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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6690**

***Emergency Certification***

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 BOARD, AUTHORIZING STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND MAKING REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT STATUTES.**

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**§ 101 — GRANT TO BROOKLYN FOR RIVERSIDE PARK**

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**§ 102 — CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY**

*Authorizes up to \$25 million in GO bonds over a five-year period for the Connecticut Port Authority*

**§§ 103-111 — CONNECTICUT BABY BOND TRUST**

*Establishes the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust program, administered by the state treasurer, and authorizes up to \$600 million in bonds for the program*

**§ 112 — COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030**

*Authorizes up to \$875 million in bonds for a five-year bonding program to fund qualifying projects and grants in distressed communities; establishes a 21-member board to make funding recommendations under the program; authorizes an additional \$1.25 billion of bonds for the program that is contingent on agreement between the governor and board and the legislature reauthorizing the program; beginning in FY 22, requires \$125 million of the funds available for the state's Economic Action Plan to be reserved for specified projects meeting specified criteria*

**§ 113 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT COMMITMENTS**

*Authorizes 15 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$393 million toward total project costs of \$637.7 million; reauthorizes two high school renovation projects with additional estimated project costs of \$119.7 million*

**§ 114 — WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS**

*Requires water bottle filling stations to be included in all school building projects for new construction, renovation, or replacement on any project list DAS submits to the General Assembly beginning July 1, 2022*

**§ 115 — DAS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL STATUS REPORT**

*Requires DAS, starting by January 1, 2023, to (1) biennially develop a status report on all current and pending school building projects for the Technical Education and Career System and (2) submit it to the Education Committee*

**§§ 116-119 & 121-128 — PROJECT EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS**

*Exempts 20 school construction projects from certain statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher reimbursement percentages for these grants, or receive a lower project withholding amount prior to completing an audit*

**§ 120 — NEW BRITAIN SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES**

*Requires specific membership of the New Britain building committee responsible for overseeing the school building projects at Holmes and Jefferson Elementary schools*

**BACKGROUND**

## §§ 1-38, 55 & 89 — NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE AGENCY PROJECTS AND GRANTS

*Authorizes new GO bonds for FYs 22 and 23 for state capital projects and grant programs*

The bill authorizes new GO bonds for FYs 22 and 23 for the state projects and grant programs listed in the table below. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years.

The bill includes a standard provision requiring, as a condition of bond authorizations for grants to private entities, each granting agency to include repayment provisions in its grant contract in case the facility for which the grant is made ceases to be used for the grant purposes within 10 years of the grantee receiving it. (The bill exempts the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and Department of Administrative Services (DAS) grants from this requirement.) The required repayment is reduced by 10% for each full year that the facility is used for the grant purpose.

**Table 1: GO Bond Authorizations for State Projects and Grant Programs**

§	Agency	For	FY 22	FY 23
2(a)	Office of Legislative Management	Replacement of legislative drafting and information system	\$2,000,000	0
		State Capitol Complex: alterations, renovations, improvements, and technology upgrades	4,780,000	0
2(b), 21(a)	OPM	Information technology capital investment program	65,000,000	15,000,000
2(c), 21(b)	DAS	Infrastructure repairs and improvements, including (1) fire, safety, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance; (2) improvements to state-owned buildings and grounds, including energy conservation and off-site improvements; and (3) preservation of unoccupied buildings and grounds, including office development, acquisition, renovations for additional parking, and security improvements	0	5,000,000
		Removal or encapsulation of	10,000,000	10,000,000

		asbestos and hazardous materials in state-owned buildings		
		Connecticut Building at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield: alterations, renovations, and improvements	1,000,000	0
		Capital construction, improvements, repairs, renovations, and land acquisition at Fire Training Schools	0	5,000,000
2(d), 21(c)	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems, and energy conservation projects	10,700,000	0
		Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities	0	28,200,000
		Upgrade and replace the Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network	39,000,000	0
		Alterations, renovations, improvements, and repairs to Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council buildings and grounds	1,000,000	
2(e)	Department of Motor Vehicles	Development of a master plan for department facilities	500,000	0
2(f), 21(d)	Military Department	State matching funds for anticipated federal reimbursable projects	1,810,000	3,250,000
		Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems, and energy conservation projects	200,000	200,000
2(g), 21(e)	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)	Alterations, renovations, and new construction at state parks and other recreation facilities, including ADA improvements	0	15,000,000
		Projects in state buildings and assets that decrease environmental impacts, including renewable energy or combined heat and power projects and	20,000,000	10,000,000

		projects to (1) improve energy efficiency; (2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from building heating and cooling, including by installing renewable thermal heating systems; (3) expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure for charging state-owned or leased electric vehicles; (4) reduce water use; and (5) reduce waste generation and disposal		
2(h)	Agricultural Experiment Station	Valley Laboratory in Windsor: construction and equipment for additions and renovation	6,300,000	0
2(i)	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Farmington: design of alteration, renovation, and additions	2,500,000	0
2(j), 21(f)	Department of Developmental Services	(1) Fire, safety, and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for client and staff needs, including compliance with current codes, and (2) site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning, and other building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities	2,000,000	2,000,000
2(k), 21(g)	Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	(1) Fire, safety, and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for client and staff needs, including compliance with current codes, and (2) site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning, and other building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities	9,600,000	5,000,000
		Design and install sprinkler systems in direct patient care buildings, including related safety improvements	904,500	3,740,000

		Whiting Forensic Hospital at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown: planning and design for replacement	3,000,000	0
2(l), 21(h)	State Department of Education (SDE)	Technical Education and Career System: alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds, including new and replacement equipment, tools, and supplies necessary to update curricula, vehicles, and technology	15,100,000	14,100,000
2(m), 21(i)	Connecticut State Colleges and Universities	New and replacement instruction, research, or laboratory equipment	22,000,000	22,000,000
		System telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements, and expansions	15,000,000	9,000,000
		Advanced manufacturing and emerging technology programs	3,000,000	3,075,000
		All community colleges: deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements	19,000,000	20,000,000
		All universities: deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements	20,000,000	20,000,000
		All colleges and universities: security improvements	2,500,000	2,500,000
		Alterations, renovations, and improvements to 185 Main Street in New Britain for the One College Office	2,900,000	0
		Pilot program to expand advanced manufacturing certificate programs to public high schools (CGS § 10a-80f)	2,500,000	2,500,000
		Health and mental health capital and information technology resources	1,000,000	
2(n), 21(j)	Department of Correction	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to existing state-owned buildings for inmate housing, programming and staff training space, additional inmate capacity, support facilities, and off-site improvements	30,000,000	10,000,000

2(o), 21(k)	Judicial Department	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds at state-owned and maintained facilities	5,000,000	5,000,000
		Technology Strategic Plan Project implementation	2,000,000	2,000,000
		Alterations and improvements in compliance with the ADA	2,000,000	2,000,000
		Security improvements at various state-owned and maintained facilities	2,000,000	2,000,000
2(p)	State Library	Development of a new shared library preservation facility	10,264,000	0
<b>HOUSING PROJECTS</b>				
9, 28	Department of Housing (DOH)	Housing development and rehabilitation, including improvements to various state-assisted affordable housing and housing-related financial assistance programs; requires DOH to use up to \$30 million in each FY to revitalize moderate rental housing units in the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's (CHFA) state housing portfolio	100,000,000	100,000,000
<b>GRANTS</b>				
13(a), 32(a), 55, 89	OPM	Grants for capital purposes to municipalities eligible for the distressed municipalities property tax reimbursement program (CGS § 32-9s)	7,000,000	7,000,000
		Grants to municipalities and higher education institutions for purchasing body-worn recording equipment, digital data storage devices, and dashboard cameras; for FY 22, earmarks up to \$500,000 for a study of centralized data storage for recordings from body-worn recording equipment and dashboard cameras	2,500,000	2,000,000
		Community engagement training for law enforcement units in towns with a population of over 100,000	500,000	0

		or in adjacent towns		
		Grants to private, nonprofit health and human service organizations that receive state funds to provide direct health or human services to state agency clients, for alterations, renovations, improvements, additions, and new construction, including (1) health, safety, ADA compliance, and energy conservation improvements; (2) information technology systems; (3) technology for independence; and (4) vehicle purchases and property acquisition	10,000,000	25,000,000
		Grant for a Sandy Hook memorial	2,600,000	0
		Grants for regional and local improvements and development, including (1) Bristol Health emergency backup power generation replacement and upgrade, (2) Crestbrook Park facility upgrades, (3) Thomaston Opera House, (4) Squantz Engine Company elevator, (5) Tolland Fire Department capital improvements, (6) Plymouth Police Department, (7) new facility for Operation Hope of Fairfield, (8) Shelton Constitution Boulevard extension and Commerce Park, (9) track at Portland High School and Portland Middle School, (10) Trumbull Veterans & First Responder Center, (11) Stanley T. Williams Senior Center roof repair, (12) YMCA of Wallingford, (13) East Haven pool renovation, (14) Fox Hill Memorial Tower rehabilitation, (15) connection and expansion of sewer line in Bozrah, (16) Fairfield landfill cleanup, (17) Shakespeare Theater construction, (18) Sterling House Community Center renovations, (19) regional public safety complex in Enfield, (20) Bristol Hospital backup generator,	35,000,000	35,000,000



		(21) Woodridge Lake sewer treatment plant renovations, (22) Groton sidewalks, and (23) Griswold Senior Center		
		Grants to municipalities (specifies the grant amounts for each municipality)	91,000,000	91,000,000
		Grant to the Commission on Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention	5,000,000	7,000,000
13(b), 32(b)	DEEP	Grants to municipalities for open space acquisition and development for conservation or recreational purposes	10,000,000	10,000,000
		Grants to municipalities for improvements to incinerators and landfills, including bulky waste landfills	2,900,000	2,900,000
		Microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program	5,000,000	5,000,000
		Grants for identifying, investigating, containing, removing, or mitigating contaminated industrial sites in urban areas	10,500,000	10,500,000
		Grants to contain, remove, or mitigate identified hazardous waste disposal sites	5,000,000	5,000,000
		Grants to municipalities for (1) providing potable water and (2) assessment and remedial action to address pollution from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances	1,150,000	1,150,000
13(c), 32(c)	Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization program	25,000,000	25,000,000
		Small Business Express program	25,000,000	25,000,000
		Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund	10,000,000	10,000,000
		CareerConneCT workforce training programs	20,000,000	20,000,000
		CTNext: economic feasibility study of certain lands in Trumbull	200,000	0

13(d)	Connecticut Port Authority	Grants for improvements to deep water ports, including dredging; requires at least \$20 million to be used for deep water ports outside of New London	50,000,000	0
13(e), 32(d)	Department of Transportation (DOT)	Grants to municipalities for the Town Aid Road program	30,000,000	30,000,000
13(f), 32(e)	SDE	Grants to assist targeted local and regional school districts for alterations, repairs, improvements, technology, and equipment in low-performing schools	5,000,000	5,000,000
13(g)	Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority	Alliance District Teacher Loan Subsidy Program	7,000,000	0
13(h), 32(f)	Department of Public Health	Health Disparities and Prevention Grant Program; earmarks up to (1) \$25 million for federal qualified health centers (for FY 22, \$300,000 of this amount may be used to conduct a health disparities study) and (2) \$15 million for mental health and substance abuse treatment providers	40,000,000	40,000,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, for FY 22 bond authorizations and July 1, 2022, for FY 23 authorizations.

### §§ 39-50 — TRANSPORTATION BONDS

*Authorizes new STO bonds in FYs 22 and 23 for DOT projects*

The bill authorizes up to \$836.9 million in new STO bonds in FY 22 and \$929.6 million in FY 23 for DOT projects, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: STO Bond Authorizations for DOT Projects**

<i>Authorized Program Areas</i>	<i>FY 22</i>	<i>FY 23</i>
<b><i>Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations</i></b>		
Interstate highway program	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000
Urban systems projects	16,750,000	16,750,000

<b>Authorized Program Areas</b>	<b>FY 22</b>	<b>FY 23</b>
Intrastate highway program	63,000,000	72,000,000
Environmental compliance, soil and groundwater remediation, hazardous material abatement, demolition, salt shed construction and renovation, storage tank replacement, and environmental emergency response at or near state-owned properties or related to DOT operations	8,810,000	15,300,000
State bridge improvement, rehabilitation, and replacement	33,000,000	33,000,000
Capital resurfacing and related reconstruction	107,500,000	107,500,000
Fix-it-First bridge repair program	74,000,000	155,000,000
Fix-it-First road repair program	65,785,000	64,783,000
Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program	67,000,000	67,000,000
Grants to municipalities for the Town Aid Road Program	30,000,000	30,000,000
Local bridge program	10,000,000	10,000,000
Highway and bridge renewal equipment	19,000,000	19,000,000
Community connectivity and alternative mobility program	12,000,000	12,000,000
<b>Bureau of Public Transportation</b>		
Bus and rail facilities and equipment, including rights-of-way, other property acquisition, and related projects	248,120,000	270,800,000
<b>Bureau of Administration</b>		
Department facilities	68,945,000	43,425,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, for FY 22 bond authorizations and July 1, 2022, for FY 23 authorizations.

### **§§ 51-54, 56-57, 90-91 & 95 — BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATUTORY PROGRAMS AND GRANTS**

*Increases bond authorizations for various statutory grants and purposes and authorizes new bonding for these purposes for FYs 22 and 23*

The bill increases bond authorizations for various statutory grants and purposes and authorizes new bonding for these purposes for FYs 22 and 23, as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Statutory Bond Authorizations for FYs 22 and 23**

<b>§</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Purpose/Fund</b>	<b>FY 22</b>	<b>FY 23</b>
51	OPM	Urban Act (economic and community development project grants)	\$200,000,000	\$40,000,000

52	OPM	Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)	0	15,000,000
53	OPM	Capital Equipment Purchase Fund	10,000,000	10,000,000
54	OPM	Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	30,000,000	30,000,000
56	DOH	Housing Trust Fund	55,000,000	50,000,000
57	DAS	School construction projects	550,000,000	450,000,000
59	DEEP	Clean Water Fund grants	100,000,000	100,000,000
60	DEEP	Clean Water Fund loans (revenue bonds)	281,000,000	237,000,000
61	DEEP	Connecticut bikeway, pedestrian walkway, recreational trail, and greenway grant program	3,000,000	3,000,000
62	SDE	School security infrastructure competitive grant program	5,000,000	10,000,000
91	DESPP	Nonprofit security infrastructure competitive grant program (see § 91 below)	10,000,000	5,000,000

### ***Crumbling Foundations Assistance Fund (§ 95)***

The bill increases the existing authorization for the Crumbling Foundations Assistance Fund by \$100 million, in the amounts of \$25 million per year for FY 23 through FY 26.

### **§§ 58-88 — CHANGES TO EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS**

*Cancels or reduces all or part of current bond authorizations for specified projects and grants; makes various language changes to existing authorizations*

#### ***Bond Cancellations and Reductions***

The bill cancels or reduces, by a total of \$143.6 million, all or part of current bond authorizations for the projects and grants shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Cancellations and Reductions**

<b>§</b>	<b>Agency and Purpose</b>	<b>Current Authorization</b>	<b>Amount Cancelled</b>
58	Office of Early Childhood: Smart Start competitive grant program (reduces the FY 21 authorization by \$5 million)	63,519,149	15,000,000
63-64	Judicial Department: development of a	25,288,700	500,000

	courthouse facility in Torrington		
65-66	DECD: Grant to Meriden for the West Main Street streetscape project	2,000,000	800,000
70-71	SDE: Grants for Sheff magnet school program capital start-up costs	15,000,000	323,586
73-74	DEEP: grant to Glastonbury to acquire open space for conservation or municipal purposes (expands the authorization's allowable purposes to include reimbursement of the purposes)	10,000,000	7,000,000
75-76	DESPP: planning and design for a new Forensic Science Laboratory	6,000,000	5,000,000
77 & 79	DOL: Workforce Training Authority Fund	10,000,000	10,000,000
81-82	DOL: Workforce Training Authority Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000
84-85	DOL: Workforce Training Authority Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000
86-87	DOL: Workforce Training Authority Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000
88	Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority capitalization	45,000,000	45,000,000

### ***Microgrids (§§ 67 & 78)***

The bill changes the purpose of two existing bond authorizations for energy microgrids. Under current law, the authorizations (\$15 million and \$5 million, respectively) are for a program to establish energy microgrids to support critical municipal infrastructure. The bill instead directs them to the microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program.

### ***Grant to Children's Museum in West Hartford (§ 69)***

The bill earmarks \$10 million of an existing bond authorization for nonprofits sponsoring children's museums, aquariums, and science-related programs for a grant to the Children's Museum in West Hartford. It increases a corresponding bond supertotal by \$10 million.

### ***Let's Go CT Capital Improvement Program (§ 72)***

The bill expands the purpose for which DOT may use an existing bond authorization under the Let's Go CT program. Under current law, the authorization is for a parking structure and pedestrian bridge in New Haven on the New Haven line. The bill expands it to also

include improvements to Union Station and the surrounding roadways in New Haven.

***Healthy Homes Program (§§ 80 & 83)***

Current law authorizes bonds for the DOH and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center’s (CCMC) Healthy Homes Program that abates lead and addresses other environmental health and safety concerns in homes. The bill eliminates references to CCMC for purposes of these authorizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except for the change to the Let’s Go CT program is effective upon passage.

**§ 90 — NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM**

*Allows for additional rounds of grant applications under the nonprofit organization security infrastructure competitive grant program*

Existing law requires DESPP to administer a competitive grant program to reimburse eligible nonprofit organizations for security infrastructure improvements. The bill eliminates the July 31, 2020, deadline to apply for the grants, thus allowing for additional rounds of grant applications. The bill also makes a conforming change by eliminating a provision for a second round of grant applications if there were remaining bonds funds after the first round.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**§§ 92-94 — CTNEXT INNOVATION PLACE PROGRAM**

*Authorizes \$64.2 million in bonds over a five-year period, from FY 22 to FY 26, to recapitalize CTNext’s innovation place program*

This bill authorizes \$64.2 million in bonds over a five-year period, from FY 22 to FY 26, to recapitalize CTNext’s innovation place program, as shown in Table 5. The bonds are subject to standard statutory bond issuance procedures and repayment requirements.

Under the bill, bond proceeds may generally be used for new and existing innovation places, except that the bill earmarks (1) \$10 million for deposit into the CTNext Fund in FY 24 to cover general operating

expenses and (2) \$200,000 for an economic feasibility study of certain lands in Trumbull in FY 22.

**Table 5: CTNext Bond Authorizations**

<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>
22	200,000
23	13,500,000
24	23,500,000
25	13,500,000
26	13,500,000

The bill also reestablishes and makes permanent the requirement that the CTNext board report annually to the Commerce and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees on the innovation place program's operation, effectiveness, and grant distribution. This requirement expired on September 30, 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**§§ 96-98 — UCONN 2000 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

*Increases bond authorizations for two existing UConn 2000 Phase III projects at the UConn Health Center*

***Project Authorizations***

The bill increases bond authorizations for two existing UConn 2000 Phase III projects at the UConn Health Center, as shown in Table 6. The additions total \$80.1 million in new bond authorizations under the program.

**Table 6: Phase III Project Authorizations (in millions)**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Current Authorization</i>	<i>Bill's Authorization</i>	<i>Change</i>
Deferred Maintenance/Code/ADA Compliance/Infrastructure & Improvements Renovation Lump Sum and Utility, Administrative and Support Facilities – Health Center	\$61	\$110.1	\$49.1
Telecommunications – Health Center	75	106	31

***Annual Bond Limits***

To conform to the increased bond authorization, the bill adjusts the annual bond limits for the UConn 2000 program for FY 22 and FY 23 by \$57.1 million and \$23 million, respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

### **§§ 99 & 100 — UCONN FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND HIRING PROGRAM**

*Authorizes \$46.1 million in bonds over a five-year period a new research faculty recruitment and hiring program at UConn*

The bill (1) requires UConn to begin a new research faculty recruitment and hiring program and (2) authorizes \$46.1 million in bonds over a five-year period, from FY 22 to FY 26, for this purpose, as shown in Table 7. The bonds are subject to standard statutory bond issuance procedures and repayment requirements.

**Table 7: UConn Bond Authorizations**

<b>FY</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
22	6,460,000
23	11,729,200
24	14,489,200
25	9,220,000
26	4,201,600

Under the bill, the faculty recruitment and hiring program must be implemented according to the plan that existing law requires UConn's Board of Trustees to develop biennially for recruiting and hiring research faculty, including those whose research is focused on societal needs or can be commercialized. The program must be used to (1) hire faculty meeting specified qualifications and (2) support the faculty's compensation and related construction, renovation, and equipment costs.

The program is for hiring faculty with demonstrated excellence in their research field and an interest in (1) collaborating on research that meets societal needs or (2) commercializing discoveries, innovations, or technologies. These are the same qualifications specified in the



existing faculty recruitment program UConn must develop, maintain, and revise. Under the bill, the new program must be used to help UConn meet existing research faculty recruitment goals and requirements. Specifically, the goals are to (1) support Connecticut's economic development through faculty research and (2) promote core sectors of the state economy by accelerating the pace of applied research and development.

Under the bill, through this new program, UConn must (1) encourage and facilitate creating new business ventures in the state that fuel economic growth and (2) provide resources for proof of concept, technology maturation, early- and later-stage venture capital funding, and other measures that encourage expanding UConn's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The bill requires UConn's president to report on the program's implementation in his annual report on the university's progress toward the hiring goals in its faculty recruitment plan. By law, this report is submitted to the Higher Education and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

### **§ 101 — GRANT TO BROOKLYN FOR RIVERSIDE PARK**

*Requires DEEP to pay a grant of \$150,000 to Brooklyn for Riverside Park improvements*

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner to pay, from grants authorized under the Urban Act program, a grant of \$150,000 to Brooklyn to reimburse it for Riverside Park improvements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 102 — CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY**

*Authorizes up to \$25 million in GO bonds over a five-year period for the Connecticut Port Authority*

The bill authorizes up to \$25 million in GO bonds over a five-year period for the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA), capped at \$5 million in each year from FY 22 through FY 26. If CPA does not use all or part of the capped amount in a fiscal year, that amount is added to the

capped amount for the following year.

The bill requires CPA to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the OPM secretary and state treasurer regarding the bond issuance, including the extent to which federal, private, and other available funds should be added to the bond proceeds. The MOU must provide for the issuance of these bonds to fund CPA's port projects in towns other than New Haven, New London, or Bridgeport. (The state's three deep water ports are in these cities.) The MOU is subject to the State Bond Commission's approval, which satisfies the standard approval requirements under the GO Bond Procedure Act.

Subject to the caps, the bill deems the principal amount of the authorized bonds to be an appropriation, allocation, and allotment of the bond amounts. The bonds are subject to standard statutory conditions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§§ 103-111 — CONNECTICUT BABY BOND TRUST**

*Establishes the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust program, administered by the state treasurer, and authorizes up to \$600 million in bonds for the program*

#### **Overview**

The bill establishes the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust program, administered by the state treasurer, and authorizes up to \$600 million in bonds for the program from FYs 23 through 34. Under this program, the treasurer must (1) create accountings for babies born on or after July 1, 2021, whose births were covered under HUSKY (i.e., designated beneficiaries) and (2) deposit \$3,200 into each designated beneficiary's account at birth. Once they have reached age 18, designated beneficiaries that meet the bill's eligibility requirements may receive the funds in their accountings, including any investment earnings, to be used for an eligible expenditure. Eligible expenditures generally include those for education, home-buying, business investments, and personal financial investments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

***Trust Requirements (§ 104)***

Under the bill, the trust is an instrumentality of the state performing essential governmental functions. It receives and holds all deposits, gifts, bequests, endowments, government grants, and other sources of funds, and the earnings on those funds, until disbursed to a designated beneficiary.

The bill requires that deposits be made in cash and specifies that funds in the trust are not the property of the state and cannot be combined with state funds. The bill also specifies that the trust is not a state department, institution, or agency, and the state has no claim on its funds. The trust must continue to exist as long as it has deposits or obligations and until terminated by law. Unclaimed assets escheat to the state under the law for unclaimed property held by a fiduciary.

Under the bill, any contract entered into by the trust, or any obligation of the trust, is not a state debt or obligation, and the state has no obligation on account of the trust. Amounts that must be paid from the trust are limited to the amount deposited in the trust available for the payments. The trust's deposits may be disbursed only in accordance with the bill.

***Treasurer's Authority and Powers (§§ 104 & 105)***

Under the bill, the state treasurer must receive, maintain, administer, invest, and disburse the trust's money. On behalf of the trust and to carry out its purposes, he may:

1. receive and invest the trust's money as described below;
2. enter contractual agreements for services for the trust (e.g., legal, actuarial, administrative, and consulting) and pay for them with the trusts' assets;
3. procure insurance;
4. apply for, accept, and spend public or private donations to enable the trust to achieve its objectives;

5. adopt regulations;
6. sue and be sued;
7. establish funds within the trust; and
8. take other necessary action to carry out the bill's purposes and incidental to the treasurer's duties under the bill.

***Investment (§ 106)***

The act requires the state treasurer to (1) invest the trust's funds in a reasonable way to achieve its objectives; (2) exercise a prudent person's care and discretion; and (3) consider such things as rate of return, risk, maturity, portfolio diversification, liquidity, projected disbursements and expenditures, and expected deposits and other gifts. He need not require it to invest in government bonds or other funds he administers. The bill requires that the trust's assets be continuously invested and reinvested, consistent with the trust's objectives, until they are disbursed for eligible expenditures or spent on the trust's operational expenses.

***State Tax Exemption (§107)***

The bill provides that the trust's property and earnings are exempt from all state and local taxes.

***Disregard for Assistance Programs and Need-Based Aid (§ 108)***

The bill specifies that, to the extent federal law allows, and regardless of any state statute, funds invested in the trust are not considered assets or income for purpose of determining an individual's eligibility for (1) any Department of Social Services (DSS)-administered assistance program or (2) need-based, institutional aid grants offered at the state's public eligible educational institutions. The bill does not define eligible educational institutions for this purpose.

***Designated Beneficiary Accountings (§§ 109-110)***

***Initial Deposit.*** The state treasurer must establish an accounting for each designated beneficiary and transfer \$3,200 to the accounting at birth. Each beneficiary's accounting must include the amount

transferred at birth, plus the beneficiary's pro rata share of the trust's total net investment earnings.

***Claims for Eligible Expenditures.*** A designated beneficiary is eligible to receive the total amount in his or her accounting for an eligible expenditure if he or she (1) is age 18 to 29, (2) has completed a financial literacy requirement prescribed by the treasurer, and (3) is a state resident at the time of the claim. "Eligible expenditures" include any of the following expenses, as prescribed by the treasurer: (1) education, (2) purchasing a home in the state, (3) investing in a business here, or (4) investing in financial assets or personal capital that provides long-term wage or wealth gains. The bill allows the treasurer to adopt regulations for these provisions.

#### ***MOU With DSS (§109)***

The bill requires the treasurer and DSS to enter into an MOU to establish information-sharing practices in order to carry out these provisions. It makes the MOU contingent on adequate consent authorizing the disclosure of designated beneficiaries' confidential information under any applicable state or federal laws.

#### ***Bond Authorization (§ 111)***

The bill authorizes the state treasurer to issue up to \$600 million in state GO bonds for the program, in amounts of up to \$50 million per year from FYs 23-34. It also authorizes him to issue (1) additional bonds or other debt to fund the issuance costs and (2) refunding bonds to retire bonds previously issued under this provision.

Beginning by September 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the bill requires DSS to inform the treasurer of the number of designated beneficiaries born in the prior fiscal year. The treasurer must then promptly submit to the governor and OPM secretary a calculation of the total amount required for the deposits for these beneficiaries. No later than 30 days after this submission, the governor may approve or disapprove all or some of the amount by notifying the treasurer, in writing, of his decision and the reasons for it. If the governor does not act within 30 days, the bond issuance for that fiscal year is deemed

approved. The treasurer may issue bonds in that amount, subject to the annual cap, plus additional amounts for issuance costs and capitalized interest, if any.

If the amount required for the deposits in any fiscal year is less than the capped amount, or if the governor disapproves some or all of the issuance for that year, the remaining amount under the cap is carried forward and added to the capped amount for a subsequent fiscal year, but no later than FY 33. Issuance costs may be added to the capped amount in each fiscal year.

If the governor approves only a portion of the total amount the treasurer calculated in his report, or if the amount calculated by the treasurer exceeds the annual allocation cap, the amount credited for each designated beneficiary's account for that fiscal year must be proportionately reduced.

Subject to the bill's capping provisions and following the governor's approval or deemed approval of the issuance, the bill deems the principal amount of the authorized bonds to be an appropriation and allocation of the bond amounts and an allotment by the governor of funds. The treasurer may make the deposit to the trust from available funds regardless of whether the authorized bonds have then been issued and must maintain a separate, nonlapsing account to record the bond proceeds and deposits made.

The bill incorporates and applies to the bonds applicable statutory provisions relating to state bonds, including provisions authorizing the treasurer to make contracts, agreements, and promises relating to the bonds; and establishing the procedure and venue for, and state defenses in, any bondholder lawsuit under contracts, agreements, and covenants relating to the bonds.

The bill allows the treasurer to make whatever representations and agreements are necessary or appropriate to ensure that note holders receive available federal tax benefits on note interest. The agreements may include (1) promises to provide secondary market disclosure information; (2) arrangements for the information to be provided

through an agent or trustee; and (3) remedies, limited to specific performance, for breaching an agreement. (A “secondary market” is any sale after the initial public offering.)

The bill makes the bonds legal investments for banks, insurance companies, fiduciaries, and public bodies and allows public officers to accept them for any purpose for which they may receive or deposit state obligations.

### **§ 112 — COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030**

*Authorizes up to \$875 million in bonds for a five-year bonding program to fund qualifying projects and grants in distressed communities; establishes a 21-member board to make funding recommendations under the program; authorizes an additional \$1.25 billion of bonds for the program that is contingent on agreement between the governor and board and the legislature reauthorizing the program; beginning in FY 22, requires \$125 million of the funds available for the state’s Economic Action Plan to be reserved for specified projects meeting specified criteria*

The bill establishes a five-year bonding program, from FYs 23-27, to fund qualifying projects and grants in eligible municipalities that are designated as public investment communities (PIC) or alliance districts (see BACKGROUND). It establishes a 21-member board, the Community Investment Fund 2030 board, within the Department of Economic of Community Development (DECD), to accept applications for funding under the program from municipalities, community development corporations, and nonprofits undertaking eligible projects. The bill establishes a process by which the board reviews the applications and submits them to the governor for his review. Each eligible project for which the governor recommends a bond allocation must be considered at a Bond Commission meeting within two months after the board’s recommendation to the governor.

The bill also authorizes an additional five years, \$1.25 billion of bonding under the program, from FYs 28-32, but makes the authorization contingent on agreement between the governor and board and the legislature reauthorizing the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### ***Community Investment Fund 2030 Board***

**Members and Appointing Authorities.** The bill establishes the Community Investment Fund 2030 board within DECD. Under the bill, the board is comprised of 17 ex-officio members and four appointed members. The ex-officio members are the (1) top six legislative leaders; (2) two chairpersons of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee's general bonding subcommittee; and (3) OPM secretary, attorney general, treasurer, comptroller, secretary of state, and economic and community development commissioner, administrative services, social services, and housing commissioners, or their designees. The four appointed members are as follows:

1. one each appointed by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore who must be members of the General Assembly's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, and
2. two appointed by the governor.

**Appointments.** The appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 60 days after the bill's passage. The governor's appointees' terms are coterminous with the governor's term or until their successors are appointed, whichever is later. Appointing authorities must fill any vacancies for the balance of the unexpired term.

**Conflicts of Interest.** The bill provides that it is not a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner, officer, stockholder, proprietor, counsel, or employee of any person to serve as a board member, provided the individual abstains from deliberation, action, or vote by the board in specific respect to such person, firm, or corporation. The governor's appointed members are considered public officials and must follow the code of ethics for public officials.

**Meetings and Procedures.** The House speaker and Senate president must serve as the board's chairpersons and must schedule its first meeting by January 1, 2022. The board must meet at least quarterly.

Eleven board members constitute a quorum for transacting



business. Appointees are not compensated but may, within available funds, be reimbursed for necessary expenses they incur in performing their duties.

**Staff.** The DECD commissioner or his designee (i.e., the “administrator”) must hire any additional employees necessary to help the board carry out its duties.

**Powers and Duties.** The bill authorizes and requires the board to:

1. review eligible projects to be recommended to the governor as described below,
2. establish bylaws governing its procedures,
3. review and provide comments to DECD on projects funded through the state’s Economic Action Plan, and
4. perform any other actions necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties.

**Eligible Projects**

Under the bill, an “eligible project” is a project or grant, as described below, that furthers consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals. This includes individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and indigenous and Native American people; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other people of color; religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons and others comprising the LGBTQ+ community; people who live in rural areas; and people otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

The projects or grants may be proposed by a municipality, community development corporation, or nonprofit corporation and must meet the following specifications:

1. proposed projects must promote economic or community development in an eligible municipality. They may include

brownfield remediation, affordable housing, new or improved water and sewer infrastructure to support smaller scale economic development, pedestrian safety and traffic calming improvements, new or improved energy resiliency or clean energy projects; and land acquisition and capital projects to build, rehabilitate, or renovate buildings and structures to facilitate or improve home rehabilitation programs and facilities (e.g., libraries and senior centers); and

2. proposed grants must be to provide (a) a revolving loan program, microloans, or gap financing to small businesses located within an eligible municipality or (b) start-up funds to establish a small business there.

### ***Application and Review Process***

The board must establish an application and review process with guidelines and terms for providing funds to eligible projects from the bond proceeds authorized from FYs 23-27, as described below. Once the process has been established, the board's chairpersons must notify the chief elected official (CEO) of each municipality and publicize the availability of funds. Municipal CEOs, community development corporations (CDCs), and nonprofits may in turn apply to the board requesting funds for an eligible project. The board must meet to consider applications submitted and determine which, if any, it will recommend to the governor for approval.

***Evaluation Criteria.*** In evaluating applications, the board must give priority to eligible projects that (1) are proposed by a municipality that (a) has implemented local hiring preferences in accordance with state law or (b) has or will leverage municipal, private, philanthropic, or federal funds for the project and (2) have a project labor agreement or employ or will employ ex-offenders or individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities. The board must additionally give priority to applications submitted by a municipality that includes a letter of support for the proposed eligible project from a General Assembly member or members in whose district the eligible project is or will be located.

For grant proposals, the board must also consider (1) whether the default risk on the repayment of a proposed loan or financing program and (2) the eligible project's impact on the municipality's job creation or retention, blighted properties, and community. The board may not recommend any proposed loan or financing program for which the interest rate varies from the prevailing market rate.

**Recommendations to the Governor.** Under the bill, the board's chairpersons must submit a list of the board's recommended eligible projects to the governor whenever the board deems it necessary and desirable. The board may also recommend state funding for eligible projects of up to \$175 million in any fiscal year.

For each proposed project, the list must include (1) a description of the project; (2) the municipality in which it is located; (3) any cost estimates, schematics, or plans for the project; and (4) the total estimated project costs. For each proposed grant, the list must include (1) a description of and specific terms for any proposed loans, financing, or start-up funds to be provided from the grant and (2) the types of small businesses that may be eligible for the funds. For proposed projects or grants, the list must also include the amount of funds sought and applicable fiscal year to which the disbursement will be attributed.

**Governor's Project Review.** After receiving the board's list, the governor must review the recommended projects and may recommend changes to any of them. He must determine the most appropriate funding method for each project and give the board his decision for each one, and the reasons, in writing. The board may, at a future meeting, reconsider any of the projects for which the governor recommends a change.

Each eligible project for which the governor recommends a bond allocation must be considered at a State Bond Commission meeting within two months after the date the board submitted it to the governor on its list of recommended projects.

**Administration.** Funds for approved eligible projects may be

administered on the board's behalf by a state agency, as determined by the OPM secretary, as long as an MOU has been entered into between DECD and the state, acting by and through the OPM secretary.

***Legislative Report***

By August 31, 2023, the board must report to the General Assembly, the General Assembly's Black and Puerto Rican caucus, the Auditors of Public Accounts, and the governor on the following information for the preceding fiscal year:

1. a list of eligible projects recommended by the board and approved by the governor;
2. the total amount of funds provided for such projects;
3. for each project, a description and the amount and terms of the funds provided;
4. the project's status and any remaining balance of the allocated funds; and
5. any other information the board deems relevant or necessary.

The board must submit this same report annually for each fiscal year in which funds are disbursed for eligible projects.

***Audit Requirement***

The Auditors of Public Accounts must biennially audit the eligible projects funded under this program and report their findings to the governor, OPM secretary, and General Assembly.

***Bond Authorization***

***FYs 23-27.*** The bill authorizes up to \$875 million in state general obligation (GO) bonds over five years, in amounts of up to of \$175 million per year from 2023 through 2027. The proceeds from these bonds must be used to fund eligible projects for which the governor has determined that bond funding is appropriate and that no other bond authorization is available.

The bonds are subject to standard statutory conditions. Any issuance costs and capitalized interest may be added to the annual authorization.

Under the bill, these bonds funds may be used for (1) costs related to an eligible project recommended by the board and approved by the governor and (2) paying or reimbursing the DECD commissioner for administrative costs, including allocated staff costs and other out-of-pocket costs attributable to the board's administration and operation.

**FYs 28-32.** The bill authorizes an additional \$1.25 billion in state GO bonds for FYs 28 through 32 that is contingent on (1) agreement between the governor and board and (2) the General Assembly adopting a resolution affirming the board's reauthorization and the program established under the bill. As with the bonds for FYs 23-27, the proceeds from these bonds must be used to fund eligible projects for which the governor has determined that bond funding is appropriate and that no other bond authorization is available.

Specifically, the bill authorizes up to \$250 million per year for FYs 28 through 32. Any amounts that the State Bond Commission does not allocate in any such fiscal year is added to the capped amount for the following year. Any issuance costs and capitalized interest may be added to the capped amounts. The bonds are subject to standard statutory conditions.

***Amounts Reserved for the State's Economic Action Plan***

Beginning in FY 22, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the bill requires \$125 million of the funds available for the state's Economic Action Plan to be reserved for projects that provide the following:

1. a revolving loan program, microloans, or gap financing to women or minority-owned small businesses; start-up funds to establish such businesses; brownfield remediation or broadband expansion; human services, workforce development, mental health services, educational programming, preapprenticeship and apprenticeship training, youth services programming, or

- physical, intellectual, and developmental disability services;
2. the potential to directly impact community enrichment programs for, or related to, financial literacy, home ownership opportunity, free or reduced tuition for vocational training schools, academic scholarships, seniors' and veterans' services, and arts and culture; or
  3. the potential to directly impact youth and adult enrichment programs for, or related to, "earn while you learn" programs, paid internships, or summer youth programming.

The DECD commissioner must (1) receive and consider comments from the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board on funding for these projects, (2) provide quarterly expenditure reports to the board for the projects, and (3) hold public hearings for the projects before the board.

### **§ 113 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT COMMITMENTS**

*Authorizes 15 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$393 million toward total project costs of \$637.7 million; reauthorizes two high school renovation projects with additional estimated project costs of \$119.7 million*

This bill authorizes 15 school construction state grant commitments totaling an estimated \$393 million toward total estimated project costs of \$637.7 million. It also reauthorizes two high school renovation projects (Windham High School and Bullard-Havens Technical High School) with additional estimated project costs of \$119.7 million.

Under the state school construction grant program, the state reimburses towns and local districts for a percentage of eligible school construction costs through general obligation bonds (with less wealthy municipalities receiving a higher reimbursement). The municipalities pay the remaining costs. School districts must begin project construction within two years of grant commitment to minimize potential cost increases.

For each project authorized by the bill, Table 8 shows the associated district, school, estimates for total cost and state grant commitment, and state reimbursement rate, by project type.

**Table 8: 2021 School Construction Grant Commitments**

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Estimated Project Costs</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
North Branford	North Branford High School	New	\$66,242,390	\$29,100,282	43.93%
Norwalk	Cranberry Elementary School	New	45,000,000	10,125,000	22.50%
South Windsor	Pleasant Valley Elementary School	New	58,500,000	22,148,100	37.86%
Torrington	Torrington Middle & High School	New	159,575,000	100,308,845	62.86%
West Haven	Washington Elementary School	New	38,803,926	26,052,956	67.14%
Danbury	Ellsworth Avenue School Annex	Expansion/ Alteration	9,600,000	6,137,280	63.93%
Hartford	Betances Learning Lab Magnet School	Renovation	43,709,774	41,524,285	95.00%
Hartford	E. B. Kennelly School	Renovation	51,416,225	48,845,414	95.00%
Hartford	Fred D. Wish Museum School	Renovation	49,320,000	46,854,000	95.00%
Killingly	Killingly Memorial School	Renovation	34,000,000	24,981,400	73.21%
Newington	Anna Reynolds Elementary School	Renovation	35,500,000	20,792,350	58.57%
Norwalk	Naramake Elementary School	Extension/ Alteration	3,500,000	1,137,500	32.50%
Westport	Coleytown Middle School	Renovation	32,372,235	6,820,830	21.07%
Regional	Housatonic	Vo-Ag	319,533	255,626	80.00%

District 1	Valley Regional High School	Equipment			
LEARN (New London area regional educational service center)	LEARN Ocean Avenue Academy	Special Education	9,851,000	7,880,800	80.00%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$637,710,983</b>	<b>\$392,964,668</b>	

### **Reauthorized Projects**

The bill also reauthorizes two projects that have changed substantially in scope or cost.

PA 18-138 initially authorized the Windham High School renovation project with a total estimated project cost of \$71,670,200 and a 79.64% state reimbursement rate for the grant. The bill authorizes a new total project estimated cost of \$112,329,500, which is an increase of \$40,659,300.

PA 15-3, June Special Session, previously reauthorized the Bullard-Havens Technical High School extension and alteration project (it had been initially authorized prior to that) with an estimated cost of \$60,383,000. The bill reauthorizes a new total project estimated cost of \$139,447,195 which is an increase of \$79,064,195. Since this is a state high school, the state pays for 100% of the project.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 114 — WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS**

*Requires water bottle filling stations to be included in all school building projects for new construction, renovation, or replacement on any project list DAS submits to the General Assembly beginning July 1, 2022*

The bill adds a requirement for water bottle filling stations to be included in all school building projects for new construction, extension, major alteration, renovation, or replacement on any project list DAS submits to the General Assembly beginning July 1, 2022 (next year's school construction priority list). It does this by prohibiting DAS



from approving any school building project plan that does not provide for the installation of at least one water bottle filling station:

1. per 100 students of the projected school building enrollment,
2. on each new floor or wing of the school building, and
3. in any food service area of the school building.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

### **§ 115 — DAS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL STATUS REPORT**

*Requires DAS, starting by January 1, 2023, to (1) biennially develop a status report on all current and pending school building projects for the Technical Education and Career System and (2) submit it to the Education Committee*

The bill requires DAS, starting by January 1, 2023, to biennially develop a status report on all current and pending school building projects for the Technical Education and Career System (TECS) (formerly known as the technical high school system). The status report must include the: (1) costs associated with each TECS school building project, (2) anticipated date of the next project application for each TECS school, (3) projected start date of pending projects, and (4) date of completion of current school building projects.

DAS must submit the report to the Education Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

### **§§ 116-119 & 121-128 — PROJECT EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS**

*Exempts 20 school construction projects from certain statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher reimbursement percentages for these grants, or receive a lower project withholding amount prior to completing an audit*

The bill exempts 20 school construction projects from various statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, (1) qualify for state reimbursement grants, (2) receive higher reimbursement percentages for these grants, or (3) receive a lower project withholding amount prior to completing an audit. These exemptions are referred to as “notwithstandings.” Table 9 describes

the notwithstanding that the bill grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**Table 9: Notwithstandings for School Construction Projects**

<b>Bill Section</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>School and Project</b>	<b>Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change</b>
116	Hamden	Spring Glen School, new construction	Waives any audit deficiencies provided the costs do not exceed \$1,792,894
116	Hamden	Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School facility	Waives any audit deficiencies provided the costs do not exceed \$1,315,012
116	Hamden	Hamden Middle School, new construction	Waives any audit deficiencies provided the costs do not exceed \$2,942,200
117	New Britain	Chamberlain Elementary School, renovation	Allows change of project scope to include preschool facilities provided the cost does not exceed \$75 million
118	New Britain	Holmes Elementary School, renovation	<p>Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2020, in order to be on the 2021 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$55 million, provided the town files an application by October 1, 2023</p> <p>Increases the project reimbursement rate from 79.29% to 95% if (1) New Britain is an educational reform district on the bill's effective date and (2) the school building committee for the project meets the criteria set in section 120 of the bill*</p>
119	New Britain	Jefferson Elementary School, renovation	<p>Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2020, in order to be on the 2021 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$55 million, provided the town files an application before October 1, 2025, and the project is otherwise eligible to under the program</p> <p>Increases the project reimbursement rate from 79.29% to 95%, if (1) New Britain is an educational reform district on the bill's effective date and (2) the school building committee for the project meets the criteria set in section 120 of the bill*</p>

121	Ansonia & Derby	Regional school district project, new construction or renovation	Increases the project reimbursement rate from 85% to the highest rate of the two towns plus an additional 20%, provided the towns file an application within 10 years of establishing the regional district and they are otherwise eligible to receive assistance thorough the program (actual reimbursement rate will depend upon the year and whether the project is new construction or renovation)**
122	Windham	Windham High School renovation project	Increases the project reimbursement rate from 79.64% to 95%, if (1) Windham is an educational reform district on the bill's effective date and (2) the beginning of construction is within one year of the bill's effective date*
123	Brookfield	Elementary school new construction	Waives requirement that all projects must be awarded after proper, publicly advertised invitation to bid, including notice on the state contracting portal, if the project is otherwise eligible under the program
124	West Haven	Washington Elementary School, new construction	Waives the standard building space requirements; reduces the project funds withholding percentage from 11% to 5% prior to completion of the required audit
125	West Haven	West Haven High School, renovation	Reduces the project funds withholding percentage from 11% to 5% prior to completion of the required audit; requires DAS to make a progress payment to the town equal to the difference between 11% and 5% of the reimbursement grant by September 1, 2021
126	New Britain (state project)	Goodwin Technical High School, project unspecified	Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2020, in order to be on the 2021 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$40 million, if the application is filed by October 1, 2022, and the project is otherwise eligible under the program
127	Torrington	Torrington Middle and High School, new construction	Increases the project reimbursement rate from 62.86% to 85%, if the project is otherwise eligible under the

			program*
128	Hartford	Seven projects: University High School of Science and Engineering; Capitol Preparatory Magnet School; R. J. Kinsella Magnet School; Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker; Hartford Public High School; Fisher Magnet School; Webster School; and Sport and Medical Sciences Academy	Waives any audit deficiencies (does not specify amounts)
<p>*FY 2021 reimbursement rates are shown for reference; actual rates depend upon the year the application is submitted and the final determination of the project type (new or renovation).</p> <p>**Of the two towns, Ansonia has the higher reimbursement rate for 2021: 77.5% for renovation and 67.5% for new construction</p>			

**§ 120 — NEW BRITAIN SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES**

*Requires specific membership of the New Britain building committee responsible for overseeing the school building projects at Holmes and Jefferson Elementary schools*

The bill requires specific membership of the New Britain building committee responsible for overseeing the school building projects at Holmes Elementary School and Jefferson Elementary School (see §§ 6 & 7 above). The bill supersedes (1) the law that allows only towns to appoint committee members and (2) any conflicting special act, municipal charter, local ordinance, home rule ordinance, or other ordinance, and requires beginning July 1, 2021, the school building committee responsible for those schools to be established with the following members:

1. three members appointed by the New Britain Common Council, one of whom shall have experience in the construction industry;
2. two members appointed by the New Britain mayor, and
3. two members appointed by the New Britain board of education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## BACKGROUND

### ***Public Investment Community (PIC) Index***

The PIC index is designed to identify fiscally distressed towns. OPM scores and ranks towns based on residents' income, tax base and tax rates, the share of residents who are unemployed, and the share who receive temporary family assistance. It then designates the 42 towns in the top quartile as PICs. The designation serves as an eligibility criterion for several financial assistance programs, including Urban Act grants and community economic development loans. For FY 21, they are as follows:

Ansonia	Hamden	Norwich	Stratford
Bloomfield	Hartford	Plainfield	Torrington
Bridgeport	Killingly	Plainville	Vernon
Bristol	Manchester	Plymouth	Voluntown
Chaplin	Meriden	Preston	Waterbury
Derby	Middletown	Putnam	West Haven
East Hartford	Montville	Scotland	Winchester
East Haven	Naugatuck	Seymour	Windham
East Windsor	New Britain	Sprague	Windsor
Enfield	New Haven	Stafford	
Griswold	New London	Sterling	

### ***Alliance Districts***

Alliance districts are the 30 school districts that have the lowest achievement, as rated by the state's accountability index, plus the three districts that were previously among the lowest 30 when the program started in FY 13 (CGS § 10-262u). For FYs 18-22, they are as follows:

Ansonia	East Windsor	Naugatuck	Thompson
Bloomfield	Groton	New Britain	Torrington
Bridgeport	Hamden	New Haven	Vernon
Bristol	Hartford	New London	Waterbury
Danbury	Killingly	Norwalk	West Haven
Derby	Manchester	Norwich	Winchester
East Hartford	Meriden	Putnam	Windham
East Haven	Middletown	Stamford	Windsor
			Windsor Locks