

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 21-111—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

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[§§ 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

[§§ 39-50 — TRANSPORTATION BONDS](#)

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

[§§ 51-54, 56-57, 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

[§§ 58 & 63-88 — CHANGES TO EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS](#)

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

[§ 90 — NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM](#)

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

[§§ 92-94 — CTNEXT INNOVATION PLACE PROGRAM](#)

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

[§§ 96-98 — UCONN 2000 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM](#)

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

[§§ 99 & 100 — UCONN FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND HIRING PROGRAM](#)

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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

§ 101 — GRANT TO BROOKLYN FOR RIVERSIDE PARK

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

§ 102 — CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

Authorizes up to \$25 million in GO bonds over a five-year period for the Connecticut Port Authority to fund port projects in towns other than New Haven, New London, or Bridgeport

§§ 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 in 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 that \$125 million of the funds available for the state's Economic Action Plan 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 and an estimated state share of \$111.4 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 (TECS) and (2) submit it to the Education Committee

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

Exempts 21 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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§§ 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 act authorizes up to \$834.7 million for FY 22 and \$678.1 million for FY 23 in state general obligation (GO) bonds 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 act 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. (It exempts Office of Policy and Management (OPM) grants from this requirement.) The required repayment is reduced by 10% for each full year that the facility is used for the grant purpose.

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)	Department of Administrative Services (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 asbestos and hazardous materials in state-owned buildings	10,000,000	10,000,000
		Connecticut Building at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield: alterations, renovations, and improvements	1,000,000	0
		Capital construction, improvements, repairs, renovations, and land	0	5,000,000

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	Agency	For	FY 22	FY 23
		acquisition at fire training schools		
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 replacement of 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	0
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	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 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	20,000,000	10,000,000
2(h)	Agricultural Experiment	Valley Laboratory in Windsor: construction and equipment for	6,300,000	0

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	Agency	For	FY 22	FY 23
	Station	additions and renovation		
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 installation of sprinkler systems in direct patient care buildings, including related fire 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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	Agency	For	FY 22	FY 23
		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	0
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
HOUSING PROJECTS				
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 state housing portfolio	100,000,000	100,000,000

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	Agency	For	FY 22	FY 23
GRANTS				
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; earmarks up to \$500,000 for FY 22 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 exceeding 100,000 or in adjacent towns	500,000	0
		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	35,000,000	35,000,000

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	Agency	For	FY 22	FY 23
		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, (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) (§ 55)	91,000,000	91,000,000
		Grant to the Commission on Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention (§ 89)	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),	Department of	Brownfield Remediation and	25,000,000	25,000,000

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	Agency	For	FY 22	FY 23
32(c)	Economic and Community Development (DECD)	Revitalization program		
		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
		Grants to nonprofits operating cultural and historical sites	0	5,000,000
13(d)	Connecticut Port Authority	Grants for improvements to deep water ports, including dredging; requires that at least \$20 million 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; in each FY, earmarks up to (1) \$25 million for federal qualified health centers (for FY 22, up to \$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**

*PA 21-2, June Special Session (JSS), §§ 469-473, modifies these authorization amounts.

**PA 21-2, JSS, 474 & 482-483, cancels these authorization amounts.

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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

The act authorizes up to \$836.9 million in new special tax obligation (STO) bonds in FY 22 and \$929.6 million in FY 23 for DOT projects, as shown in the table below.

STO Bond Authorizations for DOT Projects

<i>Authorized Program Areas</i>	<i>FY 22 (\$ 40)</i>	<i>FY 23 (\$ 46)</i>
<i>Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations</i>		
Interstate highway program	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000
Urban systems projects	16,750,000	16,750,000
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
<i>Bureau of Public Transportation</i>		
Bus and rail facilities and equipment, including rights-of-way, other property acquisition, and related projects	248,120,000	270,800,000
<i>Bureau of Administration</i>		
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, 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 act increases aggregate bond authorizations for various statutory grants and purposes and authorizes new bonding for these purposes for FYs 22 and 23, as shown in the table below.

Statutory Bond Authorizations for FYs 22 and 23

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	Agency	Purpose/Fund	FY 22	FY 23
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 § 90 below)	10,000,000	5,000,000

*PA 21-2, JSS, § 484, increases this authorization to \$550 million.

Crumbling Foundations Assistance Fund (§ 95)

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except that the STEAP authorization is effective July 1, 2022.

§§ 58 & 63-88 — CHANGES TO EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS

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

Bond Cancellations and Reductions

The act cancels or reduces, by a total of \$143.6 million, all or part of prior bond authorizations for the projects and grants shown in the table below.

Cancellations and Reductions

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§	<i>Agency and Purpose</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>Amount Cancelled</i>
58	Office of Early Childhood: Smart Start competitive grant program	63,519,149	15,000,000
63-64	Judicial Department: development of a courthouse facility in Torrington	25,288,700	500,000
65-66	DECD: grant to Meriden for the West Main Street streetscape project	2,000,000	800,000
70-71	SDE: Grants for <i>Sheff</i> 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, 81-82, 84-85, 86-87	DOL: Workforce Training Authority Fund	70,000,000	70,000,000
88	Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority capitalization	45,000,000	45,000,000

Microgrids (§§ 67 & 78)

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

Grant to Children’s Museum in West Hartford (§§ 68 & 69)

The act increases, by \$10 million, an existing bond authorization for nonprofits sponsoring children’s museums, aquariums, and science-related programs and earmarks the funds for a grant to the Children’s Museum in West Hartford.

Let’s Go CT Capital Improvement Program (§ 72)

The act expands the purpose for which DOT may use an existing bond authorization under the Let’s Go CT program. Under prior law, the authorization was for a parking structure and pedestrian bridge in New Haven on the New Haven rail line. The act expands it to also include improvements to Union Station and the surrounding roadways in New Haven.

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Healthy Homes Program (§§ 80 & 83)

Prior law authorized 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 act eliminates references to CCMC for purposes of these authorizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except that 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 act eliminates the July 31, 2020, deadline to apply for the grants, thus allowing for additional rounds of grant applications. (The act increases the program's authorization by \$15 million; see § 91 above). As under existing law, the grants are for certain expenses incurred on or after July 1, 2019.

The act also makes a conforming change by eliminating a provision for a second round of grant applications, limited to expenses incurred on or after February 1, 2021, 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 GO bonds over a five-year period, from FY 22 to FY 26, to recapitalize CTNext’s innovation place program

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

Under the act, bond proceeds may generally be used for new and existing innovation places, except that the act 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.

CTNext Bond Authorizations

FY	Amount (\$)
22	200,000
23	13,500,000
24	23,500,000
25	13,500,000

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

FY	Amount (\$)
26	13,500,000

The act also reestablishes and makes permanent the requirement that the CTNext board report annually by September 30 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, except that a technical change is effective July 1, 2022.

§§ 96-98 — UCONN 2000 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

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

The act increases bond authorizations for two existing UConn 2000 Phase III projects at the UConn Health Center, as shown in the table below. The additions total \$80.1 million in new bond authorizations under the program. To conform to the increased bond authorization, the act adjusts the annual bond limits for the UConn 2000 program for FY 22 and FY 23 by \$57.1 million and \$23 million, respectively. (PA 21-2, JSS, §§ 479-481, reduces these authorizations by \$55.1 million, resulting in a net increase of \$25 million.)

UConn 2000 Phase III Project Authorizations (in millions)

<i>Project</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>New Authorization</i>	<i>Change</i>
Deferred Maintenance/Code/ADA Compliance/Infrastructure & Improvements Renovation Lump Sum and Utility, Administrative and Support Facilities – Health Center	\$61.0	\$110.1	\$49.1
Equipment, Library Collections and Telecommunications – Health Center	75.0	106.0	31.0

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

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

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

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

requirements.

**UConn Research Faculty Recruitment and Hiring Program
GO Bond Authorizations**

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

Program Requirements

Existing law requires UConn to develop, maintain, and revise a faculty recruitment program to attract faculty with demonstrated excellence in their research fields and an interest in (1) collaborating on research that meets societal needs or (2) commercializing discoveries, innovations, or technologies. UConn's Board of Trustees must biennially develop a plan for recruiting and hiring research faculty, including those whose research is focused on societal needs or can be commercialized.

The act requires the Board of Trustees to implement a faculty recruitment and hiring program in accordance with this plan. The program must be used to (1) hire faculty meeting the above qualifications; (2) support the faculty's compensation and related construction, renovation, and equipment costs; and (3) help UConn meet existing law's faculty recruitment goals and requirements (see above). Through this new program, UConn must also (1) encourage and facilitate the creation of 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 expansion of UConn's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The act 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 act 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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§ 102 — CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

Authorizes up to \$25 million in GO bonds over a five-year period for the Connecticut Port Authority to fund port projects in towns other than New Haven, New London, or Bridgeport

The act authorizes up to \$25 million in GO bonds over a five-year period, capped at \$5 million in each year from FY 22 through FY 26, for the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA). 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 act 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 act 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

The act establishes the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust program, administered by the state treasurer, and authorizes up to \$600 million in bonds for the program (\$50 million per year) 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 accounting at birth. Once they have reached age 18, designated beneficiaries that meet the act'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 act, 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 act requires that deposits be made in cash and specifies that funds in the

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

trust are not the property of the state and cannot be combined with state funds. The act 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 act, 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 act.

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

Under the act, 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 into contractual agreements for services for the trust (e.g., legal, actuarial, administrative, and consulting) and pay for them with the trusts' assets;
3. obtain 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 act's purposes and incidental to the treasurer's duties under the act.

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. Under the act, these requirements apply regardless of existing state laws on the treasurer's investment authority, including the (1) requirement that the treasurer's trust fund investments be reviewed by the Investment Advisory Council and (2) statutory constraints that limit the percentage of state funds invested in common stock and investments in companies doing business in specified countries.

He need not require that the trust invest in government bonds or other funds he administers. The act 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.

Tax Exemption (§107)

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

Impact on Assistance Programs and Need-Based Aid (§ 108)

The act 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.

Designated Beneficiary Accountings (§§ 109-110)

Initial Deposit. The state treasurer must establish an accounting for each designated beneficiary and transfer, from the General Fund to the trust, \$3,200 to the beneficiary's accounting at birth. (PA 21-2, JSS, § 485, (1) allows, rather than requires, him to make this transfer; (2) provides that the transfer amount may be up to \$3,200; and (3) requires that it be made from the program's bond proceeds, rather than the General Fund.) 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. (PA 21-2, JSS, § 485, also requires that the transfer amount be proportionately reduced for any year in which the amount of bond funds made available under the program is insufficient to provide the \$3,200 transfer to each beneficiary.)

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 act allows the treasurer to adopt regulations for these provisions.

Under the act, if a designated beneficiary fails to submit a valid claim, as determined by the treasurer, before his or her 30th birthday or dies before doing so, then the amount of his or her accounting is credited back to the trust's assets.

MOU With DSS (§109)

The act requires the state 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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

beneficiaries' confidential information under any applicable state or federal laws.

Bonds (§ 111)

Authorization. The act 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. (PA 21-2, JSS, § 485, repeals these provisions, instead allowing the State Bond Commission to authorize the issuance of these bonds, subject to the same \$50 million per-year cap. In doing so, it subjects the bonds issued for this program to the standard Bond Commission approval process.)

Governor's Approval. Beginning by September 1, 2022, the act requires DSS to annually 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 deposit amount required to credit \$3,200 for each of these beneficiaries. (PA 21-2, JSS, § 486, requires him to send this information by certified mail.) 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. (PA 21-2, JSS, § 486, eliminates these provisions allowing the governor to approve or disapprove the treasurer's bond issuance.)

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, then 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. 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. (PA 21-2, JSS, § 486, instead provides that if the Bond Commission does not allocate all or a portion of the bonds in any fiscal year, then the remaining amount must be carried forward and added to the authorized amount for the next two succeeding fiscal years.) Issuance costs may be added to the capped amount in each fiscal year.

Subject to the act's capping provisions and following the governor's approval or deemed approval of the issuance, the act 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. (PA 21-2, JSS, § 486, eliminates these provisions.)

Treasurer's Powers. The act incorporates and applies to the bonds applicable

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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 act exempts interest on, and gains from the sale of, the notes from all taxes imposed by the state or under its authority, except estate or succession taxes. It also 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.)

Indemnification. The act indemnifies state elected and appointed officials and employees from financial losses, including legal fees, arising out of claims of negligence in providing secondary market disclosure information or performing other duties under any agreement to do so. The indemnification does not (1) cover willful and wanton fraud or (2) preclude a governmental immunity defense to any claim, demand, or suit.

Investment. The act 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.

Legal Actions Related to the Bonds. The act allows the Hartford Superior Court to enter a judgment against the state based on (1) an express contract between the state and bond holders or (2) contracts or agreements the act allows the treasurer to make relating to the notes. Such a judgment must include any claim or set-off the state has against the plaintiffs. The case must be heard without a jury. The act reserves to the state all legal defenses in such a case except governmental immunity and allows either party to move that the action have privilege in its trial assignment.

§ 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 in 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 that \$125 million of the funds available for the state’s Economic Action Plan be reserved for specified projects meeting specified criteria

The act establishes a five-year, \$875 million bonding program, from FYs 23-27, to fund qualifying projects and grants in eligible municipalities (i.e., those designated as public investment communities or alliance districts). It establishes a 21-member board, the Community Investment Fund 2030 board, within DECD to accept applications for funding under the program from municipalities, community development corporations, and nonprofits undertaking eligible projects. The act establishes a process by which the board reviews the

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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 act also authorizes an additional five years and \$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 act establishes the Community Investment Fund 2030 board within DECD. Under the act, the board is composed 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; (3) OPM secretary, attorney general, treasurer, comptroller, and secretary of the state, or their designees; and (4) economic and community development, 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 by August 22, 2021. The gubernatorial 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 act 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 State Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

Meetings and Procedures. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must serve as the board's chairpersons and 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 act establishes the following powers and duties for the board:

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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 (see *Economic Action Plan* below), and
4. perform any other actions necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties.

Eligible Projects

Under the act, 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. 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).

Proposed grants must be to provide (1) a revolving loan program, microloans, or gap financing to small businesses located within an eligible municipality or (2) start-up funds to establish a small business there.

Application and Review Process

The act requires the board to 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 each municipality's chief elected official (CEO) and publicize the funds' availability. Municipal CEOs, community development corporations (CDCs), and nonprofits may in turn apply to the board to request 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 act requires the board to 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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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 prioritize municipal applications that include 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 that the recipient will use for small business loans or financing, the board must also consider the (1) default risk on the repayment of a proposed loan or financing program and (2) 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 act, the board's chairpersons must submit a list of the board's recommended projects and grants to the governor whenever the board deems it necessary and desirable. The board may also recommend state funding 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 both proposed projects and 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 grants 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 the board's administrator and the state, acting by and through the OPM secretary, has entered into an MOU.

Legislative Report

By August 31, 2023, the act requires the board to report to the General Assembly, the General Assembly's Black and Puerto Rican caucus, state auditors, 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 these projects;

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

3. for each project, a description and the amount and terms of the funds provided;
4. the projects' status and any remaining allocated fund balance; 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 act requires the state auditors to 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 act authorizes up to \$875 million in GO bonds over five years, in amounts of up to of \$175 million per year for FYs 23-27. The proceeds from these bonds must be used for (1) costs related to an eligible project (a) recommended by the board and approved by the governor and (b) for which the governor has determined that bond funding is appropriate and that no other bond authorization is available 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.

The bonds are subject to standard statutory conditions. Any amount 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.

FYs 28-32. The act authorizes an additional \$1.25 billion in GO bonds for FYs 28 through 32 that are 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 act. 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. The bonds are subject to the same standard statutory conditions and carryforward provisions described above.

Economic Action Plan

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

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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

- 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. (PA 21-2, JSS, §§ 475 & 488, eliminates these provisions and instead allows the DECD commissioner, for FYs 22 to 24 and in coordination with the OPM secretary, to use bond funds, federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and available resources to provide grants for selected major projects to implement the state's Economic Action Plan. Under the act, the Community Investment Fund 2030 board must review and provide comments to DECD on these projects, rather than the projects funded from the \$125 million of reserved funds described above.)

The "Economic Action Plan," also referred to as the "Economic Development Action Plan," is Governor Lamont's proposal to use a combination of state bonds, tax credits, private and municipal matching funds, and other funding streams to support specified economic development programs.

§ 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 and an estimated state share of \$111.4 million

The act authorizes 15 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$393 million toward total estimated project costs of \$637.7 million. It also reauthorizes two high school renovation projects that have changed substantially in scope or cost (Windham High School and Bullard-Havens Technical High School), with additional estimated project costs of \$119.7 million and an estimated state share of \$111.4 million.

Under the state school construction grant program, the state reimburses towns and local districts for a percentage of eligible school construction costs through state GO 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 the grant commitment.

For each project authorized by the act, the table below shows the district, school, project type, estimates for total cost and state grant commitment, and state reimbursement rate.

2021 School Construction Grant Commitments

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

District	School	Project Type	Estimated Project Costs	Estimated Grant	Reimbursement Rate
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	Extension/ 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 District 1	Housatonic Valley Regional High School	Vo-Ag Equipment	319,533	255,626	80.00%

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Estimated Project Costs</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
LEARN (New London area regional educational service center)	LEARN Ocean Avenue Academy	Special Education	9,851,000	7,880,800	80.00%
Totals			\$637,710,983	\$392,964,668	

*The act allows the project to qualify for an 85% reimbursement rate if certain conditions are met; see § 127 below.

Reauthorized Projects

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 act authorizes a new total project estimated cost of \$112,329,500, which is an increase of \$40,659,300. Correspondingly, the state grant commitment increases from the original \$57,078,147 to \$89,459,214. (However, the act also allows the project to qualify for a 95% reimbursement rate if certain conditions are met; see § 122 below.)

PA 15-3, JSS, reauthorized the Bullard-Havens Technical High School extension and alteration project in Bridgeport (prior to that it was initially authorized by PA 05-6, JSS) with an estimated cost of \$60,383,000. The act reauthorizes a new estimated total project 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 act adds a requirement that water bottle filling stations 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. It does this by prohibiting DAS from approving any school building project plan that does not include installing 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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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 (TECS) and (2) submit it to the Education Committee

The act requires DAS, starting by January 1, 2023, to biennially develop a status report on all current and pending school building projects for TECS (formerly known as the technical high school system). The 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) completion dates 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 21 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 act exempts 21 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.” (PA 21-2, JSS, §§ 487 & 490, repeals three of these exemptions and modifies another.)

The table below describes the notwithstandings that the act grants and the provisions repealed by PA 21-2, JSS.

Notwithstandings for School Construction Projects

Section	Town	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
116	Hamden	Spring Glen School, new construction	Waives any audit deficiencies if the costs do not exceed \$1,792,894
116	Hamden	Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School facility	Waives any audit deficiencies if the costs do not exceed \$1,315,012
116	Hamden	Hamden Middle School, new construction	Waives any audit deficiencies if the costs do not exceed \$2,940,200
117	New Britain	Chamberlain Elementary School, renovation	Allows change of project scope to include preschool facilities if the total project cost does not exceed \$75 million
118	New Britain	Holmes Elementary School, renovation	Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2020, to be on the 2021 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$55 million, if the town files an application

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Section	Town	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
			by October 1, 2023 Increases the project reimbursement rate from 79.29% to 95% if (1) New Britain is an educational reform district on the act's effective date, June 30, 2021, and (2) the school building committee for the project meets the criteria set in § 120 of the act*
119**	New Britain	Jefferson Elementary School, renovation	Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2020, to be on the 2021 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$55 million if the town files an application before October 1, 2025, and the project is otherwise eligible under the program Increases the project reimbursement rate from 79.29% to 95% if (1) New Britain is an educational reform district on the act's effective date, June 30, 2021, and (2) the school building committee for the project meets the criteria set in §120 of the act*
121	Ansonia & Derby	Regional school district project, new construction or renovation	Increases the project reimbursement rate to the highest rate of the two towns plus an additional 20% (rather than 10% as existing law provides) if the towns file an application within 10 years after 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 act's effective date, June 30, 2021, and (2) construction begins by June 30, 2022*
123	Brookfield	Elementary school, new construction	Waives requirement that all projects must be awarded after a 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*****

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Section	Town	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
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	Eight 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)

* 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)

** Repealed by PA 21-2, JSS, § 490

*** Of the two towns, Ansonia has the higher reimbursement rate for 2021: 77.5% for renovation and 67.5% for new construction

**** PA 21-2, JSS, § 487, repeals the project fund withholding provision

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 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 act 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 §§ 118 & 119 above; PA 21-2, JSS, § 490, repeals the Jefferson project authorization). In doing so, it supersedes (1) an existing law on committee membership and (2) any conflicting special act,

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

municipal charter, local ordinance, home rule ordinance, or other ordinance. Beginning July 1, 2021, the act instead requires that the school building committee responsible for those schools be established with the following members:

1. three members appointed by the New Britain Common Council, one of whom must 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