OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
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SpecialReport

COVID-19 Executive Orders Affecting State and Local Government Operations and Elections

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Notice to Readers

This report provides brief summaries of the governor's COVID-19 executive orders concerning state and local government operations and elections. The governor declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies on March 10, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He renewed this declaration on September 1, 2020, while also declaring new states of emergency.

The report includes all related executive orders since the governor's March 10 declaration, through October 22, 2020. Each summary indicates the Executive Order (EO) number and enactment date. Not all provisions of the orders are included. The orders are grouped by category for ease of reference.

Three additional reports summarize the governor's COVID-19 executive orders concerning (1) education and child care, (2) health and human services, and (3) business, labor, and housing. All four reports are available on OLR's website: https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/. The reports will be updated promptly as the governor issues new related orders. For additional OLR reports on COVID-19 related policy topics, visit the dedicated OLR COVID-19 page.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of the orders, and related state agency actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, from the governor's website: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Emergency-Orders-issued-by-the-Governor-and-State-Agencies.

Continuation of Orders Issued Under March 10 Declaration

On September 8, 2020, the governor issued EO 9A, which reissues all executive orders made under the March 10, 2020, declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies (i.e., EOs 7-7OOO) that were unexpired and in effect as of September 8.

EO 9A establishes an expiration date of November 9, 2020, for all such orders (unless earlier modified or terminated by the governor) that were originally (1) declared effective for the duration of the emergencies and any renewal period or (2) scheduled to expire (a) on September 9 or (b) within six months of when they were issued. Orders scheduled to expire on any other specific date (e.g., October 1, November 12) remain in effect until that specific date.

EO 9A similarly establishes November 9 as the expiration date for certain orders (unless earlier modified or terminated by the issuing authority or a subsequent EO) issued by any official, agency, department, municipality, or entity pursuant to an unexpired executive order. Specifically, it applies to any order, rule, regulation, directive, or guidance that by its own terms provides that it will remain effective for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies.

The full text of the orders, including their original expiration dates, may be obtained from the governor's website: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Emergency-Orders-issued-by-the-Governor-and-State-Agencies.

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2020 Primary and General Election

Absentee Voting in the August Primary

EO 7QQ:

- For the August 11, 2020, primary, allows eligible voters to (1) vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place due to the COVID-19 sickness and (2) lawfully state that they are unable to appear because of COVID-19 if, when applying for or casting an absentee ballot, a federally approved vaccine is not widely available

- Requires that the inner envelope for returning absentee ballots have a notice indicating that eligible voters may vote by absentee ballot in the primary, as described above, due to COVID-19 sickness (see EO 7MMM below for clarification)

- Authorizes the secretary of the state to modify any required notice, statement, or description of absentee voting eligibility requirements on any printed, recorded, or electronic material in order to provide accurate information to voters about the modifications related to COVID-19 sickness

- Authorizes town clerks to use a third-party vendor that the secretary of the state approves and selects to mail absentee voting sets for the primary

- Permits absentee ballots to be returned by depositing them in a secure drop box designated by the town clerk and in accordance with instructions that the secretary of the state provides (EO 7QQ, §§ 1-5, May 20, 2020)

Clarification of Absentee Voting Procedures for the Primary

EO 7MMM:

- For the August 11, 2020, primary, authorizes election officials to accept and count absentee ballot sets issued pursuant to EO 7QQ, § 4, as ratified by PA 20-3, July 2020 Special Session (i.e., by a third-party vendor), if either the outer or inner envelope has the serial number associated with the absentee ballot application and the other required information, such as the elector's name and voting district

- Requires that an elector's attestation on an absentee ballot's inner envelope be interpreted to include the sickness of COVID-19 as a valid reason (i.e., illness) for which the elector may vote absentee

- Specifies that electors who vote by absentee ballot because of the COVID-19 sickness, and sign an inner envelope that does not reference COVID-19, must not be deemed to have made a false statement about their absentee voting eligibility

- Clarifies election officials' authority to process absentee ballot sets issued by a third-party vendor by requiring town clerks to do the following:

    1. open the outer envelope to maintain accurate voter registry lists;

    2. date stamp the inner envelope;

    3. write the corresponding serial number on the outer envelope and retain the outer and inner envelopes together; and

    4. for a ballot that is rejected because the name of the individual returning it is not on the official checklist, (a) return the inner envelope to its corresponding outer envelope and (b) otherwise mark, handle, and retain the ballots as required by statute

- Requires that absentee ballots be counted and included in the head moderator vote totals if they are postmarked by August 11, 2020, and delivered through U.S. mail to election officials by August 13, 2020 (EO 7MMM, §§ 1-4, Aug. 10, 2020)

Petition Requirements

EO 7WW:

- Changes certain signature and deadline requirements for candidates petitioning for ballot access in the 2020 primary or general election

- For major party candidates circulating petitions for primary ballot access, and who file their candidate committee formation statement or certification indicating they are exempt from the requirement by 4:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020, with the State Elections Enforcement Commission:

    - Reduces, by 30%, the required number of signatures on the petition

    - Extends, by two days, the deadline to file petitions with the applicable election official

    - Requires signatures to be accepted as valid without circulator attestations and other acknowledgements if (1) an enrolled party member signs a petition under penalty of false statement and returns it to the candidate by regular mail or e-mail; (2) the petition is filed timely with the applicable election official and includes the original e-mail, in the case of an electronic transmission; and (3) other existing requirements are met, such as for when more than one signature is on a petition page

- Makes the same changes for candidates petitioning for general election ballot access under a minor or petitioning party designation, or independently under no party designation, except that petitions may be signed by any registered voter as authorized by existing law

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7LL, §§ 1 & 2, May 11, 2020; EO 7WW, §§ 1 & 2, Jun. 4, 2020)

Presidential Primary Ballot Order Deadline

EO 7BBB:

- Advances, from the 35th day before the primary (i.e., July 7) to the 42nd day beforehand (i.e., June 30), the deadline by which the secretary of the state must publicly determine, by lot in a public ceremony, the order of candidate names on each party's presidential primary ballot

- Allows the secretary to hold this ceremony remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, in accordance with EO 7B (EO 7BBB, § 3, Jun. 24, 2020)

Presidential Primary Postponement

EO 7BB:

- Postpones the 2020 presidential primary, rescheduling it from June 2 to August 11 after a previous executive order (EO 7G, § 1) rescheduled it from April 28 to June 2 (EO 7BB, § 2, Apr. 17, 2020)

- (EO 7NNN, § 1, technically repealed this section after the primary had occurred)

Presidential Primary Withdrawal Deadline

EO 7BBB:

- Advances, from noon on the 36th day before the primary (i.e., July 6) to noon on the 43rd day beforehand (i.e., June 29), the deadline by which a candidate who wishes to remove his or her name from the presidential primary ballot must file a written request with the secretary of the state (EO 7BBB, § 2, Jun. 24, 2020)

Court Operations

Affidavits Related to Orders of Protection and Relief

EO 7T:

- Allows civil restraining order or protection order applicants to make the supporting statement of facts under penalty of false statement (a class A misdemeanor) instead of by an affidavit made under oath

- Applies this alternative to any other statutory provisions related to protection orders that require any document be made under oath (EO 7T, § 6, Apr. 2, 2020)

Court Operations Generally

EO 7G:

- Suspends various laws related to court operations, such as (1) location and venue requirements; (2) civil statutes of limitation; and (3) deadlines for court filings, notices, hearings, and judicial decisions (see below for modified orders reinstating requirements for certain cases) (EO 7G, § 2, Mar. 19, 2020)

- (For information on the Judicial Branch's actions in response to COVID-19, see the branch website)

EO 7YY:

- Reinstates requirements and deadlines related to Supreme and Appellate Court cases pending on and after June 10, 2020 (EO 7YY, § 1, Jun. 10, 2020)

EO 7LLL:

- Reinstates requirements and deadlines related to civil child protection matters pending in Superior Court on and after July 28, 2020 (EO 7LLL, § 1, Jul. 28, 2020)

EO 7OOO:

- Reinstates requirements and deadlines related to defaults and nonsuits in Superior Court civil or family matters no later than September 20, 2020, on a schedule determined by the chief court administrator (EO 7OOO, § 4, Aug. 21, 2020)

Family Court Operations

EO 7CC:

- Allows the court to accept not-in-person testimony (e.g., a sworn affidavit) from parties seeking a divorce or legal separation in order to (1) make a finding that the marriage has broken down irretrievably or (2) in cases where the parties have submitted an agreement, make any other jurisdictional and factual findings that the court deems necessary or appropriate to enter a judgment

- Allows a parent to waive the right to file a motion or petition for educational support for a child without being physically present

- After a legal separation, allows the court to enter a divorce decree without requiring physical presence

- Allows the court to accept a sworn affidavit containing statements that address the elements the court is currently required to ask in person (financial resources and actual needs of the spouses; fitness to have physical custody or visitation rights)

- Allows the court to satisfy any current requirement that a specific finding be on the record in a divorce, legal separation, annulment, paternity, child support, or family support proceeding by including the finding in its written judgment, order, or memorandum of decision

- Excludes any case where a civil restraining order or a family violence protective order is in effect or for which any such application is pending with the court (EO 7CC, §§ 4-8, Apr. 21, 2020)

Probate Court Operations

EO 7K:

- Suspends certain legal requirements related to probate court proceedings and operations, such as reporting, filing, venue, statutes of limitation, and service of process deadlines

- Suspends all time requirements or deadlines for the probate courts or their judicial officials to issue notices, hold court, hear matters, or render decisions

- Allows the court to hold hearings or render decisions in time frames as the circumstances warrant and the parties' interest requires (EO 7K, § 1, Mar. 23, 2020)

Freedom of Information (FOI) Act (FOIA)

FOI Commission (FOIC) Appeals

EO 7M:

- Suspends the (1) deadlines under FOIA for people to file appeals with the FOIC after a public agency denies access to public documents or meetings and (2) requirement that FOIC hear and decide these appeals within one year (EO 7M, § 2, Mar. 25, 2020)

Open Meeting Requirements

EO 7B:

- Suspends in-person, open meeting requirements under FOIA and any municipal ordinance, charter, or regulation, and instead allows public agencies to hold meetings remotely, by electronic means, provided certain conditions are met (e.g., agencies must provide the public with electronic meeting access) (EO 7B, § 1, Mar. 14, 2020)

Municipal Budget Process

Budget Adoption Deadline

EO 7I:

- Extends by 30 days all FY 21 municipal budget deadlines that fall on or before May 15, 2020; authorizes municipalities to change budget schedules and deadlines, including public hearings, referenda, and final budget adoption dates

- Applies to all quasi-municipal corporations, or other state or municipal political subdivisions that have the power to make appropriations or levy assessments or taxes, including special taxing districts and regional water or resource recovery authorities

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7C, § 5, Mar. 15, 2020; EO 7I, § 12, Mar. 21, 2020)

In-Person Budget Adoption Requirements

EO 7HH:

- Requires municipal budget-making authorities to adopt a FY 21 budget and set a mill rate, which must be sufficient (in combination with any other estimated income and revenue surplus) to pay the municipality's expenses for the fiscal year and absorb any revenue deficit

- Suspends requirements that municipalities hold a vote of the residents, electors, or property owners on the budget or mill rate, but does not invalidate any such votes held at an annual town meeting or referendum prior to May 1

- Requires budget-making authorities to adhere to existing notice, hearing, and presentation procedures as closely as possible and comply with public meeting requirements in EO 7B

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7I, § 13, Mar. 21, 2020; EO 7HH, § 1, May 1, 2020)

In-Person Voting Requirements for Financial Decisions

EO 7CC:

- Allows municipalities, by a majority vote of their legislative body (or board of selectmen in certain town meeting towns) and budget-making authority, to make certain fiscal decisions without holding otherwise-required in-person votes of residents or taxpayers, provided they comply with EO 7B's open meeting requirements (e.g., they must provide the public with electronic meeting access)

- Allows municipalities to authorize in this way, among other things: legal settlements; supplemental appropriations; municipal general obligation bonds; application for or

acceptance of grants; transfers between capital and reserve accounts; and investments in postemployment benefit funds

- Specifies that municipalities may conduct in-person meetings, approvals, or referenda if they first consult with local or state public health officials and act in a way to reduce COVID-19 transmission

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7S, § 7, Apr. 1, 2020; EO 7CC, § 1, Apr. 21, 2020)

Property Tax Assessment and Collection

Agricultural or Horticultural Society Exemption

EO 7AAA:

- Waives the requirement that, in order to maintain its property tax exemption, an agricultural or horticultural society must hold an annual agricultural fair during 2020 and file the associated agricultural fair activity report with the agriculture commissioner (EO 7AAA, § 3, Jun. 17, 2020)

Assessment-Related Extensions

EO 7CCC:

- Extends various property tax assessment-related deadlines, including deadlines for (1) calculating equalized net grand lists, (2) submitting income and expense information for rental property, and (3) conducting board of assessment appeals meetings and submitting assessment appeals

- Applies only to boards of assessment appeals that have not finished hearing appeals and have not submitted their grand lists to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and requires boards to complete their duties by July 10, 2020 (except for motor vehicle assessment appeals)

- Waives related penalties, including the penalties for towns that fail to submit their property valuations for payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) reimbursement claims

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7I, § 15, Mar. 21, 2020; EO 7CCC, § 1, Jun. 25, 2020)

Deferment Program and Low Interest Rate Program

EO 7W:

- Establishes a Deferment Program and the Low Interest Rate Program to provide temporary tax and utility charge relief to eligible businesses, nonprofits, residents, and taxpayers,

including Green Bank C-PACE program participants, and requires municipalities to participate in one or both programs

- Requires quasi-municipal corporations (e.g., regional water authorities or special taxing districts) to also participate in one or both programs

- Requires, for the Deferment Program, payment deferral for certain landlords and taxpayers that (1) attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19 or (2) document that they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the virus (requires the OPM secretary to issue eligibility guidance, but authorizes municipalities to extend the relief to others)

- Specifies that banks that hold taxes in escrow must generally continue to make payments to the municipality on the borrower's behalf

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7S, § 6, Apr. 1, 2020; EO 7W, § 1, Apr. 9, 2020; OPM Q&A, Apr. 25, 2020; OPM Application Form)

- Read OLR Report 2020-R-0132, *Local Tax Relief in Response to COVID-19: Deferment and Low Interest Rate Programs*

Exemption Data Reporting Requirement

EO 7I:

- Suspends the requirement that municipal assessors annually report to OPM on the amount of specified manufacturing machinery and equipment property tax exemptions (EO 7I, § 18, Mar. 21, 2020)

Filing Requirement for Certain Property Tax Relief Programs

EO 7JJ:

- Suspends the biennial reapplication requirements under the Circuit Breaker, Tax Freeze, and municipal option programs that provide property tax relief to certain older adults and individuals with disabilities

- Applies the suspension to individuals who were granted the benefits for the 2017 assessment year, thus allowing these recipients to continue receiving the benefit through the next biennial cycle without recertifying their eligibility (EO 7S, § 8, Apr. 1, 2020; EO 7JJ, § 1, May 6, 2020)

Income and Expense Filing Deadline

EO 7S:

- Extends, from June 1, 2020, to August 15, 2020, the deadline by which owners of rental-income producing properties must file their income and expense statements with the assessor, if required to do so (EO 7S, § 10, Apr. 1, 2020)

Interior Inspections Related to Revaluations

EO 7S:

- Suspends any interior property inspection requirements for municipalities that are collecting data for 2020 revaluations and requires them to collect the necessary data using a mailed questionnaire (EO 7S, § 9, Apr. 1, 2020)

Non-Judicial Tax Sales

EO 7CC:

- Suspends municipal and water pollution control authority foreclosures through non-judicial tax sales until at least 30 days after the end of the declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies (hereafter "declared emergencies")

- For sales conducted before March 10, 2020, extends the six-month redemption period by the number of whole months that is nearest to the duration of the declared emergencies, during which time the redemption interest must be charged at a monthly rate equal to 3% per year

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7S, § 11, Apr. 1, 2020; EO 7CC, § 2, Apr. 21, 2020)

EO 9C:

- Suspends, until November 9, 2020, municipal and water pollution control authority foreclosures through non-judicial tax sales for properties for which the oldest outstanding delinquency is less than one year old as of September 16, 2020

- Allows these entities to proceed with other tax sales, including those for which notice of levy had been filed on the land records before April 1, 2020

- Requires in-person auctions to be conducted in a manner consistent with CDC and state or local public health official guidance for reducing COVID-19 transmission (e.g., mask requirements, social distancing, ventilation)

- For sales conducted before March 10, 2020, (1) makes the redemption period 12 months if the auction previously had a six-month redemption period that had not expired by April 2,

2020, and (2) requires the redemption interest to be charged at a monthly rate equal to 3% per year for the last six months of the redemption period

- For tax sales permitted, deems the purchaser of a dwelling a "landlord," subjecting the purchaser to limits on evictions (EO 9C, § 2, Sept. 16, 2020)

PILOT Grant Deadline

EO 7I:

- Suspends valuation and appeals deadlines for state-owned property and private nonprofit college and hospital property PILOT grants (EO 7I, § 17, Mar. 21, 2020)

Remote Assessment Appeals

EO 7Z:

- Waives in-person appearance requirements for board of assessment appeals sessions and hearings and authorizes boards to conduct appeals remotely (e.g., via conference call, video conference, or e-mail) if (1) the property owner, or the owner's agent or attorney, participates in the remote hearing and (2) it is conducted in accordance with open meeting requirements outlined in EO 7B (EO 7I, § 16, Mar. 21, 2020; EO 7Z, § 2, Apr. 14, 2020)

Remote Circuit Breaker Filings

EO 7I:

- Waives in-person appearance requirements for circuit breaker program applications, thus allowing public agencies to obtain required information electronically (EO 7I, § 16, Mar. 21, 2020)

Recreation and Entertainment

Inland Waters Fishing Season

EO 7L:

- Immediately opens the state fishing season for inland waters (lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams) (see agency guidance here)

- Requires anglers to practice social distancing, such as being six feet apart (EO 7L, § 2, Mar. 24, 2020)

Pari-mutuel Taxes

EO 7S:

- Requires off-track betting licensees to file with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) (1) daily electronic reports on wager amounts collected and (2) weekly tax returns and payments, rather than by the end of the next banking day following an event, as current law requires (EO 7S, § 4, Apr. 1, 2020)

State Park and Forest Use

EO 7R:

- Authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to:

    - issue orders to limit or prohibit access to state parks and other agency-controlled land

    - ban anyone who violates the orders from entering the parks or lands (see DEEP's Operational Plan for operating and using state parks, forests, boat launches, and other outdoor recreational areas) (EO 7R, § 4, Mar. 31, 2020)

EO 7RR:

- Authorizes the DEEP commissioner to reimburse funds collected as a rent payment to use state park property for camping or a limited duration special event, such as a wedding or reception, if the camping or event is (1) scheduled to occur during the COVID-19 pandemic and (2) subject to cancellation by DEEP due to the public health emergency (EO 7RR, § 1, May 21, 2020)

State Revenue From Sealed Ticket Sales

EO 7GG:

- Allows sealed ticket distributors additional time to make certain payments to the state treasurer that were due in April

- Requires distributors to (1) collect, during the second quarter of 2020, unpaid amounts that were due from ticket purchasers in the first quarter; (2) include this revenue with their regular second quarter payment to the treasurer (which is due in July); and (3) notify DCP of any amount due that remains uncollected (EO 7GG, § 7, Apr. 30, 2020)

State Contracting and Real Property

Extending Existing Contracts to Prevent Service Gaps

EO 7GG:

- Authorizes state contracting agency heads, for any state contract in existence on or after March 10, 2020, to amend or extend the renewal deadline until September 30, 2020, provided that he or she certifies in writing that failing to do so would compromise the continuity of state agency systems, operations, or critical services to vulnerable populations (EO 7GG, § 4, Apr. 30, 2020)

Facilitating State Leasing, Repairs, Alterations, and Use of Real Property

EO 7J:

- Authorizes the OPM secretary or her designee, or the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner, as applicable, to take any action necessary to expedite state-wide property transfers, assignments of space, and leasing or use of real property to respond to the COVID-19 emergency pertaining to requirements for:

    - OPM secretary approval (1) of state agency space requests and all DAS-proposed leases, lease renewals, and holdover agreements and (2) to use state real property by an entity other than a state agency, or by a state agency that does not have custody and control over it;

    - State Properties Review Board approval (1) of DAS-proposed real estate acquisitions, sales, leases, and subleases and (2) for the DAS Commissioner to order the assignment and removal of state agencies to and from real estate available to the state, through ownership or lease;

    - sworn statement filings of any entity seeking to enter into a lease or lease-purchase agreement with the state to disclose the names of any persons having a financial interest in the property or premises involved;

    - advertising leased space and notifying the Connecticut Association of Realtors of requirements for executive branch agency leased space;

    - gift and campaign contribution disclosures by contractors and prospective contractors for state contracts over $50,000;

    - state contractor confidentiality, audits, and inspection activity; and

    - competitive solicitation for purchases and contracts for supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services

- Requires DAS to submit all proposed real estate transactions subject to §§ 5 & 6 of this order to the OPM deputy secretary or his or her designee for review and approval

- Requires the deputy secretary or designee to respond within one calendar day to any proposed transaction, after which it is deemed approved (EO 7J, §§ 5 & 6, Mar. 22, 2020)

Procurement of Essential Goods

EO 7Z:

- Authorizes state contracting agency heads, for any contract entered into on or after March 10, 2020, to expedite the procurement of "essential goods" to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, treat, cure, or limit harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by waiving specified contracting requirements (e.g., competitive solicitation requirements; certain audit, inspection, and confidentiality requirements; and certain disclosure and nondiscrimination requirements) (EO 7Z, § 1, Apr. 14, 2020)

Procurement of Essential Services

EO 7GG:

- Authorizes state contracting agency heads, for any contract entered into on or after March 10, 2020, to waive various contracting requirements (e.g., competitive solicitation and certain disclosure requirements) to expedite the procurement of "essential services" including cleaning, security, treatment, counseling, and limiting the transmission risk of COVID-19 in Connecticut or as part of any mutual aid agreement with other states and supporting or servicing critical care to vulnerable populations

- Authorizes state contracting agency heads, for any Purchase of Service or Personal Service Agreement entered into on or after March 10, 2020, to use non-competitive procurement, excluding real property, for an emergency procurement costing up to $200,000 related to direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic or its effects (EO 7GG, §§ 1 & 2, Apr. 30, 2020)

Provision of Construction Services

EO 7GG:

- Authorizes state contracting agency heads, for any contract entered into on or after March 10, 2020, to waive the competitive solicitation requirements and associated regulations if deemed necessary to expedite the provision of construction or construction-related services to respond to emergency needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic (EO 7GG, § 3, Apr. 30, 2020)

Transportation

Deadline Extension for Transferring a Vehicle to a Beneficiary

EO 7YY:

- Extends by 60 days the statutory deadline by which a beneficiary designated on an individual's registration must apply for title and registration, thus requiring that they do so within 120 days after an individual's death

- Applies if the individual dies during the declared emergencies (EO 7YY, § 3, Jun. 10, 2020)

Dealer Issuance of Permanent Vessel Registrations

EO 7YY:

- Allows marine dealers to issue permanent vessel registrations and decal certificates upon the sale or transfer of a vessel (EO 7YY, § 8, Jun. 10, 2020)

Dealer Registration of Motor Vehicles Sold Through Casual Sales

EO 7YY:

- Allows dealers, as authorized by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to issue new registrations for the following types of vehicles purchased through casual sales: passenger, camper, camp trailer, commercial (up to 64,500 pounds), combination, and motorcycle

- Permits dealers to charge a fee of up to $25 for registering the vehicle (EO 7YY, § 2, Jun. 10, 2020)

Department of Transportation (DOT) Encroachment Permits

EO 7M:

- Authorizes the DOT commissioner to suspend or delay (i.e., toll) the running of the statutory time periods for reviewing and approving encroachment permit applications (EO 7M, § 1, Mar. 25, 2020)

DMV Branch Closure

EO 7C:

- Authorizes the DMV commissioner to issue any orders she deems necessary to close DMV branches to the public and conduct DMV business remotely, among other things

- Requires DMV to (1) inform customers, through its website, how to conduct business remotely and access services from DMV partners and (2) review weekly its plan for

conducting business remotely to determine if changes are needed (EO 7C, § 7, Mar. 15, 2020; see summary of EO 7, § 4, below for related agency notices)

DMV Credential Expiration

EO 7:

- Authorizes the DMV commissioner to extend the expiration dates or validity periods of registrations, licenses, permits, certificates, and other DMV-issued credentials as she deems necessary (by law, the commissioner must inform the public and all law enforcement agencies of any extension she grants) (EO 7, § 4, Mar. 12, 2020; International Registration Plan Requirements Waiver, Mar. 12, 2020; Expiration Date or Validity Period Extensions for Various Credentials, Mar. 12, 2020; Extension or Waiver of Registrations and Other Transactions, Mar. 20, 2020; Extension of Unified Carrier Registration Compliance Period, Apr. 2, 2020)

DMV Statutory and Regulatory Deadline Extensions

EO 7III:

- Authorizes the DMV commissioner to extend for 90 days any statutory or regulatory time requirements, limitations, or deadlines pertaining to her functions or powers granted by the motor vehicle statutes (Title 14) if she deems it necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic or its effects

- Additionally, allows the commissioner to further extend, without lapse, any deadlines for notices and hearings required under state motor vehicle laws or the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act that she previously extended under EO 7C, which would have expired on or before July 13, 2020

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7C, § 7, Mar. 15, 2020; EO 7III, § 3, Jul. 21, 2020)

Driving Instructor Licensure Requirements

EO 7YY:

- Allows DMV to postpone required proficiency tests past the two-year limit for driving instructors who were due for a test on or after March 1, 2020

- Extends to September 1, 2020, the deadline for submitting medical certification for any driving instructor or master driving instructor whose certification was due on or after March 1, 2020 (EO 7YY, §§ 5 & 6, Jun. 10, 2020)

Duplicate Licenses and Identity (ID) Cards

EO 7CCC:

- Allows the DMV commissioner to waive, through December 25, 2020, the requirement that people appear in person to get a duplicate license or ID card (EO 7CCC, § 3, Jun. 25, 2020)

Online or Remote Driving Training in Lieu of Classroom Training

EO 7YY:

- Allows the DMV commissioner to authorize equivalent online or remote training in lieu of the classroom training or instruction required for driver's education; the Operator Retraining Program; and school bus drivers, instructors, or master instructors (EO 7YY, § 7, Jun. 10, 2020)

Temporary Registration Fee Waiver and Timing of Use Tax Charge

EO 7YY:

- Authorizes DMV to (1) waive the fees for temporary registrations it issues in lieu of permanent registrations and (2) charge applicable use tax at the time it issues permanent registrations

- Applies to motor vehicles and vessels purchased on or after March 10, 2020 (EO 7YY, § 4, Jun. 10, 2020)

Vital Records and Fingerprinting

This section summarizes executive orders affecting vital records and fingerprinting. Sections summarizing provisions that have been entirely repealed or superseded appear in gray.

Duties of Registrars of Vital Records

EO 7L:

- Authorizes the public health commissioner, or her designee, to conduct birth, death, and marriage registration to assist local registrars of vital statistics (EO 7L, § 6, Mar. 24, 2020)

Fingerprinting Services and Access to State Police Facilities (REPEALED)

EO 7E:

- Suspended a statute concerning fingerprinting requests and empowered the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner, or his designee, and municipal police chiefs to reduce or eliminate their departments' fingerprinting hours to limit

the transmission of COVID-19 or focus resources on critical public safety needs, except DESPP must continue fingerprinting services for long-term care providers

- Required State Police barracks to remain open to the general public for other business, unless modified by further order of the governor or DESPP commissioner (EO 7E, § 2, Mar. 17, 2020)

- **Repealed by EO 7YY** effective June 15, 2020 (EO 7YY, § 9, Jun. 10, 2020; for related agency and court actions, see: Implementation Memo, Mar. 17, 2020; State Police Implementation Statement, Mar. 17, 2020; State Police Implementation Statement, Mar. 18, 2020; State Police Implementation Statement, Mar. 19, 2020; State Police Implementation Statement, Mar. 25, 2020; Fingerprinting Reopening Guidelines, Jun. 5, 2020; and U.S. District Court Preliminary Injunction Order, Jun. 8, 2020)

Marriage Licenses

EO 7L:

- Allows couples planning to marry in a municipality whose office of vital statistics is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to obtain their marriage license from any available registrar of vital statistics in any town in the state

- Extends, from 65 to 125 days, the validity of a marriage license that is obtained or that will expire during the declared emergencies (EO 7L, § 8, Mar. 24, 2020)

Purchasing and Accessing Vital Records

EO 7L:

- Suspends in-person purchases or access to copies of vital records at the Department of Public Health (DPH), limiting such purchases and access to only those via mail or online requests (EO 7L, § 7, Mar. 24, 2020

Workforce and Labor

Commercial Pesticide Junior Operator Certification

EO 7BBB:

- Authorizes the DEEP commissioner to (1) issue a temporary commercial pesticide junior operator certification without an examination if she determines that the candidate is otherwise qualified and (2) defer the certification fee until the candidate takes the required examination (EO 7BBB, § 4, Jun. 24, 2020)

DESPP Licenses, Permits, and Approvals

EO 7E:

- Authorizes the DESPP commissioner to extend by 90 days the expiration dates of the following credentials if they expired or will expire on or after March 1, 2020: (1) temporary handgun permits; (2) handgun permits; (3) security service licenses; (4) security officer instructor approvals; (5) security officer licenses; (6) security officer firearm permits; (7) pawnbroker licenses; (8) secondhand dealer licenses; (9) bail enforcement agent licenses; (10) private detective and private detective agency licenses; (11) professional bondsman licenses; (12) licenses to store, transport, and use explosives; and (13) permits for certain fireworks displays and the use of specific pyrotechnics

- Allows the DESPP commissioner to (1) revoke any such extension as he deems necessary to protect public safety and (2) further extend those expiration dates (EO 7E, § 3, Mar. 17, 2020; for agency actions related to this executive order, see: Implementation Order, Mar. 20, 2020; and Implementation Memo, Mar. 17, 2020)

Electrician and Plumber Continuing Education

EO 7GGG:

- Authorizes the DCP commissioner to approve interactive online continuing education classes for electricians and plumbers through the end of 2020

- Gives electricians and plumbers until the end of 2020 to complete required continuing education and allows for license renewal within existing deadlines notwithstanding one's failure to complete continuing education before December 31

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7EEE, § 2, Jun. 30, 2020; EO 7GGG, § 3, Jul. 13, 2020)

Fire Service Personnel Certification Exams

EO 7CCC:

- Authorizes the DESPP commissioner to (1) extend the 12-month time frame for completing the examination components of fire service personnel certifications by 180 days and grant further extensions and (2) revoke an extension if needed to protect public safety

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7J, § 2, Mar. 22, 2020; EO 7CCC, § 2, Jun. 25, 2020; for related agency actions, see: Connecticut Fire Academy Operational Update, Jun. 15, 2020)

Out-of-State Security Officers

EO 7Z:

- Authorizes the DESPP commissioner to temporarily waive the state's security officer licensing requirements for individuals who (1) are licensed as security officers in another state and (2) will be employed as unarmed (i.e., without firearms) officers by security services or businesses in this state (EO 7Z, § 3, Apr. 14, 2020; for agency actions related to this executive order, see: Implementation Memo, Apr. 14, 2020)

Police Training

EO 7:

- Suspends a regulation requiring the dismissal of a police training academy recruit if he or she is absent from any basic training program for more than five training days

- Authorizes the DESPP commissioner or his designee to permit a recruit to (1) be absent for more than five days if it is necessary due to the effects of or response to the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) continue basic training via distance learning, and (3) complete basic training during the next available or a future training class if necessary because of a COVID-19 related absence (EO 7, § 5, Mar. 12, 2020)

Rehiring Retired Municipal Employees

EO 7L:

- Allows municipal employees (except those receiving a disability pension) who retired under the Connecticut Municipal Retirement System (CMERS) to return to work for municipalities that participate in CMERS without any hourly or durational limits, while still receiving their CMERS pensions

- The law otherwise only allows CMERS retirees to do so if they return to work for less than 20 hours per week or no more than 90 working days per year (EO 7L, § 3, Mar. 24, 2020)

Rehiring Retired State Employees

EO 7J:

- Expands the pool of retired state employees who may temporarily return to work for the state by suspending:

    - provisions in executive orders issued by governors Rell and Malloy that generally prohibit retired state employees from returning to state service as a temporary worker retiree (TWR) for more than two terms (by law, a TWR's term cannot exceed 120 days in a calendar year)

    - laws that prohibit the state from rehiring certain state employees who retired under the 2003 early retirement incentive program

- Requires state agencies to expedite review and approval of any related extension or hiring requests (EO 7J, § 4, Mar. 22, 2020)

Miscellaneous Matters With Broad Applicability

Commissioner Orders Issued Pursuant to Executive Orders Not Subject to the UAPA

EO 7QQ:

- Authorizes commissioners and department heads, as permitted or directed by any executive order, to modify or suspend any regulatory requirements that they deem necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public health and excludes these changes from the definition of a regulation, and associated procedures, under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) (EO 7QQ, § 6, May 20, 2020)

DEEP Remotely Taught Education and Testing

EO 7JJ:

- Authorizes the DEEP commissioner to issue any orders necessary to help the public register for and participate remotely in certain classes and testing

- Applies to classes and tests under Titles 15, 22a, 23, and 26 of the general statutes, which generally relate to boating, environmental protection, parks and forests, and fisheries and game, respectively

- Requires DEEP to (1) post a plan on its website providing how to register and participate in remote classes and testing and (2) give updated information on the services its partners provide (EO 7JJ, § 2, May 6, 2020)

Dog License Late Fee

EO 7II:

- Delays by one month, from July 1 to August 1, the date by which municipalities start imposing the late fee for failing to obtain this year's dog license (EO 7II, § 4, May 5, 2020)

In-Person Voting Requirements for Certain Municipal Decisions

EO 7JJ:

- Allows municipal legislative bodies and certain boards of selectmen to make specified time-sensitive and necessary decisions without holding otherwise-required in-person votes of

residents or taxpayers, provided they comply with EO 7B's open meeting requirements and, to the extent possible, existing procedural requirements

- Allows municipalities to (1) adopt or amend ordinances necessary to complete essential transactions; (2) enter or amend essential contracts and agreements; and (3) option, acquire, transfer, lease, dispose of, or sell essential real or personal property, except those that would result in residential evictions or non-judicial tax sales

- Clarifies that (1) it does not apply to budgetary decisions and (2) municipalities may conduct in-person meetings, approvals, or referenda if they first consult with local or state public health officials (EO 7JJ, § 4, May 6, 2020)

Land Use and Building Permit Expiration

EO 7JJ:

- Tolls expiration dates for land use and building permits and approvals that were valid on March 10, 2020 (e.g., zoning or wetlands)

- Allows local officials to waive permit or approval conditions that are not feasible to abide by due to the pandemic or the response to it (EO 7JJ, § 3, May 6, 2020)

Local Elections, Nominations, and Appointments

EO 7OO:

- Delays local elections and town meetings to nominate, elect, or appoint members or officials to certain municipal, regional, and quasi-municipal boards and commissions; meetings to (1) elect or appoint (and nominate if applicable) candidates scheduled for before June 30, 2020, must be held between June 27 and June 30, 2020, and (2) nominate candidates scheduled for before June 9, 2020, must be held on that date

- Applies to, among others, certain municipal boards and commissions, regional boards of education, regional school reapportionment committees, special taxing and services districts, and regional water or resource recovery authorities; does not apply to municipal elections governed under state election law

- Requires that the covered elections and meetings be held for no other business than to elect, appoint, or nominate candidates; additionally requires they be held remotely in accordance with EO 7B (or, if they cannot be safely and accurately held remotely, in consultation with local and state public health officials and in a manner that reduces the risk of COVID-19) (EO 7OO, § 1, May 14, 2020)

Municipal Applications, Decisions, and Actions

EO 7I:

- Modifies procedural requirements and deadlines for various municipal applications and decisions, including (1) establishing alternate procedures for filing land use applications, petitions, and appeals; (2) modifying requirements for issuing notices to interested parties; (3) providing a 90-day extension for public hearings, agency decisions, municipal reports to state agencies, and demolition delays; (4) allowing for various notices to be published on municipal or agency websites; (5) authorizing certain petitions to be signed electronically and personal notices sent by email; (6) enabling certain appeals to be initiated by service of process by e-mail; and (7) allowing municipalities to waive hardcopy application requirements

- Applies to municipal decisions and actions under numerous statutory provisions, including FOIA, municipal sewer systems, planning and zoning, motor vehicles, inland wetlands and watercourses, and crematories laws (EO 7I, § 19, Mar. 21, 2020)

- Read OLR Report 2020-R-0127, *Municipal Land Use Procedures Modified by EO 7I*

Municipal Meeting Remote Participation

EO 9H:

- Allows municipal boards and other entities to hold partially remote (i.e., hybrid) and fully remote public meetings and hearings (hybrid meetings incorporate remote participation and an in-person meeting, at which some members of the public and press must be allowed to attend in person, consistent with COVID-19 public health guidance)

- Requires both meeting types to provide the opportunity for remote (1) public commentary, if allowed during traditional in-person meetings, and (2) voting at annual, special, or other town meetings

- Authorizes members of municipal boards and other entities to request to participate and vote remotely in all meetings held during the public health and civil preparedness emergency, and prohibits them from being denied the opportunity to do so

- Requires municipal authorities to adhere to existing notice, hearing, and presentation procedures as closely as possible and comply with FOIA public meeting requirements, as modified by EO 7B (EO 9H, § 1, Oct. 20, 2020)

Municipal Orders Conflicting With Executive Orders

EO 7H:

- Requires municipalities to get written approval from DESPP before (1) enacting or enforcing any orders that conflict with either the governor's executive orders or a state agency's orders that were issued pursuant to the declared emergencies or (2) issuing orders to shelter-in-place or prohibit travel

- Municipal orders that were previously issued are not invalidated; municipalities may continue to enforce any existing local rules or ordinances that do not conflict with any executive orders (EO 7H, § 2, Mar. 20, 2020)

State Agency Administrative Deadlines

EO 7DDD:

- Authorizes state department and agency heads, commissioners, boards, and commissions to extend, by up to 90 days provided such extension is granted prior to September 9, 2020, the following matters under their jurisdiction: statutory or regulatory time requirements; decision-making requirements; hearings; or other time limitations or deadlines, procedures, or legal processes

- Authorizes these officials to (1) extend these matters as they deem reasonably necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including further extending any deadlines extended under the previous executive order without lapse and (2) issue any related implementing orders necessary to implement and effectuate this order, and publicly post such orders on their respective websites

- (Amends a previous order) (EO 7M, § 3, Mar. 25, 2020; EO 7DDD, § 2, Jun. 29, 2020)

Streamlined Zoning and Related Approval Procedures for Outdoor Dining and Retail

EO 7OOO:

- Until November 12, 2020, generally allows outdoor dining and retail, as applicable, as an accessory use to any location where food is served or goods are sold, subject to review and approval by the local enforcement official (e.g., zoning administrator or a building code official)

- Requires local enforcement officials to act on such applications within 10 days, or deems them approved automatically

- Replaces outdoor dining and retail application requirements such as formal traffic studies and landscape plans with a more general site plan and impact statement requirement

- Establishes a streamlined appeals procedure before the local planning or zoning (or combined) commission

- Removes minimum parking space requirements for outdoor dining and retail and allows these activities in parking lots and, with local approval, in on-street parking spaces

- Allows the local traffic authority to close local roads to allow for outdoor dining and retail and streamlines state Department of Transportation (DOT) approval of other road closures (use of a state right-of-way is contingent upon federal approval, if required)

- Eliminates (1) regional council of government review of certain proposed zoning changes and (2) any state or local application fees

- (Amends previous orders) (EO 7MM, §§ 1-2, May 12, 2020; EO 7ZZ, § 11, Jun. 16, 2020; EO 7OOO, § 1, Aug. 21, 2020; see also DOT's permit application)