

General Assembly

Governor's Bill No. 881

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 4579



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.

REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM.

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

- Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act:
- 3 (1) "Covered worker" means an individual who (A) (i) has earned 4 not less than two thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars from one 5 or more employers during the employee's highest earning quarter within the base period, and (ii) is employed by an employer or not 6 currently employed, (B) is a self-employed individual or sole 8 proprietor who has earned not less than two thousand three hundred 9 twenty-five dollars during the worker's highest earning quarter within 10 the base period, or (C) is a member of a collective bargaining unit that 11 has negotiated inclusion in the program, in accordance with chapter 68 12 of the general statutes or sections 7-467 to 7-477, inclusive, of the

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- 13 general statutes;
- 14 (2) "Administrator" means the Labor Department or such quasi-
- public agency, as defined in section 1-121 of the general statutes, as the
- 16 Labor Commissioner may designate;
- 17 (3) "Employ" means to allow or permit to work;
- 18 (4) "Employee" means an individual engaged in service to an
- 19 employer in this state in the business of the employer and includes a
- 20 self-employed individual or sole proprietor in the state;
- 21 (5) "Employer" means a person engaged in any activity, enterprise
- 22 or business who employs one or more employees, and includes any
- 23 person who acts, directly or indirectly, in the interest of an employer to
- 24 any of the employees of such employer and any successor in interest of
- 25 an employer, and shall not include the state, or a municipality, or a
- 26 local or regional board of education, except when a collective
- 27 bargaining unit negotiates inclusion of the members of that collective
- 28 bargaining unit in the program, in accordance with chapter 68 of the
- 29 general statutes or sections 7-467 to 7-477, inclusive, of the general
- 30 statutes;
- 31 (6) "Family and medical leave compensation" or "compensation"
- 32 means the paid leave provided to covered workers from the Family
- 33 and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund;
- 34 (7) "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program" or "program"
- means the program established in section 2 of this act;
- 36 (8) "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund" or "trust"
- 37 means the trust fund established in section 3 of this act;
- 38 (9) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships,
- 39 associations, corporations, limited liability companies, business trusts,
- 40 legal representatives or any organized group of persons;
- 41 (10) "Base period" means the first four of the five most recently

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worked quarters; and

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- (11) "Base weekly earnings" means an amount equal to one twenty-sixth, rounded to the next lower dollar, of the average of a worker's total wages, as defined in subsection (b) of section 31-222 of the general statutes, paid during the two quarters of the worker's base period in which such wages were highest.
- Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) There is established a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. The program shall be administered by the administrator and shall offer up to twelve workweeks of family and medical leave compensation to covered workers during any twelve-month period. The program shall offer two additional weeks of family and medical leave compensation to a covered worker for a serious health condition that occurs during a pregnancy.
- (b) On or before October 1, 2020, the administrator shall begin collecting contributions to the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund, established in section 3 of this act and, on and after January 1, 2022, shall begin to provide compensation to covered workers. For the purposes of this section and sections 3 to 13, inclusive, of this act, the administrator shall have the power to (1) determine whether an individual meets the requirements for compensation under this section; (2) require a covered worker's claim for compensation pursuant to this section be supported by certification pursuant to section 31-51mm of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and subsection (d) of section 31-51ss of the general statutes; (3) examine, or cause to be produced or examined, any books, records, documents, contracts or other papers relevant to the eligibility of a covered worker; (4) summon and examine under oath such witnesses as may provide information relevant to a covered worker's claim for family and medical leave compensation; (5) establish procedures and forms for the filing of claims for compensation, including the certification required for establishing eligibility for such compensation; and (6) ensure the confidentiality of records and documents relating to medical

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certifications, recertifications or medical histories of covered workers or covered workers' family members pursuant to section 31-5100 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

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- (c) (1) Beginning on or before October 1, 2020, each employee shall contribute one-half of one per cent of his or her weekly earnings to the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund, in a manner and form prescribed by the administrator pursuant to section 6 of this act.
- (2) On September 1, 2022, and on each September first thereafter, the administrator shall publish the following information: (A) The total amount of benefits paid by the administrator during the previous fiscal year, as well as the total amount required for the administration of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program in such year; (B) the total amount remaining in the trust fund at the close of such fiscal year; (C) the total amount equal to one hundred forty per cent of the previous fiscal year's expenditure for benefits paid and for the administration of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program; (D) the amount by which the total amount remaining in the trust fund at the close of the previous fiscal year is less than or greater than one hundred forty per cent of the previous fiscal year's expenditure for benefits paid and for the administration of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. On November 1, 2022, and on each November first thereafter, the Labor Commissioner shall announce a revision to the contribution rate set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section to ensure that the trust fund shall maintain or achieve an annualized amount of not less than one hundred forty per cent of the previous fiscal year's expenditure for benefits paid and for the administration of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Effective on January first of the calendar year following each such announcement, the revised contribution rate announced by the Labor Commissioner under this subsection shall supersede the rate previously set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section or established in accordance with this subsection.
 - (3) The amount of earnings subject to contributions for a given year

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shall not exceed the Social Security contribution and benefit base, as determined pursuant to 42 USC 430, as amended from time to time, and shall be utilized to provide compensation to covered workers pursuant to this subsection and subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of this section.

- (4) Notwithstanding section 31-71e of the general statutes, an employer may withhold or divert the portion of an employee's wages that corresponds to the contribution rate established pursuant to this subsection for the purpose of remitting such wages to the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund.
- 118 (5) If, after notice, an employee or employer fails to make a payment 119 required by this section, a state collection agency, as defined in section 120 12-35 of the general statutes, shall collect such contributable and 121 interest by any means provided in sections 12-35, 31-265 and 31-266 of 122 the general statutes.
 - (d) The weekly compensation offered to covered workers shall be equal to ninety per cent of a covered worker's base weekly earnings up to an amount equal to forty times the minimum fair wage, as defined in section 31-58 of the general statutes, and sixty-seven per cent of that worker's base weekly earnings above an amount equal to forty times the minimum fair wage, except that the weekly compensation shall not exceed an amount equal to sixty times the minimum fair wage. If the Internal Revenue Service determines that family and medical leave compensation is subject to federal income tax and a covered worker elects to have federal income tax deducted and withheld from his or her compensation, the administrator shall deduct and withhold the amount specified in the United States Internal Revenue Code in a manner consistent with state law.
 - (e) A covered worker shall receive compensation under this section for leave taken for one or more of the reasons listed in subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll* of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or the reasons listed

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in subsection (i) of said section or section 31-51ss of the general statutes, if such covered worker (1) provides notice to the administrator, and such covered worker's employer, if applicable, of the need for such compensation in a form and a manner as prescribed by the administrator, and (2) upon the request of the administrator, provides certification of such covered worker's need for compensation in accordance with the provisions of section 31-51mm of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to the administrator and such employer, if applicable.

- (f) A covered worker may receive compensation under this section for intermittent leave, provided such leave shall not be less than four consecutive hours of leave in any workweek. If family and medical leave benefits are taken for four hours or more, but for less than one full week, such hourly compensation shall be determined on a pro rata basis at the discretion of the administrator.
- (g) A covered worker may receive compensation under this section concurrently with any employer-provided employment benefits, provided the total compensation of such covered worker during such period of leave shall not exceed such covered worker's regular rate of compensation.
- (h) No covered worker shall receive compensation under this section concurrently with compensation under chapter 567 or 568 of the general statutes or any other state or federal program that provides wage replacement.
- (i) No covered worker shall receive compensation under this section during the greater of the first forty work hours or seven calendar days of such leave in any twelve-month period, unless taken upon the birth of a son or daughter of the covered worker or upon the placement of a son or daughter with the covered worker for adoption or foster care; except that a covered worker may utilize accrued sick or vacation pay or other paid leave provided under an employer policy during the first forty work hours or seven calendar days of such leave. Covered

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workers taking family or medical leave for which benefits are not payable under this subsection shall be entitled to the protections of section 31-51nn of the general statutes.

- (j) Any moneys expended from the General Fund for the purpose of administering the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, or providing compensation to covered workers, shall be reimbursed to the General Fund by the administrator over a period established by the administrator.
- Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a fund to be known as the "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund" for the purpose of providing family and medical leave compensation to covered workers. The Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund shall be a nonlapsing fund held by the State Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Investment earnings credited to the trust shall become part of the trust.
- (b) The trust shall constitute an instrumentality of the state and shall perform essential governmental functions in accordance with the provisions of this section. The trust shall receive and hold all payments and deposits and premiums intended for the trust, as well as gifts, bequests, endowments or federal, state or local grants and any other funds from any public or private source and all earnings until disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (c) The amounts on deposit in the trust shall not constitute property of the state and the trust shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the state. Amounts on deposit in the trust shall not be commingled with state funds and the state shall have no claim to or against, or interest in, such funds. Any contract entered into by or any obligation of the trust shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the state and the state shall have no obligation to any designated beneficiary or any other person on account of the trust and all amounts obligated to be paid from the trust shall be limited to amounts available for such obligation on deposit in the trust. The trust shall

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- continue in existence as long as it holds any deposits or has any obligations and until its existence is terminated by law and upon termination any unclaimed assets shall return to the state. Property of the trust shall be governed by section 3-61a of the general statutes.
- (d) The State Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and investment of moneys held by the trust. The trust shall not receive deposits in any form other than cash. No depositor or designated beneficiary may direct the investment of any contributions or amounts held in the trust other than the specific fund options provided for by the trust.
- (e) The assets of the trust shall be used for the purpose of (1) distributing family and medical leave compensation to covered workers, (2) educating and informing persons about the program, and (3) paying the operational, administrative and investment costs of the trust, including those incurred pursuant to section 6 of this act.
- Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The State Treasurer, on behalf of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund and for purposes of the trust, shall:
- 222 (1) Receive and invest moneys in the trust in any instruments, 223 obligations, securities or property in accordance with sections 3 and 5 224 of this act;
- 225 (2) Procure insurance as the State Treasurer deems necessary to 226 protect the trust's property, assets, activities or deposits or 227 contributions to the trust; and
- 228 (3) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from 229 public or private sources to carry out the objectives of the trust.
- Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The State Treasurer shall invest the amounts on deposit in the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund in a manner reasonable and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the trust, exercising the discretion and care of a prudent

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- 234 person in similar circumstances with similar objectives. The State
- 235 Treasurer shall give due consideration to rate of return, risk, term or
- 236 maturity, diversification of the total portfolio within the trust,
- 237 liquidity, the projected disbursements and expenditures and the
- 238 expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received.
- 239 The State Treasurer shall not require the trust to invest directly in
- obligations of the state or any political subdivision of the state or in
- 241 any investment or other fund administered by the State Treasurer. The
- 242 assets of the trust shall be continuously invested and reinvested in a
- 243 manner consistent with the objectives of the trust until disbursed upon
- order of the administrator or expended on expenses incurred by the
- 245 operations of the trust.
- Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The administrator, in
- 247 consultation with the State Treasurer and the Department of Revenue
- 248 Services, shall establish the procedures necessary to implement the
- 249 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. The administrator
- 250 shall:
- 251 (1) Design, establish and operate the program to ensure
- 252 transparency in the management of the program and the Family and
- 253 Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund through oversight and ethics
- 254 review of plan fiduciaries;
- 255 (2) Design and establish the process by which employees shall
- 256 contribute a portion of their salary or wages to the trust;
- 257 (3) Evaluate and establish the process by which employers may
- credit employee premiums to the trust through payroll deposit;
- 259 (4) Ensure that contributions to the trust collected from employees
- shall not be used for any purpose other than to provide compensation
- 261 to covered workers or to satisfy any expenses, including employee
- 262 costs, incurred to implement, maintain, advertise and administer the
- 263 program;
- 264 (5) Establish and maintain a secure Internet web site that displays all

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265 public notices issued by the administrator and such other information 266 as the administrator deems relevant and necessary for the 267 implementation of the program and for the education of the public 268 regarding the program; and

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- (6) Not later than January 1, 2020, submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor regarding any recommendations for legislative action that may be necessary for the implementation or administration of the program.
- 275 Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2020) The administrator, in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall conduct a public education 277 campaign to inform individuals and employers about the Family and 278 Medical Leave Insurance Program. Such campaign shall include, but 279 not be limited to, information about (1) the requirements for receiving 280 family and medical leave compensation, (2) how to apply for such compensation, and (3) the circumstances for which such compensation 282 may be available. The administrator may use funds contributed to the 283 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund for purposes of the public education campaign. Information distributed or made available under the campaign shall be available in English and Spanish and in any other language as prescribed by the administrator.
 - Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) (1) Employers may apply to the administrator for approval to meet their obligations under sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act through a private plan, which the administrator shall evaluate in coordination with the Insurance Department. To be approved as meeting an employer's obligations under sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act, a private plan shall confer all of the same rights, protections and benefits provided to employees under sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act, impose no additional conditions or restriction on the use of family or medical leave beyond those explicitly authorized by said sections or by regulations issued pursuant to section 31-51qq, of the general statutes, as amended by this

LCO No. 4579 **10** of 30 act, and cost employees no more than the cost charged to employees under the state program.

- (2) In order to be approved as meeting an employer's obligations under sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act, a private plan shall also comply with the following provisions: (A) If the private plan is in the form of self-insurance, the employer shall furnish a bond running to the state, with a surety company authorized to transact business in the state as surety, in such form as may be approved by the administrator and in such amount as may be required by the department; (B) the plan shall provide coverage for all eligible employees throughout their period of employment; (C) if the plan provides for insurance, the forms of the policy shall be issued by an approved insurer; and (D) the plan shall have been approved by a majority vote of the employer's employees.
- (b) The administrator may withdraw approval for a private plan granted under subsection (a) of this section when terms or conditions of the plan have been violated. Causes for plan termination include, but shall not be limited to, the following: (1) Failure to pay benefits; (2) failure to pay benefits timely and in a manner consistent with the public plan; (3) failure to maintain an adequate security deposit; (4) misuse of private plan funds; (5) failure to submit reports as required by regulations adopted by the administrator; or (6) failure to comply with sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act or the regulations adopted hereunder or both.
- (c) An employee covered by a private plan approved under this section shall retain all applicable rights under sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act.
- (d) A denial of family or medical leave benefits by a private plan shall be subject to appeal before the administrator and Superior Court as provided by section 9 of this act.
- Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any covered worker aggrieved by a denial of compensation under the Family and Medical Leave

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Insurance Program may file a complaint with the commissioner. Upon receipt of any such complaint, the commissioner shall conduct an investigation and make a finding regarding jurisdiction and whether a violation of sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act, has occurred. If the commissioner makes a finding that the agency has no jurisdiction or that no violation of such sections has occurred, the commissioner shall dismiss the complaint and issue a release of jurisdiction allowing the complainant to bring a civil action in Superior Court. Any action brought by the complainant in accordance with this subsection shall be brought not later than ninety days after the date of the receipt of the release from the commissioner. The employee may be awarded all appropriate relief, including any compensation or benefits to which the covered worker otherwise would have been eligible if such denial had not occurred. If the commissioner makes a finding that a violation of sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act, has occurred, there shall be a mandatory settlement conference and, in the absence of a settlement, the commissioner shall hold a hearing. After the hearing, the commissioner shall send each party a written copy of the commissioner's decision. The commissioner may award the covered worker all appropriate relief, including any compensation or benefits to which the covered worker otherwise would have been eligible if such denial had not occurred. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may appeal the decision to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

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Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2021) Each employer shall, at the time of hiring, and annually thereafter, provide notice to each of the employer's employees (1) of the entitlement to family and medical leave under sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and 31-51ss of the general statutes and the terms under which such leave may be used, (2) that retaliation by the employer against the employee for requesting, applying for or using family and medical leave for which the employee is eligible is prohibited, and (3) that the employee has a right to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner for any violation of said sections. An

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employee claiming to be aggrieved in relation to such a complaint filed with the Labor Commissioner may bring an action in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford within one year from the date of the alleged aggrievement. The Labor Commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish additional requirements concerning the means by which employers shall provide such notice.

- Sec. 11. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Any individual or covered worker participating in the program who wilfully makes a false statement or misrepresentation regarding a material fact, or wilfully fails to report a material fact, to obtain family and medical leave compensation shall be disqualified from receiving any compensation under the program for two years after making such false statement or misrepresentation or failing to report such material fact.
- (b) If family and medical leave compensation is paid to an individual or covered worker erroneously or as a result of wilful misrepresentation by such individual or covered worker, or if a claim for family and medical leave compensation is rejected after compensation is paid, the administrator may seek repayment of benefits from the individual or covered worker having received such compensation and may also, in the case of wilful misrepresentation, seek payment of a penalty in the amount of fifty per cent of the benefits paid as a result of such misrepresentation. The administrator may, in his or her discretion, waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such payments where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.
- (c) If family and medical leave compensation is paid to an individual or covered worker as a result of wilful misrepresentation by any health care provider, as defined in section 31-51kk of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the administrator shall notify the Labor Commissioner and may seek payment of a penalty from such health care provider in the amount of fifty per cent of the benefits paid as a result of such misrepresentation. The administrator may, in his or

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her discretion, waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such payments where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

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(d) A health care provider shall complete a medical certification of a patient's serious medical condition at the request of the patient. No health care provider shall charge a patient a fee for such service.

Sec. 12. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Nothing in sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and 31-51ss of the general statutes or sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act, shall be construed to (1) prevent employers from providing any benefits that are more expansive than those provided for under said sections, (2) diminish any rights provided to any covered worker under the terms of the covered worker's employment or a collective bargaining agreement, or (3) interfere with, impede or in any way diminish the right of an employee to bargain collectively with his or her employer through a representative of his or her choosing, in order to establish wages or conditions of work in excess of the applicable minimum pursuant to sections 3-13c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 31-51kk to 31-51mm, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 31-5100 to 31-51qq, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and sections 1 to 13, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 13. (Effective from passage) Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the administrator shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and labor, and to the Office of Policy and Management, on (1) the projected and actual participation in the program, (2) the balance of the trust, (3) the size of employers at which covered workers are employed, (4) the reasons covered workers are receiving family and medical leave compensation, (5) the success of the administrator's outreach and education efforts, and (6) demographic information of covered workers, including

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- 430 gender, age, town of residence and income level.
- Sec. 14. Section 31-51kk of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):
- As used in sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act:
- 435 (1) "Eligible employee" means an employee who has [been 436 employed (A) for at least twelve months by the employer with respect 437 to whom leave is requested; and (B) for at least one thousand hours of 438 service with such employer during the twelve-month period preceding 439 the first day of the leave] earned not less than two thousand three 440 hundred twenty-five dollars from one or more employers during the 441 employee's highest earning quarter within the base period, as defined 442 in section 1 of this act;
- 443 (2) "Employ" includes to allow or permit to work;

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- (3) "Employee" means any person engaged in service to an employerin the business of the employer;
 - (4) "Employer" means a person engaged in any activity, enterprise or business who employs [seventy-five] <u>one</u> or more employees, and includes any person who acts, directly or indirectly, in the interest of an employer to any of the employees of such employer and any successor in interest of an employer, [but] <u>as well as any partnership, association, corporation, or business trust that contracts with self-employed individuals for services and is required to report the payment for services to such individuals on IRS Form 1099-MISC for more than fifty per cent of its workforce, and shall not include [the state,] a municipality [,] <u>or</u> a local or regional board of education; [, or a private or parochial elementary or secondary school. The number of employees of an employer shall be determined on October first annually;]</u>
 - (5) "Employment benefits" means all benefits provided or made

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available to employees by an employer, including group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational benefits and pensions, regardless of whether such benefits are provided by practice or written policy of an employer or through

an "employee benefit plan", as defined in Section 1002(3) of Title 29 of

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- 466 (6) "Grandchild" means a grandchild related to a person by (A)
 467 blood, (B) marriage, (C) adoption by a child of the grandparent, or (D)
 468 foster care by a child of the grandparent;
- 469 (7) "Grandparent" means a grandparent related to a person by (A)
 470 blood, (B) marriage, (C) adoption of a minor child by a child of the
 471 grandparent, or (D) foster care by a child of the grandparent;
 - [(6)] (8) "Health care provider" means (A) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery by the state in which the doctor practices; (B) a podiatrist, dentist, psychologist, optometrist or chiropractor authorized to practice by the state in which such person practices and performs within the scope of the authorized practice; (C) an advanced practice registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife or clinical social worker authorized to practice by the state in which such person practices and performs within the scope of the authorized practice; (D) Christian Science practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts; (E) any health care provider from whom an employer or a group health plan's benefits manager will accept certification of the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for benefits; (F) a health care provider as defined in subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision who practices in a country other than the United States, who is licensed to practice in accordance with the laws and regulations of that country; or (G) such other health care provider as the Labor Commissioner determines, performing within the scope of the authorized practice, except that "health care provider" does not mean any such person included by the commissioner on any registry of providers who has wilfully misrepresented information to

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493 494	the administrator. The commissioner may utilize any determinations made pursuant to chapter 568;
495	[(7)] (9) "Parent" means a biological parent, foster parent, adoptive
496	parent, stepparent, parent-in-law or legal guardian of an eligible
497	employee or an eligible employee's spouse, [or] an individual [who

employee was a son or daughter] <u>or an individual who stood in loco</u> parentis to an eligible employee when the employee was a child;

stood] standing in loco parentis to an eligible employee, [when the

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- [(8)] (10) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives or organized groups of persons;
- [(9)] (11) "Reduced leave schedule" means a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee;
- [(10)] (12) "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves (A) inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, nursing home or residential medical care facility; or (B) continuing treatment, including outpatient treatment, by a health care provider;
- 512 (13) "Sibling" means a brother or sister related to a person by (A)
 513 blood, (B) marriage, (C) adoption by a parent of the person, or (D)
 514 foster care placement;
- [(11)] (14) "Son or daughter" means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or, in the alternative, a child of a person standing in loco parentis, [who is (A) under eighteen years of age; or (B) eighteen years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability] or an individual to whom the employee stood in loco parentis when the individual was a child; [and]
- [(12)] (15) "Spouse" means a [husband or wife, as the case may be] person to whom one is legally married; and

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- 523 (16) "Family member" means a spouse, sibling, son or daughter, 524 grandparent, grandchild or parent.
- Sec. 15. Section 31-51*ll* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):
- 527 (a) (1) Subject to section 31-51mm, as amended by this act, an 528 eligible employee shall be entitled to a total of [sixteen] twelve 529 workweeks of leave during any [twenty-four-month] twelve-month 530 period, such [twenty-four-month] twelve-month period to be 531 determined utilizing any one of the following methods: (A) 532 [Consecutive] A calendar [years] year; (B) any fixed [twenty-four-533 month] twelve-month period, such as [two] a consecutive fiscal [years] 534 year or a [twenty-four-month] twelve-month period measured forward 535 from an employee's first date of employment; (C) a [twenty-four-536 month] twelve-month period measured forward from an employee's 537 first day of leave taken under sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as 538 amended by this act; or (D) a rolling [twenty-four-month] twelve-539 month period measured backward from an employee's first day of 540 leave taken under sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended 541 by this act. Such employee may take up to two additional weeks of 542 leave due to a serious health condition that results from a pregnancy.
- 543 (2) Leave under this subsection may be taken for one or more of the following reasons:
- 545 (A) Upon the birth of a son or daughter of the employee;
- 546 (B) Upon the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for 547 adoption or foster care;
- (C) In order to care for [the spouse, or a son, daughter or parent of the employee, if such spouse, son, daughter or parent has] <u>a family</u> member with a serious health condition;
- (D) Because of a serious health condition of the employee;
- (E) In order to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor; or

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(F) Because of any qualifying exigency, as determined in regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of Labor, arising out of the fact that the spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee is on active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103.

- (b) Entitlement to leave under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section may accrue prior to the birth or placement of a son or daughter when such leave is required because of such impending birth or placement.
- (c) (1) Leave under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for the birth or placement of a son or daughter may not be taken by an employee intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule unless the employee and the employer agree otherwise. Subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection concerning an alternative position, subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this section concerning the duties of the employee and subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 31-51mm, as amended by this act, concerning sufficient certification, leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of this section for a serious health condition may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. The taking of leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule pursuant to this subsection shall not result in a reduction of the total amount of leave to which the employee is entitled under subsection (a) of this section beyond the amount of leave actually taken.
- (2) If an employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subparagraph (C), (D) or (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of this section that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employer may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the employer for which the employee is qualified and that (A) has equivalent pay and benefits, and (B) better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular employment position of the

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employee, provided the exercise of this authority shall not conflict with any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between such employer and a labor organization which is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the employee is a part.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, leave granted under subsection (a) of this section may consist of unpaid leave.

- (e) (1) If an employer provides paid leave for fewer than [sixteen] twelve workweeks, the additional weeks of leave necessary to attain the sixteen workweeks of leave required under sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, may be provided [without compensation] with compensation, through the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act.
 - (2) (A) An eligible employee may elect [, or an employer may require the employee,] to substitute any of the accrued paid vacation leave, personal leave or family leave of the employee for leave provided under subparagraph (A), (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for any part of the [sixteen-week] twelve-week period of such leave under said subsection or under subsection (i) of this section for any part of the twenty-six-week period of such leave.
 - (B) An eligible employee may elect [, or an employer may require the employee,] to substitute any of the accrued paid vacation leave, personal leave, or medical or sick leave of the employee for leave provided under subparagraph (C), (D) or (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for any part of the [sixteen-week] twelve-week period of such leave under said subsection or under subsection (i) of this section for any part of the twenty-six-week period of leave, except that nothing in section 5-248a or sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall require an employer to provide paid sick leave or paid medical leave in any situation in which such

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employer would not normally provide any such paid leave.

- (f) (1) In any case in which the necessity for leave under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section is foreseeable based on an expected birth or placement of a son or daughter, the employee shall provide the employer with not less than thirty days' notice, before the date of the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under said subparagraph (A) or (B), except that if the date of the birth or placement of a son or daughter requires leave to begin in less than thirty days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.
- (2) In any case in which the necessity for leave under subparagraph (C), (D) or (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of this section is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee (A) shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the employee or the health care provider of the [son, daughter, spouse or parent of the employee] family member, as appropriate; and (B) shall provide the employer with not less than thirty days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under said subparagraph (C), (D) or (E) or said subsection (i), except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than thirty days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.
- (g) In any case in which [a husband and wife] two spouses entitled to leave under subsection (a) of this section are employed by the same employer, the aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both may be entitled may be limited to [sixteen] twelve workweeks during any [twenty-four-month] twelve-month period, if such leave is taken: (1) Under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section; or (2) to care for a sick [parent] family member under subparagraph (C) of said subdivision. In any case in which [a husband and wife] two spouses entitled to leave under subsection (i) of this section are employed by the same employer, the aggregate number of

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workweeks of leave to which both may be entitled may be limited to twenty-six workweeks during any twelve-month period.

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- (h) Unpaid leave taken pursuant to sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, shall not be construed to affect an employee's qualification for exemption under chapter 558.
- (i) Subject to section 31-51mm, as amended by this act, an eligible employee who is the spouse, son or daughter, parent or next of kin of a current member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status or is on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty shall be entitled to a one-time benefit of twenty-six workweeks of leave during any twelve-month period for each armed forces member per serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty. Such twelve-month period shall commence on an employee's first day of leave taken to care for a covered armed forces member and end on the date twelve months after such first day of leave. For the purposes of this subsection, (1) "next of kin" means the armed forces member's nearest blood relative, other than the covered armed forces member's spouse, parent, son or daughter, in the following order of priority: Blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the armed forces member by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered armed forces member has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative or any other individual whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family member for purposes of military caregiver leave, in which case the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered armed forces member's next of kin; and (2) "son or daughter" means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward or child for whom the eligible employee or armed forces member stood in loco parentis and who is any age.
 - (j) Leave taken pursuant to sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as

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- 684 <u>amended by this act</u>, shall not run concurrently with the provisions of section 31-313.
- 686 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk 687 to 31-51qq, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, all further rights granted 688 by federal law shall remain in effect.
- Sec. 16. Section 31-51mm of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):
 - (a) An employer may require that request for leave based on a serious health condition in subparagraph (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, or leave based on subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, be supported by a certification issued by the health care provider of the eligible employee or of the [son, daughter, spouse, parent or next of kin] family member of the employee, as appropriate. The employee shall provide, in a timely manner, a copy of such certification to the employer.
- 700 (b) Certification provided under subsection (a) of this section shall be sufficient if it states:
- 702 (1) The date on which the serious health condition commenced;
- 703 (2) The probable duration of the condition;

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- 704 (3) The appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the 705 health care provider regarding the condition;
 - (4) (A) For purposes of leave under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, a statement that the eligible employee is needed to care for the [son, daughter, spouse or parent] <u>family member</u> and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee needs to care for the [son, daughter, spouse or parent] <u>family member</u>; and (B) for purposes of leave under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, a statement that the employee

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714 is unable to perform the functions of the position of the employee;

- (5) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment, the dates on which such treatment is expected to be given and the duration of such treatment;
 - (6) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, a statement of the medical necessity of the intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule, and the expected duration of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule;
 - (7) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, a statement that the employee's intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule is necessary for the care of the [son, daughter, parent or spouse] <u>family member</u> who has a serious health condition, or will assist in their recovery, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule; and
 - (8) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, a statement that the employee's intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule is necessary for the care of the spouse, son or daughter, parent or next of kin who is a current member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status or is on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule. For the purposes of this subsection, "son or daughter" and "next of kin" have the same meanings as provided in subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act.

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(c) (1) In any case in which the employer has reason to doubt the validity of the certification provided under subsection (a) of this section for leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, the employer may require, at the expense of the employer, that the eligible employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the employer concerning any information certified under subsection (b) of this section for such leave.

- (2) A health care provider designated or approved under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be employed on a regular basis by the employer.
- (d) (1) In any case in which the second opinion described in subsection (c) of this section differs from the opinion in the original certification provided under subsection (a) of this section, the employer may require, at the expense of the employer, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the employer and the employee concerning the information certified under subsection (b) of this section.
- (2) The opinion of the third health care provider concerning the information certified under subsection (b) of this section shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the employer and the employee.
- (e) The employer may require that the eligible employee obtain subsequent recertifications on a reasonable basis, provided the standards for determining what constitutes a reasonable basis for recertification may be governed by a collective bargaining agreement between such employer and a labor organization which is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the worker is a part if such a collective bargaining agreement is in effect. Unless otherwise required by the employee's health care provider, the employer may not require recertification more than once during a thirty-day period and, in any case, may not unreasonably require

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778 recertification. The employer shall pay for any recertification that is not 779 covered by the employee's health insurance.

780 Sec. 17. Section 31-5100 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

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Records and documents relating to medical certifications, recertifications or medical histories of employees or employees' family members, created for purposes of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act shall be maintained as medical records pursuant to chapter 563a, except that: (1) Supervisors and managers may be informed regarding necessary restrictions on the work or duties of an employee and necessary accommodations; (2) first aid and safety personnel may be informed, when appropriate, if the employee's physical or medical condition might require emergency treatment; [and] (3) government officials investigating compliance with sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act, or other pertinent law shall be provided relevant information upon request; and (4) the administrator may maintain a record of employees who take leave to care for a family member, and of the identities of such family members, to ensure the integrity of the program.

- Sec. 18. Section 31-51pp of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):
- (a) (1) It shall be a violation of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, for any employer to interfere with, restrain or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise, any right provided under said sections.
- (2) It shall be a violation of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, for any employer to discharge or cause to be discharged, or in any other manner discriminate, against any individual for opposing any practice made unlawful by said sections or because such employee has exercised the rights afforded to

LCO No. 4579 **26** of 30 810 such employee under said sections.

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- (b) It shall be a violation of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged, or in any other manner discriminate, against any individual because such individual:
- (1) Has filed any charge, or has instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding, under or related to sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act;
- 818 (2) Has given, or is about to give, any information in connection 819 with any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under 820 said sections; or
- (3) Has testified, or is about to testify, in any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under said sections.
 - (c) (1) It shall be a violation of sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, for any employer to deny an employee the right to use up to two weeks of accumulated sick leave or to discharge, threaten to discharge, demote, suspend or in any manner discriminate against an employee for using, or attempting to exercise the right to use, up to two weeks of accumulated sick leave to attend to a serious health condition of a [son or daughter, spouse or parent of the employee] family member, or for the birth or adoption of a son or daughter of the employee. For purposes of this subsection, "sick leave" means an absence from work for which compensation is provided through an employer's bona fide written policy providing compensation for loss of wages occasioned by illness, but does not include absences from work for which compensation is provided through an employer's plan, including, but not limited to, a short or long-term disability plan, whether or not such plan is self-insured.
 - (2) Any employee aggrieved by a violation of this subsection may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner alleging violation of the provisions of this subsection. Upon receipt of any such complaint, the

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commissioner shall conduct an investigation and make a finding regarding jurisdiction and whether a violation of sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, has occurred. If the commissioner makes a finding that the agency has no jurisdiction or that no violation of said sections has occurred, the commissioner shall dismiss the complaint and issue a release of jurisdiction allowing the complainant to bring a civil action in Superior Court. Any action brought by the complainant in accordance with this subdivision shall be brought not later than ninety days after the date of the receipt of the release from the commissioner. The employee may be awarded all appropriate relief, including rehiring or reinstatement to the employee's previous job, payment of back wages and reestablishment of employee benefits to which the employee otherwise would have been eligible if a violation of this subsection had not occurred, as well as attorney's fees. If the commissioner makes a finding that a violation of sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, has occurred, there shall be a mandatory settlement conference and, in the absence of a settlement, the commissioner shall hold a hearing. After the hearing, the commissioner shall send each party a written copy of the commissioner's decision. The commissioner may award the employee all appropriate relief, including attorney's fees, rehiring or reinstatement to the employee's previous job, payment of back wages and reestablishment of employee benefits to which the employee otherwise would have been eligible if a violation of this subsection had not occurred. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may appeal the decision to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

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- (3) The rights and remedies specified in this subsection are cumulative and nonexclusive and are in addition to any other rights or remedies afforded by contract or under other provisions of law.
- Sec. 19. Section 31-51qq of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):
- On or before [January 1, 1997] July 1, 2020, the Labor Commissioner

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874 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 875 54, to establish procedures and guidelines necessary to implement the 876 provisions of sections [5-248a and] 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act, 877 878 including, but not limited to, procedures for hearings and redress, 879 including restoration and restitution, for an employee who believes 880 that there is a violation by the employer of such employee of any 881 provision of said sections. [In adopting such regulations, the 882 commissioner shall make reasonable efforts to ensure compatibility of 883 state regulatory provisions with similar provisions of the federal 884 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the regulations 885 promulgated pursuant to said act.]

Sec. 20. Section 3-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

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888 Trust funds as used in sections 3-13 to 3-13e, inclusive, and 3-31b 889 shall be construed to include Connecticut Municipal Employees' 890 Retirement Fund A, Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement 891 Fund B, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, Family and Medical Leave 892 Insurance Trust Fund, State's Attorneys' Retirement Fund, Teachers' 893 Annuity Fund, Teachers' Pension Fund, Teachers' Survivorship and 894 Dependency Fund, School Fund, State Employees Retirement Fund, 895 the Hospital Insurance Fund, Policemen and Firemen Survivor's 896 Benefit Fund and all other trust funds administered, held or invested 897 by the State Treasurer.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:				
Section 1	from passage	New section		
Sec. 2	from passage	New section		
Sec. 3	from passage	New section		
Sec. 4	from passage	New section		
Sec. 5	from passage	New section		
Sec. 6	from passage	New section		
Sec. 7	January 1, 2020	New section		
Sec. 8	from passage	New section		

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Sec. 9	from passage	New section
Sec. 10	July 1, 2021	New section
Sec. 11	from passage	New section
Sec. 12	from passage	New section
Sec. 13	from passage	New section
Sec. 14	July 1, 2019	31-51kk
Sec. 15	July 1, 2019	31-51 <i>ll</i>
Sec. 16	July 1, 2019	31-51mm
Sec. 17	July 1, 2019	31-5100
Sec. 18	July 1, 2019	31-51pp
Sec. 19	July 1, 2019	31-51qq
Sec. 20	July 1, 2019	3-13c

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.]

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