings and award. In cases where,
1962 through the fault or neglect of the employer or insurer, adjustments of
1963 compensation have been unduly delayed, or where through such fault
1964 or neglect, payments have been unduly delayed, the commissioner
1965 may include in the award interest at the rate prescribed in section 37-
1966 3a and a reasonable attorney's fee in the case of undue delay in
1967 adjustments of compensation and may include in the award in the case
1968 of undue delay in payments of compensation, interest at twelve per
1969 cent per annum and a reasonable attorney's fee. Payments not
1970 commenced within thirty-five days after the filing of a written notice of
1971 claim shall be presumed to be unduly delayed unless a notice to
1972 contest the claim is filed in accordance with section 31-297. In cases
1973 where there has been delay in either adjustment or payment, which
1974 delay has not been due to the fault or neglect of the employer or
1975 insurer, whether such delay was caused by appeals or otherwise, the
1976 commissioner may allow interest at such rate, not to exceed the rate
1977 prescribed in section 37-3a, as may be fair and reasonable, taking into
1978 account whatever advantage the employer or insurer, as the case may
1979 be, may have had from the use of the money, the burden of showing
1980 that the rate in such case should be less than the rate prescribed in
1981 section 37-3a to be upon the employer or insurer. In cases where the
1982 claimant prevails and the commissioner finds that the employer or

1983 insurer has unreasonably contested liability, the commissioner may
1984 allow to the claimant a reasonable attorney's fee. No employer or
1985 insurer shall discontinue or reduce payment on account of total or
1986 partial incapacity under any such award, if it is claimed by or on
1987 behalf of the injured person that such person's incapacity still
1988 continues, unless such employer or insurer notifies the commissioner
1989 and the employee of such proposed discontinuance or reduction in the
1990 manner prescribed in section 31-296, as amended by this act, and the
1991 commissioner specifically approves such discontinuance or reduction
1992 in writing. The commissioner shall render the decision within fourteen
1993 days of receipt of such notice and shall forward to all parties to the
1994 claim a copy of the decision not later than seven days after the decision
1995 has been rendered. If the decision of the commissioner finds for the
1996 employer or insurer, the injured person shall return any wrongful
1997 payments received from the day designated by the commissioner as
1998 the effective date for the discontinuance or reduction of benefits. Any
1999 employee whose benefits for total incapacity are discontinued under
2000 the provisions of this section and who is entitled to receive benefits for
2001 partial incapacity as a result of an award, shall receive those benefits
2002 commencing the day following the designated effective date for the
2003 discontinuance of benefits for total incapacity. In any case where the
2004 commissioner finds that the employer or insurer has discontinued or
2005 reduced any such payment without having given such notice and
2006 without the commissioner having approved such discontinuance or
2007 reduction in writing, the commissioner shall allow the claimant a
2008 reasonable attorney's fee together with interest at the rate prescribed in
2009 section 37-3a on the discontinued or reduced payments.

2010 Sec. 87. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-345 of the
2011 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2012 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2013 (2) The chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission shall
2014 annually, on or after July first of each fiscal year, determine an amount
2015 sufficient in the chairman's judgment to meet the expenses incurred by

2016 the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Department of
2017 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in providing
2018 rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable injuries in
2019 accordance with section 31-283a, as amended by this act. Such
2020 expenses shall include (A) the costs of the Division of Workers'
2021 Rehabilitation and the programs established by its director, for fiscal
2022 years prior to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, (B) the costs of the
2023 Division of Worker Education and the programs established by its
2024 director, and (C) funding for the occupational health clinic program
2025 created pursuant to sections 31-396 to 31-402, inclusive. The Treasurer
2026 shall thereupon assess upon and collect from each employer, other
2027 than the state and any municipality participating for purposes of its
2028 liability under this chapter as a member in an interlocal risk
2029 management agency pursuant to chapter 113a, the proportion of such
2030 expenses, based on the immediately preceding fiscal year, that the total
2031 compensation and payment for hospital, medical and nursing care
2032 made by such self-insured employer or private insurance carrier acting
2033 on behalf of any such employer bore to the total compensation and
2034 payments for the immediately preceding fiscal year for hospital,
2035 medical and nursing care made by such insurance carriers and
2036 self-insurers. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, and June 30,
2037 2001, such assessments shall not exceed five per cent of such total
2038 compensation and payments made by such insurance carriers and self-
2039 insurers. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003,
2040 such assessments shall not exceed four and one-half per cent of such
2041 total compensation and payments made by such insurance carriers and
2042 self-insurers. For any fiscal year ending on or after June 30, 2004, such
2043 assessment shall not exceed four per cent of such total compensation
2044 and payments made by such insurance carriers and self-insurers. Such
2045 assessments and expenses shall not exceed the budget estimates
2046 submitted in accordance with subsection (c) of section 31-280. For each
2047 fiscal year, such assessment shall be reduced pro rata by the amount of
2048 any surplus from the assessments of prior fiscal years. Said surplus
2049 shall be determined in accordance with subdivision (3) of this

2050 subsection. Such assessments shall be made in one annual assessment
2051 upon receipt of the chairman's expense determination by the
2052 Treasurer. All assessments shall be paid not later than sixty days
2053 following the date of the assessment by the Treasurer. Any employer
2054 who fails to pay such assessment to the Treasurer within the time
2055 prescribed by this subdivision shall pay interest to the Treasurer on the
2056 assessment at the rate of eight per cent per annum from the date the
2057 assessment is due until the date of payment. All assessments received
2058 by the Treasurer pursuant to this subdivision to meet the expenses of
2059 the Workers' Compensation Commission shall be deposited in the
2060 Workers' Compensation Administration Fund established under
2061 section 31-344a. All assessments received by the Treasurer pursuant to
2062 this subdivision to meet the expenses incurred by the Department of
2063 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services in providing
2064 rehabilitation services for employees suffering compensable injuries in
2065 accordance with section 31-283a, as amended by this act, shall be
2066 deposited in the Workers' Compensation Administration Fund. The
2067 Treasurer is hereby authorized to make credits or rebates for
2068 overpayments made under this subsection by any employer for any
2069 fiscal year.

2070 Sec. 88. Subsection (a) of section 31-349b of the general statutes is
2071 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2072 *October 1, 2019*):

2073 (a) Any employee who has suffered a compensable injury under the
2074 provisions of this chapter, and who is receiving benefits for such injury
2075 from the Second Injury Fund pursuant to the provisions of section 31-
2076 349, may file a written request with the commissioner in the district
2077 where the original claim was filed for a hearing to determine whether
2078 the employee's injury constitutes a permanent vocational disability.
2079 The hearing shall be held within sixty days of the date the request was
2080 filed. Upon the request of the commissioner and prior to the
2081 conclusion of such hearing, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
2082 Aging and Disability Services shall, after receiving such information

2083 on the case which the commissioner deems necessary, submit written
2084 recommendations concerning the case to the commissioner for his
2085 consideration. The commissioner shall issue his decision, in writing,
2086 within ten days after the conclusion of the hearing. If the commissioner
2087 determines that the employee's injury is a permanent vocational
2088 disability, the employee shall be issued a certificate of disability by the
2089 commissioner. Such certificate shall be effective for a stated period of
2090 time of from one to five years, as determined by the commissioner. The
2091 decision of the commissioner may be appealed in accordance with the
2092 provisions of section 31-301.

2093 Sec. 89. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 38a-47 of the
2094 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2095 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2096 (4) The amount appropriated to the Department of [Rehabilitation]
2097 Aging and Disability Services for the fall prevention program
2098 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, from the
2099 Insurance Fund for the fiscal year.

2100 Sec. 90. Subsection (b) of section 38a-48 of the general statutes is
2101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2102 *October 1, 2019*):

2103 (b) On or before July thirty-first, annually, the Insurance
2104 Commissioner and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall render
2105 to each domestic insurance company or other domestic entity liable for
2106 payment under section 38a-47, as amended by this act: (1) A statement
2107 that includes (A) the amount appropriated to the Insurance
2108 Department, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate and the Office of
2109 Health Strategy from the Insurance Fund established under section
2110 38a-52a for the fiscal year beginning July first of the same year, (B) the
2111 cost of fringe benefits for department and office personnel for such
2112 year, as estimated by the Comptroller, (C) the estimated expenditures
2113 on behalf of the department and the offices from the Capital

2114 Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9 for such year, not
2115 including such estimated expenditures made on behalf of the Health
2116 Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, and (D) the
2117 amount appropriated to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2118 Disability Services for the fall prevention program established in
2119 section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, from the Insurance Fund for
2120 the fiscal year; (2) a statement of the total taxes imposed on all
2121 domestic insurance companies and domestic insurance entities under
2122 chapter 207 on business done in this state during the preceding
2123 calendar year; and (3) the proposed assessment against that company
2124 or entity, calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c)
2125 of this section, provided for the purposes of this calculation the
2126 amount appropriated to the Insurance Department, the Office of the
2127 Healthcare Advocate and the Office of Health Strategy from the
2128 Insurance Fund plus the cost of fringe benefits for department and
2129 office personnel and the estimated expenditures on behalf of the
2130 department and the office from the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund
2131 pursuant to section 4a-9, not including such expenditures made on
2132 behalf of the Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health
2133 Strategy shall be deemed to be the actual expenditures of the
2134 department and the office, and the amount appropriated to the
2135 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services from the
2136 Insurance Fund for the fiscal year for the fall prevention program
2137 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, shall be
2138 deemed to be the actual expenditures for the program.

2139 Sec. 91. Subsection (g) of section 38a-48 of the general statutes is
2140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2141 *October 1, 2019*):

2142 (g) If the actual expenditures for the fall prevention program
2143 established in section 17a-303a, as amended by this act, are less than
2144 the amount allocated, the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2145 Disability Services shall notify the Insurance Commissioner and the
2146 Healthcare Advocate. Immediately following the close of the fiscal

2147 year, the Insurance Commissioner and the Healthcare Advocate shall
2148 recalculate the proposed assessment for each domestic insurance
2149 company or other domestic entity in accordance with subsection (c) of
2150 this section using the actual expenditures made during the fiscal year
2151 by the Insurance Department, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate
2152 and the Office of Health Strategy from the Insurance Fund, the actual
2153 expenditures made on behalf of the department and the offices from
2154 the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund pursuant to section 4a-9, not
2155 including such expenditures made on behalf of the Health Systems
2156 Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, and the actual
2157 expenditures for the fall prevention program. On or before July thirty-
2158 first, the Insurance Commissioner and the Healthcare Advocate shall
2159 render to each such domestic insurance company and other domestic
2160 entity a statement showing the difference between their respective
2161 recalculated assessments and the amount they have previously paid.
2162 On or before August thirty-first, the Insurance Commissioner and the
2163 Healthcare Advocate, after receiving any objections to such statements,
2164 shall make such adjustments which in their opinion may be indicated,
2165 and shall render an adjusted assessment, if any, to the affected
2166 companies.

2167 Sec. 92. Section 38a-475 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2168 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2169 The Insurance Department shall only precertify long-term care
2170 insurance policies that (1) alert the purchaser to the availability of
2171 consumer information and public education provided by the
2172 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services pursuant
2173 to section 17b-251, as amended by this act; (2) offer the option of home
2174 and community-based services in addition to nursing home care; (3) in
2175 all home care plans, include case management services delivered by an
2176 access agency approved by the Office of Policy and Management and
2177 the Department of Social Services as meeting the requirements for such
2178 agency as defined in regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (e) of
2179 section 17b-342, which services shall include, but need not be limited

2180 to, the development of a comprehensive individualized assessment
2181 and care plan and, as needed, the coordination of appropriate services
2182 and the monitoring of the delivery of such services; (4) provide
2183 inflation protection; (5) provide for the keeping of records and an
2184 explanation of benefit reports on insurance payments which count
2185 toward Medicaid resource exclusion; and (6) provide the management
2186 information and reports necessary to document the extent of Medicaid
2187 resource protection offered and to evaluate the Connecticut
2188 Partnership for Long-Term Care. No policy shall be precertified if it
2189 requires prior hospitalization or a prior stay in a nursing home as a
2190 condition of providing benefits. The commissioner may adopt
2191 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the
2192 precertification provisions of this section.

2193 Sec. 93. Subsection (a) of section 46a-28 of the general statutes is
2194 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2195 *October 1, 2019*):

2196 (a) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of
2197 Hearing shall consist of the following sixteen members appointed by
2198 the Governor: (1) The consultant appointed by the State Board of
2199 Education in accordance with section 10-316a, or the consultant's
2200 designee; (2) the president of the Connecticut Council of Organizations
2201 Serving the Deaf, or the president's designee; (3) the president of the
2202 Connecticut Association of the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the
2203 president of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or
2204 the president's designee; (5) the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation]
2205 Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the
2206 executive director of the American School for the Deaf, or the executive
2207 director's designee; (7) a parent of a student in a predominantly oral
2208 education program; (8) a parent of a student at the American School
2209 for the Deaf; (9) a person who is deaf; (10) a person who is hard of
2210 hearing; (11) a person who is deaf and blind; (12) an interpreting
2211 professional who serves deaf or hard of hearing persons; (13) a
2212 healthcare professional who works with persons who are deaf or hard

2213 of hearing; (14) the Governor's liaison to the disability community; (15)
2214 an educator who works with children who are deaf or hard of hearing;
2215 and (16) the director of the Connecticut Chapter of We the Deaf
2216 People. The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2217 Services, the Governor's liaison to the disability community and a
2218 member chosen by the majority of the board shall be the chairpersons
2219 of the advisory board.

2220 Sec. 94. Subsection (a) of section 46a-29 of the general statutes is
2221 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
2222 *October 1, 2019*):

2223 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2224 Services may request and shall receive from any department, division,
2225 board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or of any political
2226 subdivision thereof such assistance and data as will enable the
2227 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services to
2228 properly carry out its activities under sections 17b-650e, as amended
2229 by this act, and 46a-30 to 46a-33b, inclusive, as amended by this act,
2230 and to effectuate the purposes therein set forth.

2231 Sec. 95. Section 46a-30 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2232 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2233 (a) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2234 Services may receive moneys from any source, including gifts, grants,
2235 bequests and reimbursements which moneys may be expended for the
2236 purposes designated by the donor or to effectuate the provisions of
2237 sections 17b-650e, as amended by this act, and 46a-29 to 46a-33b,
2238 inclusive, as amended by this act.

2239 (b) The Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2240 Services is empowered to expend its appropriation and receipts to
2241 initiate and support the provisions of said sections by contract or other
2242 arrangement and to contract for and engage consultants.

2243 Sec. 96. Subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 46a-33a of the
2244 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2245 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2246 (b) All persons providing interpreting services shall register,
2247 annually, with the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2248 Services. Such registration shall be on a form prescribed or furnished
2249 by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services
2250 and shall include the registrant's name, address, phone number, place
2251 of employment as interpreter and interpreter certification or
2252 credentials. The department shall issue identification cards for those
2253 who register in accordance with this section.

2254 (c) No person shall provide interpreting services unless such person
2255 is registered with the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2256 Disability Services according to the provisions of this section and (1)
2257 has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written
2258 generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National
2259 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
2260 examination, holds a level three certification provided by the National
2261 Association of the Deaf, documents the achievement of two continuing
2262 education units per year for a maximum of five years of training
2263 approved by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and
2264 Disability Services, and on or before the fifth anniversary of having
2265 passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written
2266 generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National
2267 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
2268 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the
2269 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the
2270 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter
2271 certification examination, (2) has passed the National Registry of
2272 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test or the National
2273 Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
2274 certification knowledge examination and is a graduate of an accredited
2275 interpreter training program and documents the achievement of two

2276 continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of
2277 training approved by the commissioner, and on or before the fifth
2278 anniversary of having passed the National Registry of Interpreters for
2279 the Deaf written generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-
2280 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
2281 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the
2282 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the
2283 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter
2284 certification examination, (3) holds a level four or higher certification
2285 from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds certification by the
2286 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations
2287 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the
2288 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for situations
2289 requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds certification from the
2290 National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed
2291 the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist
2292 test, (7) holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter
2293 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or (8) holds a
2294 National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for
2295 the Deaf national interpreting certificate.

2296 (d) No person shall provide interpreting services in a medical
2297 setting unless such person is registered with the Department of
2298 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services according to the
2299 provisions of this section and (1) holds a comprehensive skills
2300 certificate from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (2)
2301 holds a certificate of interpretation or a certificate of transliteration
2302 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) holds a level
2303 four or higher certification from the National Association of the Deaf,
2304 (4) holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter
2305 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for
2306 situations requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification
2307 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for
2308 situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds

2309 certification from the National Training, Evaluation and Certification
2310 Unit and has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
2311 written generalist test, or (7) holds a National Association of the Deaf-
2312 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting
2313 certificate.

2314 (e) No person shall provide interpreting services in a legal setting
2315 unless such person is registered with the Department of
2316 [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services according to the
2317 provisions of this section and (1) holds a comprehensive skills
2318 certificate from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (2)
2319 holds a certificate of interpretation and a certificate of transliteration
2320 from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) holds a level
2321 five certification from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds a
2322 reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter under the
2323 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations
2324 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the
2325 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for situations
2326 requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds certification from the
2327 National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed
2328 the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist
2329 test, or (7) holds a National Association of the Deaf-National Registry
2330 of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting certificate.

2331 Sec. 97. Section 46a-33b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2332 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2333 Upon the request of any person or any public or private entity, the
2334 Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services may
2335 provide interpreting services to assist such person or entity to the
2336 extent such persons who provide interpreting services are available.
2337 Any person or entity receiving interpreting services through the
2338 department shall reimburse the department for such services at a rate
2339 set by the Commissioner of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
2340 Services. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with

2341 the provisions of chapter 54 to establish the manner of rate setting.

2342 Sec. 98. Section 46a-33c of the general statutes is repealed and the
 2343 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

2344 For purposes of this section, "state agency" has the same meaning as
 2345 provided in section 9-612 and "interpreting" has the same meaning as
 2346 provided in section 46a-33a, as amended by this act. Any state agency
 2347 that is unable to fulfill a request for interpreting services with its own
 2348 interpreting staff shall first request such services from the Department
 2349 of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability Services and may seek such
 2350 services elsewhere if (1) the department is unable to fulfill the request
 2351 in two business days, or (2) the agency shows good cause that it needs
 2352 such services immediately. The provisions of this section shall not (A)
 2353 apply to the Department of [Rehabilitation] Aging and Disability
 2354 Services if the department needs interpreting services related to an
 2355 internal matter and the use of department interpreters may raise
 2356 confidentiality concerns, or (B) affect any preexisting contract for
 2357 interpreting services. Interpreting services provided by a state agency
 2358 shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 46a-33a, as
 2359 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	3-123aa(c)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-5
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-5
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	4-5
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-38c
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-38c
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-61aa(a)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-89(g)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4-274(7)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4a-82(a)(1)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	4a-82(h) to (k)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	5-175a(a)

Sec. 13	October 1, 2019	5-198(22)
Sec. 14	October 1, 2019	5-259(e)
Sec. 15	October 1, 2019	7-127b
Sec. 16	October 1, 2019	8-119f
Sec. 17	October 1, 2019	9-20(c)
Sec. 18	October 1, 2019	10-76i(a)
Sec. 19	October 1, 2019	10-76y(a)
Sec. 20	October 1, 2019	10-293(b)(1)
Sec. 21	October 1, 2019	10-295
Sec. 22	October 1, 2019	10-296
Sec. 23	October 1, 2019	10-297
Sec. 24	October 1, 2019	10-297a
Sec. 25	October 1, 2019	10-298
Sec. 26	October 1, 2019	10-303
Sec. 27	October 1, 2019	10-305
Sec. 28	October 1, 2019	10-306
Sec. 29	October 1, 2019	10-307
Sec. 30	October 1, 2019	10-308
Sec. 31	October 1, 2019	10-308a
Sec. 32	October 1, 2019	10-309
Sec. 33	October 1, 2019	10-311a
Sec. 34	October 1, 2019	12-217oo(a)(4)
Sec. 35	October 1, 2019	12-217pp(a)(7)
Sec. 36	October 1, 2019	12-217pp(e)(1)
Sec. 37	October 1, 2019	14-11b
Sec. 38	October 1, 2019	14-253a(b)
Sec. 39	October 1, 2019	17a-215d(a)
Sec. 40	October 1, 2019	17a-248(9)
Sec. 41	October 1, 2019	17a-302(a)
Sec. 42	October 1, 2019	17a-302a
Sec. 43	October 1, 2019	17a-303a
Sec. 44	October 1, 2019	17a-304
Sec. 45	October 1, 2019	17a-305
Sec. 46	October 1, 2019	17a-306
Sec. 47	October 1, 2019	17a-310
Sec. 48	October 1, 2019	17a-313
Sec. 49	October 1, 2019	17a-314
Sec. 50	October 1, 2019	17a-316a(a)
Sec. 51	October 1, 2019	17a-405(a) and (b)

Sec. 52	October 1, 2019	17a-407
Sec. 53	October 1, 2019	17a-411(c)
Sec. 54	October 1, 2019	17a-416
Sec. 55	October 1, 2019	17a-417
Sec. 56	October 1, 2019	17a-422(c)
Sec. 57	October 1, 2019	17a-667(b)
Sec. 58	October 1, 2019	17b-4(b)
Sec. 59	October 1, 2019	17b-28(c)(11)
Sec. 60	October 1, 2019	17b-251
Sec. 61	October 1, 2019	17b-337(c)
Sec. 62	October 1, 2019	17b-349e(b)
Sec. 63	October 1, 2019	17b-352(d)
Sec. 64	October 1, 2019	17b-607
Sec. 65	October 1, 2019	17b-612
Sec. 66	October 1, 2019	17b-614
Sec. 67	October 1, 2019	17b-615(b)
Sec. 68	October 1, 2019	17b-650a
Sec. 69	October 1, 2019	17b-650e
Sec. 70	October 1, 2019	17b-651a
Sec. 71	October 1, 2019	17b-653
Sec. 72	October 1, 2019	17b-654
Sec. 73	October 1, 2019	17b-655
Sec. 74	October 1, 2019	17b-657
Sec. 75	October 1, 2019	17b-658
Sec. 76	October 1, 2019	17b-659
Sec. 77	October 1, 2019	17b-660
Sec. 78	October 1, 2019	17b-661
Sec. 79	October 1, 2019	17b-666
Sec. 80	October 1, 2019	21a-3a
Sec. 81	October 1, 2019	23-15c
Sec. 82	October 1, 2019	26-29
Sec. 83	October 1, 2019	31-280(d)
Sec. 84	October 1, 2019	31-283a
Sec. 85	October 1, 2019	31-296(a)
Sec. 86	October 1, 2019	31-300
Sec. 87	October 1, 2019	31-345(b)(2)
Sec. 88	October 1, 2019	31-349b(a)
Sec. 89	October 1, 2019	38a-47(a)(4)
Sec. 90	October 1, 2019	38a-48(b)

Sec. 91	October 1, 2019	38a-48(g)
Sec. 92	October 1, 2019	38a-475
Sec. 93	October 1, 2019	46a-28(a)
Sec. 94	October 1, 2019	46a-29(a)
Sec. 95	October 1, 2019	46a-30
Sec. 96	October 1, 2019	46a-33a(b) to (e)
Sec. 97	October 1, 2019	46a-33b
Sec. 98	October 1, 2019	46a-33c

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]