



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1055

Public Act No. 21-151

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND
DISABILITY SERVICES.**

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

Section 1. Section 17b-660 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services is authorized to accept and use gifts, grants, reimbursements or bequests made [unconditionally] by will or otherwise for carrying out the purposes of the donor or of the general statutes concerning the Department of Aging and Disability Services. Gifts, grants, reimbursements or bequests made under such conditions as in the judgment of the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services are proper and consistent with the provisions of [said sections] state and federal law may be so accepted and shall be held, invested, reinvested and used in accordance with the conditions of the gift, grant, reimbursement or bequest.

Sec. 2. Section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

(a) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall prepare and maintain a register of persons who are blind in this state which shall describe their condition, cause of blindness and capacity for education

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and rehabilitative training. The commissioner may register cases of persons who are liable to become visually impaired or blind, and may take such measures in cooperation with other authorities as the commissioner deems advisable for the prevention of blindness or conservation of eyesight and, in appropriate cases, for the education of children and for the vocational guidance of adults whose eyesight approaches visual impairment or blindness. The commissioner shall establish criteria for low vision care and maintain a list of ophthalmologists and optometrists that are exclusively authorized to receive agency funds through established and existing state fee schedules for the delivery of specifically defined low vision services that increase the capacity of eligible recipients of such services to maximize the use of their remaining vision.

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

[(c)] (b) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall provide the Department of Motor Vehicles with the names of all individuals sixteen years of age or older who, on or after October 1, 2005, have been determined to be blind by a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or an optometrist, as provided in section 10-305. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall provide simultaneous written notification to any individual whose name is being transmitted by the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall update the list of names provided to the Department of Motor Vehicles on a quarterly basis. The list shall also

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contain the address and date of birth for each individual reported, as shown on the records of the Department of Aging and Disability Services. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall maintain such list on a confidential basis, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-46d. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to effectuate the purposes of this subsection.

Sec. 3. Section 17b-607 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

(a) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services is authorized to establish and administer [a fund] state financing activities as outlined in the federal Assistive Technology Act of 2004, P.L. 108-364, as amended from time to time. to be known as the Assistive Technology [Revolving Fund. Said fund] Loan Program. The program shall be used by [said] the commissioner to make and guarantee loans to persons with disabilities, [senior citizens] older adults or the family members of persons with disabilities or [senior citizens] older adults for the purchase of assistive technology and adaptive equipment and services. Each such loan shall be made for a term of not more than ten years. Any loans made under this section [after July 1, 2013,] shall bear interest at a fixed rate not to exceed six per cent. [Said] The commissioner is authorized to expend any funds necessary for the reasonable direct expenses relating to the administration of [said fund. Said] the program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of this section.

(b) The State Bond Commission shall have power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series in accordance with section 3-20 and in a principal amount necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, but not in excess of an aggregate amount of one million dollars. All of [said] the bonds shall (1) be payable at such place or places as may be determined by the Treasurer pursuant

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to section 3-19, [and shall] (2) bear such date or dates, (3) mature at such time or times, not exceeding five years from their respective dates, (4) bear interest at such rate or different or varying rates and payable at such time or times, (5) be in such denominations, (6) be in such form with or without interest coupons attached, (7) carry such registration and transfer privileges, (8) be payable in such medium of payment, and (9) be subject to such terms of redemption with or without premium as, irrespective of the provisions of [said] section 3-20, may be provided by the authorization of the State Bond Commission or fixed in accordance therewith. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be deposited in the Assistive Technology [Revolving Fund] Loan Program created by this section. Such bonds shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due. Accordingly, and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made and the Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due. Net earnings on investments or reinvestments of proceeds, accrued interest and premiums on the issuance of such bonds, after payment therefrom of expenses incurred by the Treasurer or State Bond Commission in connection with their issuance, shall be deposited in the General Fund of the state.

(c) The Connecticut Tech Act Project, within the Department of Aging and Disability Services and as authorized by 29 USC 3001, as amended from time to time, may provide assistive technology evaluation and training services upon the request of any person or any public or private entity, to the extent persons who provide assistive technology services are available. The project may charge a fee to any person or entity receiving such assistive technology evaluation and training services to reimburse the department for its costs. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall establish fees at reasonable rates that will cover

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the department's direct and indirect costs.

Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 9-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

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

Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 46a-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

(a) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, [or] Hard of Hearing or Deafblind shall consist of the following [sixteen members appointed by the Governor] members: (1) The consultant appointed by the State Board of Education in accordance with section 10-316a, or the consultant's designee; (2) the president of the Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, or the president's designee; (3) the president of the Connecticut Association of the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the president of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or the president's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Aging

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and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the executive director of the American School for the Deaf, or the executive director's designee; (7) [a parent of a student in a predominantly oral education program] the Governor's liaison to the disability community; (8) [a parent of a student at the American School for the Deaf; (9) a] the director of the Connecticut Chapter of We the Deaf People; and (9) eight members appointed by the Governor as follows: (A) A person who is deaf; [(10)] (B) a person who is hard of hearing; [(11)] (C) a person who is [deaf and blind] deafblind; [(12)] (D) an interpreting professional who serves deaf, [or] hard of hearing or deafblind persons; [(13)] (E) a healthcare professional who works with persons who are deaf, [or] hard of hearing or deafblind; [(14) the Governor's liaison to the disability community; (15)] (F) a parent of a student in a predominantly oral education program; (G) an educator who works with children who are deaf, [or] hard of hearing or deafblind; and [(16) the director of the Connecticut Chapter of We the Deaf People] (H) a parent of a student at the American School for the Deaf. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, the Governor's liaison to the disability community and a member chosen by the majority of the board shall be the chairpersons of the advisory board.

Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 46a-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

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

Sec. 7. Sections 17a-301b and 46a-30 of the general statutes are

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repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

Approved July 7, 2021