



Substitute House Bill No. 6874

Public Act No. 23-46

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS, THE SHARING OF JUDICIAL BRANCH RECORDS AND THE AWARD OF DAMAGES IN CERTAIN CIVIL MATTERS.

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

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 12-18b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 12-19a and 12-20a, on or before May thirtieth, annually, all funds appropriated for state grants in lieu of taxes shall be payable to municipalities and fire districts pursuant to the provisions of this section. On or before January first, annually, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall determine the amount due, as a state grant in lieu of taxes, to each municipality and fire district in this state wherein college and hospital property is located and to each municipality and fire district in this state wherein state, municipal or tribal property, except that which was acquired and used for highways and bridges, but not excepting property acquired and used for highway administration or maintenance purposes, is located. Such determination shall be calculated based on assessed values provided to the Office of Policy and Management prior to the preceding April first, pursuant to section 12-19b.

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(1) The grant payable to any municipality or fire district for state, municipal or tribal property under the provisions of this section in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and each fiscal year thereafter, shall be equal to the total of:

(A) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to any facility designated by the Commissioner of Correction, on or before August first of each year, to be a correctional facility administered under the auspices of the Department of Correction or a juvenile [detention] residential center under direction of the [Department of Children and Families] Judicial Branch that was used for incarcerative purposes during the preceding fiscal year. If a list containing the name and location of such designated facilities and information concerning their use for purposes of incarceration during the preceding fiscal year is not available from the Secretary of the State on August first of any year, the Commissioner of Correction shall, on said date, certify to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management a list containing such information;

(B) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to that portion of the John Dempsey Hospital located at The University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington that is used as a permanent medical ward for prisoners under the custody of the Department of Correction. Nothing in this section shall be construed as designating any portion of The University of Connecticut Health Center John Dempsey Hospital as a correctional facility;

(C) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid on any land designated within the 1983 Settlement boundary and taken into trust by the federal government for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation on or after June 8, 1999;

(D) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to the property and facilities owned by the

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Connecticut Port Authority;

(E) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 12-19a, sixty-five per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to the buildings and grounds comprising Connecticut Valley Hospital and Whiting Forensic Hospital in Middletown;

(F) With respect to any municipality in which more than fifty per cent of the property is state-owned real property, one hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to such state-owned property;

(G) Forty-five per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to all municipally owned airports; except for the exemption applicable to such property, on the assessment list in such municipality for the assessment date two years prior to the commencement of the state fiscal year in which such grant is payable. The grant provided pursuant to this section for any municipally owned airport shall be paid to any municipality in which the airport is located, except that the grant applicable to Sikorsky Airport shall be paid one-half to the town of Stratford and one-half to the city of Bridgeport;

(H) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to any land designated within the 1983 Settlement boundary and taken into trust by the federal government for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation prior to June 8, 1999, or taken into trust by the federal government for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, provided the real property subject to this subparagraph shall be the land only, and shall not include the assessed value of any structures, buildings or other improvements on such land; and

(I) Forty-five per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to all other state-owned real property.

(2) The grant payable to any municipality or fire district for college

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and hospital property under the provisions of this section in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, and each fiscal year thereafter, shall be equal to the total of seventy-seven per cent of the property taxes that, except for any exemption applicable to any college and hospital property under the provisions of section 12-81, would have been paid with respect to college and hospital property on the assessment list in such municipality or fire district for the assessment date two years prior to the commencement of the state fiscal year in which such grant is payable.

Sec. 2. Section 46b-44a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) An action for a nonadversarial dissolution of marriage may be commenced by the filing of a joint petition in the judicial district in which one of the parties resides. The joint petition shall be notarized and contain an attestation, under oath, by each party that the conditions set forth in subsection (b) of this section exist.

(b) An action brought pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may proceed if, at the time of the filing of the action, the parties attest, under oath, that the following conditions exist: (1) The marriage has broken down irretrievably; (2) the duration of the marriage does not exceed nine years; (3) neither party to the action is pregnant; (4) no children were born to or adopted by the parties prior to, or during, the marriage; (5) neither party has any interest or title in real property; (6) the total combined fair market value of all property owned by either party, less any amount owed on such property, is less than eighty thousand dollars; (7) neither party has a defined benefit pension plan; (8) neither party has a pending petition for relief under the United States Bankruptcy Code; (9) no other action for dissolution of marriage, civil union, legal separation or annulment is pending in this state or in a foreign jurisdiction, except as provided in subsection [(g)] (f) of this section; (10) a restraining order, issued pursuant to section 46b-15, or a protective order, issued pursuant to section 46b-38c, between the parties

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is not in effect; and (11) the residency provisions of section 46b-44 have been satisfied. After the filing of the joint petition and prior to the court entering a decree of dissolution of marriage pursuant to section 46b-44c, if a change occurs with respect to any of the conditions set forth in this subsection, one or both of the parties shall notify the court forthwith of the changed condition. For the purposes of this subsection, "defined benefit pension plan" means a pension plan in which an employer promises to pay a specified monthly benefit upon an employee's retirement that is predetermined by a formula based on the employee's earnings history and tenure of service.

(c) In addition to attesting to the conditions enumerated in subsection (b) of this section, any joint petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall also state the date and place of marriage and the current residential address for each party.

(d) A joint petition shall be accompanied by financial affidavits completed by each party on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, a request for the court to order the restoration of a birth name or former name, if so desired by either party, and a certification attested to by the parties, under oath, that: (1) The parties agree to proceed by consent and waive service of process, except as provided in subsection (g) of this section; (2) neither party is acting under duress or coercion; and (3) each party is waiving any right to a trial, alimony, spousal support or an appeal.

(e) If the parties submit a settlement agreement to the court that they are requesting be incorporated into the decree of dissolution, such settlement agreement shall be filed with the joint petition. Each party shall attest, under oath, that the terms of the settlement agreement are fair and equitable. If the court finds that the settlement agreement is fair and equitable, it shall be incorporated by reference into the decree of the court. If the court cannot determine whether such agreement is fair and equitable, the matter shall be docketed for the court's review in

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accordance with the provisions of section 46b-44d.

[(f) The provisions of subsection (a) of section 46b-67 shall not apply to a nonadversarial dissolution action brought under this section.]

[(g)] (f) (1) If after filing an action for dissolution of marriage on the regular family docket, pursuant to section 46b-45, but prior to the court entering a decree of dissolution of marriage, the parties to such action satisfy all the conditions for a nonadversarial dissolution of marriage as set forth in this section, then such parties may file a joint petition for a nonadversarial dissolution of marriage in the existing dissolution of marriage action pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, except that such joint petition need not include a waiver of service of process. Upon the filing of such joint petition, the original complaint for dissolution of marriage is deemed superseded by operation of law and the action may proceed in the manner set forth in sections 46b-44b to 46b-44d, inclusive.

(2) No new filing fee shall be imposed by the court for a joint petition filed pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 46b-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) On or after the return day of a complaint seeking the dissolution of a marriage or a legal separation, but prior to the entry of judgment, and prior to the expiration of the [ninety-day period specified in section 46b-67] ninety days following the return date, either spouse or the counsel for any minor children of the marriage may submit a request for conciliation to the clerk of the court. The clerk shall forthwith enter an order that the parties meet with a conciliator mutually acceptable to them or, if the parties cannot agree as to a conciliator, with a conciliator named by the court. The conciliator shall, in any case, be a clergyman, a physician, a domestic relations officer or a person experienced in

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marriage counseling.

Sec. 4. Section 46b-67 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) [Following the expiration of ninety days after the day on] Unless the parties reach a full agreement upon which they ask the court to enter judgment prior to the return date, following the second day after which a complaint for dissolution or legal separation is made returnable, or after the expiration of six months, where proceedings have been stayed under section 46b-53, as amended by this act, the court may proceed on the complaint, or whenever dissolution is claimed under cross complaint, amended complaint or amended cross complaint, the case may be heard and a decree granted thereon after the expiration of [the ninety days and twenty days after] twenty days from the filing of the cross complaint, amended complaint or amended cross complaint [has been filed] with the court, provided the requirement of the twenty-day delay shall not apply (1) whenever the opposing [counsel] party, having appeared, consents to the cross complaint, amended complaint or amended cross complaint, or (2) where the defendant has not appeared and the amendment does not set forth either a cause of action or a claim for relief not in the original complaint. [Nothing in this section shall prevent any interlocutory proceedings within the ninety-day period.] Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, (A) no judgment upon default of appearance of a defendant who has been served by personal or abode service shall be entered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section until at least thirty days after the return date; (B) no judgment upon default of appearance of a defendant who has been served in any other manner shall be entered until after a hearing held at least sixty days after the return date; and (C) no trial of a contested action for dissolution of marriage or legal separation shall commence until at least ninety days after the return date.

[(b) If the parties attest, under oath, that they have an agreement as

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to all terms of the dissolution of marriage or civil union or of the legal separation and wish the court to enter a decree of dissolution of marriage or civil union or of legal separation prior to the expiration of the time periods set forth in subsection (a) of this section, and file a motion seeking the waiver of said time periods, the court may waive the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.]

[(c)] (b) (1) If the defendant has not appeared, the plaintiff may file a motion for the entry of judgment upon default of appearance, no sooner than thirty days after the day on which the complaint for dissolution of marriage or civil union or for legal separation is made returnable. [, seeking a waiver of the time periods set forth in subsection (a) of this section.] The plaintiff shall file such motion on a form prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator. Such motion shall include an affidavit in which the plaintiff shall attest, under oath (A) the manner in which service was made on the defendant, pursuant to section 46b-45, and, if such service was abode service, (i) that the address at which service was made is the usual place of abode of the defendant, (ii) that the defendant was not known by the plaintiff to be residing, whether permanently or temporarily, at any other address at the time service was made, and (iii) the most recent date on which the plaintiff had personal knowledge that the defendant resided at the address at which service was made; (B) whether there were children born to or adopted by the parties prior to, or during, the marriage or civil union, and whether either party is pregnant; (C) whether there exists a restraining order, issued pursuant to section 46b-15, or a protective order, issued pursuant to section 46b-38c, between the parties that is in effect; (D) whether the plaintiff is requesting alimony or spousal support; and (E) whether the parties have any jointly owned property or jointly held debt.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the motion by the plaintiff filed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be docketed for a hearing. At such hearing, the court, in

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its discretion, may [grant the motion to waive the time periods set forth in subsection (a) of this section and may further] enter a decree of dissolution of marriage or civil union or of legal separation at such hearing, provided all other applicable requirements of this chapter are met.

(3) If the court finds that (A) the plaintiff has properly effectuated service upon the defendant, either personally or by abode, and, if by abode, has attested (i) that the address at which the defendant was served is the usual place of abode of the defendant, (ii) that the defendant was not known by the plaintiff to be residing, whether permanently or temporarily, at any other address at the time service was made, and (iii) to the most recent date on which the plaintiff had personal knowledge that the defendant resided at the address at which service was made; (B) there were no children born to or adopted by the parties prior to, or during, the marriage or civil union, and that neither party is pregnant; (C) there does not exist a restraining order, issued pursuant to section 46b-15, or a protective order, issued pursuant to section 46b-38c, between the parties that is in effect; (D) the plaintiff is not requesting alimony or spousal support; and (E) the parties do not have any jointly owned property or jointly held debt, and the plaintiff has filed with the clerk of the court a completed financial affidavit, the court may, in its discretion, grant the motion to waive the time periods set forth in subsection (a) of this section without a hearing. The court may further enter a decree of dissolution of marriage or civil union or of legal separation without a hearing, provided the court shall not enter any order other than a dissolution of marriage or civil union or a legal separation, and, if the plaintiff requests, an order restoring his or her birth name or former name, without a hearing. If the court determines that any of the conditions of this subdivision have not been met, the matter shall be docketed for a hearing pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

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[(d)] (c) A decree of annulment or dissolution shall give the parties the status of unmarried persons and they may marry again. A decree of legal separation shall have the effect of a decree dissolving the marriage except that neither party shall be free to marry. [Neither the ninety-day period specified in this section nor the] The six-month period referred to in section 46b-53, as amended by this act, shall not apply in actions for annulment and the court may proceed on any cause of action for annulment in the manner generally applicable in civil actions.

Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 46b-122 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any judge hearing a juvenile matter may, during such hearing, exclude from the room in which such hearing is held any person whose presence is, in the court's opinion, not necessary, except that in delinquency proceedings, any victim and a victim's next of kin shall not be excluded unless, after hearing from the parties and the victim or a victim's next of kin and for good cause shown, which shall be clearly and specifically stated on the record, the judge orders otherwise. For the purposes of this section, "victim" means a person who is the victim of a delinquent act, a parent or guardian of such person, the legal representative of such person or a victim advocate for such person under section 54-220, and "next of kin" means a spouse, adult child, a parent, an adult sibling, an aunt, an uncle or a grandparent.

Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 54-76h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(b) In a proceeding under sections 54-76b to 54-76n, inclusive, the court shall not exclude any victim and a victim's next of kin from such proceeding or any portion thereof unless, after hearing from the parties

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and the victim or a victim's next of kin and for good cause shown, which shall be clearly and specifically stated on the record, the court orders otherwise. For the purposes of this subsection, "victim" means a person who is the victim of a crime for which a youth is charged, a parent or guardian of such person, the legal representative of such person or a victim advocate for such person under section 54-220, and "next of kin" means a spouse, adult child, a parent, an adult sibling, an aunt, an uncle or a grandparent.

Sec. 7. Subsection (k) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(k) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, any information concerning a child that is obtained during any mental health screening or assessment of such child, shall be used solely for planning and treatment purposes and shall otherwise be confidential and retained in the files of the entity performing such screening or assessment. Such information may be further disclosed only for the purposes of any court-ordered evaluation or treatment of the child or provision of services to the child, or pursuant to sections 17a-101 to 17a-101e, inclusive, 17b-450, 17b-451 or 51-36a, or to the Court Support Services Division and its contracted quality assurance providers, for program evaluation purposes. Such information shall not be subject to subpoena or other court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, any information concerning a child that is obtained during any detention risk screening of such child shall be used solely for determining the child's risk to public safety as required by subsection (e) of section 46b-133. The information obtained and results of the detention risk screening shall be used for the purpose of making a recommendation to the court regarding the detention of the child and

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shall otherwise be confidential and retained in the files of the person performing such screening, but shall be disclosed to any attorney of record upon motion and order of the court. Any information and results disclosed upon such motion and order shall be available to any attorney of record for such case. Such information and results shall otherwise not be subject to subpoena or other court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, any information concerning a child that is obtained during any risk and behavioral health screening of such child shall be used solely for determining the child's eligibility for community diversion and nonjudicial handling. The information obtained and results of the risk and behavioral health screening shall be used for the purpose of identifying appropriate treatment and interventions and shall otherwise be confidential and retained in the files of the person performing such screening, but shall be disclosed to any attorney of record upon motion and order of the court. Any information and results disclosed upon such motion and order shall be available to any attorney of record for such case. Such information and results shall otherwise not be subject to subpoena or other court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose.

Sec. 8. Section 54-129a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

Prior to the Board of Pardons and Paroles terminating a person's period of special parole pursuant to section 54-129, (1) the Office of Victim Services [] within the Judicial Department [] shall notify the victim of the crime for which the person is serving a period of special parole who is registered with the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department, [or] and (2) the Victim Services Unit within the Department of Correction shall notify the victim of the crime for which the person is serving a period of special parole who is registered with

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the Victim Services Unit within the Department of Correction, of the board's intent to consider the termination of such person's period of special parole. Any victim may submit a statement to the board concerning whether such person's period of special parole should be terminated. For the purposes of this section, "victim" means a victim, as defined in section 54-126a.

Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 53a-167c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) A person is guilty of assault of public safety, emergency medical, public transit or health care personnel when, with intent to prevent a reasonably identifiable peace officer, firefighter or employee of an emergency medical service organization, as defined in section 53a-3, emergency room physician or nurse, health care employee as defined in section 19a-490q, employee of the Department of Correction, member or employee of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, probation officer, employee of the Judicial Branch assigned to provide pretrial or post-conviction secure detention and programming services to juveniles accused of the commission of a delinquent act, liquor control agent, state or municipal animal control officer, security officer, employee of the Department of Children and Families assigned to provide direct services to children and youths in the care or custody of the department, employee of a municipal police department assigned to provide security at the police department's lockup and holding facility, active individual member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, or public transit employee from performing his or her duties, and while such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, health care employee, member, liquor control agent, animal control officer, security officer, probation officer or active individual member is acting in the performance of his or her duties, (1) such person causes physical injury to such peace officer, firefighter, employee,

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physician, nurse, member, liquor control agent, animal control officer, security officer, probation officer or active individual member, or (2) such person throws or hurls, or causes to be thrown or hurled, any rock, bottle, can or other article, object or missile of any kind capable of causing physical harm, damage or injury, at such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, member, liquor control agent, animal control officer, security officer, probation officer or active individual member, or (3) such person uses or causes to be used any mace, tear gas or any like or similar deleterious agent against such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, member, liquor control agent, animal control officer, security officer, probation officer or active individual member, or (4) such person throws or hurls, or causes to be thrown or hurled, any paint, dye or other like or similar staining, discoloring or coloring agent or any type of offensive or noxious liquid, agent or substance at such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, member, liquor control agent, animal control officer, security officer, probation officer or active individual member, or (5) such person throws or hurls, or causes to be thrown or hurled, any bodily fluid including, but not limited to, urine, feces, blood or saliva at such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, member, liquor control agent, animal control officer, security officer, probation officer or active individual member. For the purposes of this section, "public transit employee" means a person employed by the state, a political subdivision of the state, a transit district formed under chapter 103a or a person with whom the Commissioner of Transportation has contracted in accordance with section 13b-34 to provide transportation services who operates a vehicle or vessel providing public ferry service or fixed route bus service or performs duties directly related to the operation of such vehicle or vessel, or who, as part of the provision of public rail service, is a train operator, conductor, inspector, signal person or station agent and "security officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 29-152u.

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Sec. 10. Subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(g) The department shall disclose records, subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, without the consent of the person who is the subject of the record, to:

(1) The person named in the record or such person's authorized representative, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information (A) contained in the record about such person or about such person's biological or adoptive minor child, if such person's parental rights to such child have not been terminated; and (B) identifying an individual who reported abuse or neglect of the person, including any tape recording of an oral report pursuant to section 17a-103, if a court determines that there is reasonable cause to believe the reporter knowingly made a false report or that the interests of justice require disclosure;

(2) An employee of the department for any purpose reasonably related to the performance of such employee's duties;

(3) A guardian ad litem or attorney appointed to represent a child or youth in litigation affecting the best interests of the child or youth;

(4) An attorney representing a parent, guardian or child in a petition filed in the Superior Court pursuant to section 17a-112 or 46b-129, provided (A) if such records do not pertain to such attorney's client or such client's child, such records shall not be further disclosed to another individual or entity by such attorney except pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, (B) if such records are confidential pursuant to federal law, such records shall not be disclosed to such attorney or such attorney's client unless such attorney or such attorney's client is otherwise entitled to such records, and (C) nothing in this

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subdivision shall limit the disclosure of records under subdivision (3) of this subsection;

(5) The Attorney General, any assistant attorney general or any other legal counsel retained to represent the department during the course of a legal proceeding involving the department or an employee of the department;

(6) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee;

(7) The Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's designee for purposes of ensuring competent representation by the attorneys with whom the Chief Public Defender contracts to provide legal and guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and for ensuring accurate payments for services rendered by such attorneys;

(8) The Chief State's Attorney or the Chief State's Attorney's designee for purposes of investigating or prosecuting (A) an allegation related to child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false report of suspected child abuse or neglect, (C) an allegation that a mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with section 17a-101a, provided such prosecuting authority shall have access to records of a child charged with the commission of a delinquent act, who is not being charged with an offense related to child abuse, only while the case is being prosecuted and after obtaining a release, or (D) an allegation of fraud in the receipt of public or private benefits, provided no information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless such information is essential to such investigation or prosecution;

(9) A state or federal law enforcement officer, including a military law enforcement authority under the United States Department of Defense, for purposes of investigating (A) an allegation related to child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false report of

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suspected child abuse or neglect, or (C) an allegation that a mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with section 17a-101a;

(10) A foster or prospective adoptive parent, if the records pertain to a child or youth currently placed with the foster or prospective adoptive parent, or a child or youth being considered for placement with the foster or prospective adoptive parent, and the records are necessary to address the social, medical, psychological or educational needs of the child or youth, provided no information identifying a biological parent is disclosed without the permission of such biological parent;

(11) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of the Governor's official functions, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary or the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, when requested in writing by any of such committees in the course of such committee's official functions, and upon a majority vote of such committee, provided no name or other identifying information is disclosed unless such information is essential to the gubernatorial or legislative purpose;

(12) The Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of (A) determining the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80, 19a-87b or 19a-421; (B) determining the suitability of such person for licensure; (C) determining the suitability of a person to provide child care services to a child and receive a child care subsidy pursuant to section 17b-749k; (D) an investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (E) notifying the office when the Department of Children and Families places an individual licensed or certified by the office on the child abuse and neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (F) notifying the office

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when the Department of Children and Families possesses information regarding an office regulatory violation committed by an individual licensed or certified by the office;

(13) The Department of Developmental Services, to allow said department to determine eligibility, facilitate enrollment and plan for the provision of services to a child who is a client of said department and who is applying to enroll in or is enrolled in said department's behavioral services program. At the time that a parent or guardian completes an application for enrollment of a child in the Department of Developmental Services' behavioral services program, or at the time that said department updates a child's annual individualized plan of care, said department shall notify such parent or guardian that the Department of Children and Families may provide records to the Department of Developmental Services for the purposes specified in this subdivision without the consent of such parent or guardian;

(14) Any individual or entity for the purposes of identifying resources that will promote the permanency plan of a child or youth approved by the court pursuant to sections 17a-11, 17a-111b and 46b-129;

(15) A state agency that licenses or certifies a person to educate, care for or provide services to children or youths;

(16) A judge or employee of a Probate Court who requires access to such records in order to perform such judge's or employee's official duties;

(17) A judge of the Superior Court for purposes of determining the appropriate disposition of a child adjudicated as delinquent; [or a child who is a member of a family with service needs;]

(18) A judge of the Superior Court in a criminal prosecution for purposes of in camera inspection whenever (A) the court has ordered that the record be provided to the court; or (B) a party to the proceeding

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has issued a subpoena for the record;

(19) A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a family violence proceeding when such records concern family violence with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding or the parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding;

(20) The Auditors of Public Accounts, or their representative, provided no information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless such information is essential to an audit conducted pursuant to section 2-90;

(21) A local or regional board of education, provided the records are limited to educational records created or obtained by the state or Connecticut Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section 17a-37;

(22) The superintendent of schools for any school district for the purpose of determining the suitability of a person to be employed by the local or regional board of education for such school district pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-221d;

(23) The Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of criminal history records checks pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-44, provided information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision shall be limited to information included on the Department of Children and Families child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k concerning the nondisclosure of findings of responsibility for abuse and neglect;

(24) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the purpose of treatment planning for young adults who have transitioned from the care of the Department of Children and Families;

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(25) The superintendent of a public school district or the executive director or other head of a public or private institution for children providing care for children or a private school (A) pursuant to sections 17a-11, 17a-101b, 17a-101c, 17a-101i, 17a-111b and 46b-129, or (B) when the Department of Children and Families places an individual employed by such institution or school on the child abuse and neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k;

(26) The Department of Social Services for the purpose of (A) determining the suitability of a person for payment from the Department of Social Services for providing child care; (B) promoting the health, safety and welfare of a child or youth receiving services from either department; or (C) investigating allegations of fraud provided no information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless such information is essential to any such investigation;

(27) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, to allow the division to determine the supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth, and provide appropriate supervision and treatment services to such child or youth, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information that identifies the child or youth, or a member of such child's or youth's immediate family, as being or having been (A) committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families as delinquent, (B) under the supervision of the Commissioner of Children and Families, or (C) enrolled in the voluntary services program operated by the Department of Children and Families;

(28) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch for the purpose of sharing common case records to track recidivism of juvenile offenders;

(29) The birth-to-three program's referral intake office for the purpose of (A) determining eligibility of, (B) facilitating enrollment for, and (C) providing services to (i) substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect

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with suspected developmental delays, and (ii) newborns impacted by withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure;

(30) The Department of Public Health for the purpose of notification when the Commissioner of Children and Families places an individual licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health on the child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k;

(31) The Department of Correction, for the purpose of determining the supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth, and providing appropriate supervision and treatment services to such child or youth;

(32) Any child placing agency subject to licensure by the Department of Children and Families, for the purpose of determining the suitability of a person (A) for employment by such agency, or (B) to adopt or provide foster care pursuant to sections 17a-114 and 17a-151; and

(33) The Department of Administrative Services, for the purpose of determining whether an applicant for employment with the state, who would have contact with children in the course of such employment, appears on the child abuse or neglect registry maintained pursuant to section 17a-101k.

Sec. 11. Section 46b-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

The terms used in this chapter shall, in its interpretation and in the interpretation of other statutes, be defined as follows:

(1) "Child" means any person under eighteen years of age who has not been legally emancipated, except that [(A)] for purposes of delinquency matters and proceedings, "child" means any person who [(i)] (A) is at least ten years of age at the time of the alleged commission of a delinquent act and who is [(I)] (i) under eighteen years of age and has not been legally emancipated, or [(II)] (ii) eighteen years of age or

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older and committed a delinquent act prior to attaining eighteen years of age, or [(ii) is] (B) subsequent to attaining eighteen years of age, [(I)] (i) violates any order of the Superior Court or any condition of probation ordered by the Superior Court with respect to a delinquency proceeding, or [(II)] (ii) wilfully fails to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child had notice;], and (B) for purposes of family with service needs matters and proceedings, child means a person who is at least seven years of age and is under eighteen years of age;]

(2) (A) A child may be adjudicated as "delinquent" who has, while under sixteen years of age, (i) violated any federal or state law, except a first or second offense under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-279a, or except section 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, or violated a municipal or local ordinance, [except an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with service needs,] (ii) wilfully failed to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child had notice, (iii) violated any order of the Superior Court in a delinquency proceeding, [except as provided in section 46b-148,] or (iv) violated conditions of probation supervision or probation supervision with residential placement in a delinquency proceeding as ordered by the court;

(B) A child may be adjudicated as "delinquent" who has (i) while sixteen or seventeen years of age, violated any federal or state law, other than (I) an infraction, (II) a violation, (III) a motor vehicle offense or violation under title 14, (IV) a violation of a municipal or local ordinance, (V) a violation of section 51-164r, 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, or (VI) a first or second offense under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-279a, (ii) while sixteen years of age or older, wilfully failed to appear in response to a summons

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under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child had notice, (iii) while sixteen years of age or older, violated any order of the Superior Court in a delinquency proceeding, [except as provided in section 46b-148,] or (iv) while sixteen years of age or older, violated conditions of probation supervision or probation supervision with residential placement in a delinquency proceeding as ordered by the court;

(3) "Family with service needs" means a family that includes a child who is at least seven years of age and is under eighteen years of age who, according to a petition lawfully filed on or before June 30, 2020, (A) has without just cause run away from the parental home or other properly authorized and lawful place of abode, (B) is beyond the control of the child's parent, parents, guardian or other custodian, (C) has engaged in indecent or immoral conduct, or (D) is thirteen years of age or older and has engaged in sexual intercourse with another person and such other person is thirteen years of age or older and not more than two years older or younger than such child;

(4) A child may be found "neglected" who, for reasons other than being impoverished, (A) has been abandoned, (B) is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally or morally, or (C) is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to the well-being of the child;

(5) A child may be found "abused" who (A) has been inflicted with physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means, (B) has injuries that are at variance with the history given of them, or (C) is in a condition that is the result of maltreatment, including, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment;

(6) A child may be found "uncared for" (A) who is homeless, (B) whose home cannot provide the specialized care that the physical,

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emotional or mental condition of the child requires, or (C) who has been identified as a victim of trafficking, as defined in section 46a-170. For the purposes of this section, the treatment of any child by an accredited Christian Science practitioner, in lieu of treatment by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, shall not of itself constitute neglect or maltreatment;

(7) "Delinquent act" means (A) the violation by a child under the age of sixteen of any federal or state law, except a first or second offense under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-279a, the violation of section 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, or the violation of a municipal or local ordinance, [except an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with service needs,] (B) the violation by a child sixteen or seventeen years of age of any federal or state law, other than (i) an infraction, (ii) a violation, (iii) a motor vehicle offense or violation under title 14, (iv) the violation of a municipal or local ordinance, (v) the violation of section 51-164r, 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, or (vi) a first or second offense under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-279a, (C) the wilful failure of a child, including a child who has attained the age of eighteen, to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child has notice, (D) the violation of any order of the Superior Court in a delinquency proceeding by a child, including a child who has attained the age of eighteen, [except as provided in section 46b-148,] or (E) the violation of conditions of probation supervision or probation supervision with residential placement in a delinquency proceeding by a child, including a child who has attained the age of eighteen, as ordered by the court;

(8) "Serious juvenile offense" means (A) the violation of, including attempt or conspiracy to violate, section 21a-277, 21a-278, 29-33, 29-34, 29-35, subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53-21, 53-80a, 53-

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202b, 53-202c, 53-390 to 53-392, inclusive, 53a-54a to 53a-57, inclusive, 53a-59 to 53a-60c, inclusive, 53a-64aa, 53a-64bb, 53a-70 to 53a-71, inclusive, 53a-72b, 53a-86, 53a-92 to 53a-94a, inclusive, 53a-95, 53a-100aa, 53a-101, 53a-102a, 53a-103a or 53a-111 to 53a-113, inclusive, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-123, section 53a-134, 53a-135, 53a-136a or 53a-167c, as amended by this act, subsection (a) of section 53a-174, or section 53a-196a, 53a-211, 53a-212, 53a-216 or 53a-217b, or (B) absconding, escaping or running away, without just cause, from any secure residential facility in which the child has been placed by the court as a delinquent child;

(9) "Serious juvenile offender" means any child adjudicated as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense;

(10) "Serious juvenile repeat offender" means any child charged with the commission of any felony if such child has previously been adjudicated as delinquent or otherwise adjudicated at any age for two violations of any provision of title 21a, 29, 53 or 53a that is designated as a felony;

(11) "Alcohol-dependent" means a psychoactive substance dependence on alcohol as that condition is defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders";

(12) "Drug-dependent" means a psychoactive substance dependence on drugs as that condition is defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders". No child shall be classified as drug-dependent who is dependent (A) upon a morphine-type substance as an incident to current medical treatment of a demonstrable physical disorder other than drug dependence, or (B) upon amphetamine-type, ataractic, barbiturate-type, hallucinogenic or other stimulant and depressant

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substances as an incident to current medical treatment of a demonstrable physical or psychological disorder, or both, other than drug dependence;

(13) "Pre-dispositional study" means a comprehensive written report prepared by a juvenile probation officer pursuant to section 46b-134 regarding the child's social, medical, mental health, educational, risks and needs, and family history, as well as the events surrounding the offense to present a supported recommendation to the court;

(14) "Probation supervision" means a legal status whereby a juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent is placed by the court under the supervision of juvenile probation for a specified period of time and upon such terms as the court determines;

(15) "Probation supervision with residential placement" means a legal status whereby a juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent is placed by the court under the supervision of juvenile probation for a specified period of time, upon such terms as the court determines, that include a period of placement in a secure or staff-secure residential treatment facility, as ordered by the court, and a period of supervision in the community;

(16) "Risk and needs assessment" means a standardized tool that (A) assists juvenile probation officers in collecting and synthesizing information about a child to estimate the child's risk of recidivating and identify other factors that, if treated and changed, can reduce the child's likelihood of reoffending, and (B) provides a guide for intervention planning;

(17) "Secure-residential facility" means a hardware-secured residential facility that includes direct staff supervision, surveillance enhancements and physical barriers that allow for close supervision and controlled movement in a treatment setting;

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(18) "Staff-secure residential facility" means a residential facility that provides residential treatment for children in a structured setting where the children are monitored by staff; and

(19) "Juvenile residential center" means a hardware-secured residential facility operated by the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch that includes direct staff supervision, surveillance enhancements and physical barriers that allow for close supervision and controlled movement in a treatment setting for preadjudicated juveniles and juveniles adjudicated as delinquent.

Sec. 12. Section 46b-121 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) (1) Juvenile matters in the civil session include all proceedings concerning uncared-for, neglected or abused children within this state, termination of parental rights of children committed to a state agency, adoption proceedings pursuant to section 46b-129b, [matters concerning families with service needs,] contested matters involving termination of parental rights or removal of guardian transferred from the Probate Court and the emancipation of minors, but does not include matters of guardianship and adoption or matters affecting property rights of any child over which the Probate Court has jurisdiction, except that appeals from probate concerning adoption, termination of parental rights and removal of a parent as guardian shall be included.

(2) (A) Juvenile matters in the criminal session include all proceedings concerning delinquent children within this state and persons eighteen years of age and older who are under the supervision of a juvenile probation officer while on probation supervision or probation supervision with residential placement, for purposes of enforcing any court orders entered as part of such probation.

(B) A juvenile who has been placed on probation supervision is

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subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the court and may be subject to other reasonable court-ordered restrictions or conditions and required to participate in a variety of appropriate programmatic services.

(C) A juvenile who has been placed on probation supervision with residential placement is subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the court and may be subject to other reasonable court-ordered restrictions or conditions and required to participate in a variety of appropriate programmatic services.

(b) (1) In juvenile matters, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce such orders directed to parents, including any person who acknowledges before the court parentage of a child born to parents not married to each other, guardians, custodians or other adult persons owing some legal duty to a child therein, as the court deems necessary or appropriate to secure the welfare, protection, proper care and suitable support of a child subject to the court's jurisdiction or otherwise committed to or in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families. The Superior Court may order a local or regional board of education to provide to the court educational records of a child for the purpose of determining the need for services or placement of the child. In proceedings concerning a child charged with a delinquent act, [or with being from a family with service needs,] records produced subject to such an order shall be maintained under seal by the court and shall be released only after a hearing or with the consent of the child. Educational records obtained pursuant to this section shall be used only for dispositional purposes. In addition, with respect to proceedings concerning delinquent children, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce such orders as the court deems necessary or appropriate to provide individualized supervision, care, accountability and treatment to such child in a manner consistent with public safety, deter the child from the commission of further delinquent acts, ensure that the child is responsive to the court process, ensure that the safety of

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any other person will not be endangered and provide restitution to any victim. The Superior Court shall also have authority to grant and enforce temporary and permanent injunctive relief in all proceedings concerning juvenile matters.

(2) If any order for the payment of money is issued by the Superior Court, including any order assessing costs issued under section 46b-134 or 46b-136, the collection of such money shall be made by the court, except orders for support of children committed to any state agency or department, which orders shall be made payable to and collected by the Department of Administrative Services. If the Superior Court after due diligence is unable to collect such moneys within six months, the court shall refer such case to the Department of Administrative Services for collection as a delinquent account. In juvenile matters, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce orders directed to persons liable hereunder on petition of the Department of Administrative Services made to the court in the same manner as is provided in section 17b-745, in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-81 or 17b-223, subsection (b) of section 17b-179 or section 17a-90, 46b-129 or 46b-130, and all of the provisions of section 17b-745 shall be applicable to such proceedings.

(3) In the enforcement of the court's orders, in connection with any juvenile matter, the court may issue process for the arrest of any person, compel attendance of witnesses and punish for contempt by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 46b-121b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) The Division of Criminal Justice shall have charge of all proceedings concerning juvenile matters in the criminal session of the

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Superior Court, [and all proceedings concerning families with service needs in the civil session of the Superior Court.]

Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 46b-128a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) In any juvenile matter, as defined in section 46b-121, as amended by this act, in which a child or youth is alleged to have committed a delinquent act, [or an act or omission for which a petition may be filed under section 46b-149,] the child or youth shall not be tried, convicted, adjudicated or subject to any disposition pursuant to section 46b-140 [or 46b-149] while the child or youth is not competent. For the purposes of this section, a transfer to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court pursuant to section 46b-127 shall not be considered a disposition. A child or youth is not competent if the child or youth is unable to understand the proceedings against him or her or to assist in his or her own defense.

Sec. 15. Subsection (k) of section 46b-128a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(k) (1) If the court determines after the period covered by the intervention order that the child or youth has not attained or regained competency and that there is not a substantial probability that the child or youth will attain or regain competency, or that further intervention to attain or regain competency is not appropriate based on the criteria set forth in subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section, the court shall: (A) Dismiss the petition if it is a delinquency [or family with service needs] petition; (B) vest temporary custody of the child or youth in the Commissioner of Children and Families and notify the Office of the Chief Public Defender, which shall assign an attorney to serve as guardian ad litem for the child or youth and investigate whether a

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petition should be filed under section 46b-129; or (C) order that the Department of Children and Families or some other person, agency, mental health facility or treatment program, or such child's or youth's probation officer, conduct or obtain an appropriate assessment and, where appropriate, propose a plan for services that can appropriately address the child's or youth's needs in the least restrictive setting available and appropriate. Any plan for services may include a plan for interagency collaboration for the provision of appropriate services after the child or youth attains the age of eighteen.

(2) Not later than ten business days after the issuance of an order pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall hold a hearing to review the order of temporary custody or any recommendations of the Department of Children and Families, such probation officer or such attorney or guardian ad litem for the child or youth.

(3) If the child or youth is adjudicated neglected, uncared-for or abused subsequent to such a petition being filed, or if a plan for services pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection has been approved by the court and implemented, the court may dismiss the delinquency [or family with service needs] petition, or, in the discretion of the court, order that the prosecution of the case be suspended for a period not to exceed eighteen months. During the period of suspension, the court may order the Department of Children and Families to provide periodic reports to the court to ensure that appropriate services are being provided to the child or youth. If during the period of suspension, the child or youth or the parent or guardian of the child or youth does not comply with the requirements set forth in the plan for services, the court may hold a hearing to determine whether the court should follow the procedure under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection for instituting a petition alleging that a child is neglected, uncared for or abused. Whenever the court finds

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that the need for the suspension of prosecution is no longer necessary, but not later than the expiration of such period of suspension, the delinquency [or family with service needs] petition shall be dismissed.

Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 46b-129c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(b) (1) The Judicial Department shall establish, within available resources, a court appointed special advocate program. Under the program, a court appointed special advocate may serve as a resource to the superior court for juvenile matters in determining and furthering the best interests of a person under eighteen years of age who is the subject of a petition filed under section 46b-129. [or 46b-149.] The program shall be administered by the Chief Court Administrator within the superior court for juvenile matters.

(2) A court, on its own motion or upon a motion of a party, may appoint a court appointed special advocate in any proceeding in which a petition is filed under section 46b-129. [or 46b-149.] The court appointed special advocate may conduct an independent investigation of the facts associated with the filing of the petition and shall undertake and facilitate activities in furtherance of the child's best interests, including, but not limited to, making recommendations to the court. Upon appointment by the court and after obtaining any required releases to access records, a court appointed special advocate shall have access to (A) any party to such proceeding, and (B) all information or records relevant to the child's best interests including, but not limited to, school records, child care records, medical records, mental health records, court records and records maintained by the Department of Children and Families. Nothing in this section shall permit a court appointed special advocate to supplant or interfere with any counsel or guardian ad litem appointed to represent the best interests of a child in such proceeding. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a

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court appointed special advocate may, in appropriate cases as determined by the court, undertake activities in furtherance of the child's best interests, until the child who is the subject of a petition filed under section 46b-129 [or 46b-149] reaches twenty-one years of age.

(3) No fees shall be charged for the services provided by a court appointed special advocate.

Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 46b-149a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) Any police officer who receives a report from the parent or guardian of a child that such child [is a member of a family with service needs, as defined in section 46b-120] has run away from his or her parent or guardian's home, shall promptly attempt to locate the child. If the officer locates such child, or any child [he] the officer believes has run away from his or her parent or guardian's home without [permission] just cause, or any nondelinquent juvenile runaway from another state, [he] the officer shall report the location of the child to the parent or guardian, and may respond in one of the following ways: (1) [He] The officer may transport the child to the home of the child's parent or guardian or any other person; (2) [he may refer the child to the superior court for juvenile matters in the district where the child is located; (3) he] the officer may hold the child in protective custody for a maximum period of twelve hours until the officer can determine a more suitable disposition of the matter, provided (A) the child is not held in any locked room or cell, and (B) the officer may release the child at any time without taking further action; or [(4) he] (3) the officer may transport or refer a child to a youth service bureau or any public or private agency serving children, with or without the agreement of the child. If a child is transported or referred to an agency pursuant to this section, such agency may provide services to the child unless or until the child's parent or guardian at any time refuses to agree to those services. Such

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agency shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed; provided such services are provided in good faith and in a nonnegligent manner.

Sec. 18. Section 46b-149b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

Any police officer or any official of a municipal or community agency, who in the course of such police officer's or official's employment under subsection (d) of section 17a-15 or section 46b-120, as amended by this act, 46b-121, as amended by this act, [46b-149] or 46b-149a, as amended by this act, provides assistance to a child or a family in need thereof, shall not be liable to such child or such family for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from the voluntary termination of service by the child or the family.

Sec. 19. Section 46b-150d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

An order that a minor is emancipated shall have the following effects: (1) The minor may consent to medical, dental or psychiatric care, without parental consent, knowledge or liability; (2) the minor may enter into a binding contract; (3) the minor may sue and be sued in such minor's own name; (4) the minor shall be entitled to such minor's own earnings and shall be free of control by such minor's parents or guardian; (5) the minor may establish such minor's own residence; (6) the minor may buy and sell real and personal property; (7) the minor may not thereafter be the subject of (A) a petition under section 46b-129 as an abused, neglected or uncared for child or youth, or (B) a petition under section 46b-128 or 46b-133 as a delinquent child for any act committed before the date of the order; [, or (C) a petition under section 46b-149 alleging that the minor is a child from a family with service needs;] (8) the minor may enroll in any school or college, without parental consent; (9) the minor shall be deemed to be over eighteen years

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of age for purposes of securing an operator's license under section 14-36 and a marriage license under section 46b-20a; (10) the minor shall be deemed to be over eighteen years of age for purposes of registering a motor vehicle under section 14-12; (11) the parents of the minor shall no longer be the guardians of the minor under section 45a-606; (12) the parents of a minor shall be relieved of any obligations respecting such minor's school attendance under section 10-184; (13) the parents shall be relieved of all obligation to support the minor; (14) the minor shall be emancipated for the purposes of parental liability for such minor's acts under section 52-572; (15) the minor may execute releases in such minor's own name; (16) the minor may enlist in the armed forces of the United States without parental consent; and (17) the minor may access or obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate under section 7-51.

Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 52-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(b) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any judgment rendered or decree passed in an action for dissolution of marriage or civil union or for legal separation [in which the waiting period was waived pursuant to subsection (c) of section 46b-67] upon default of appearance of the defendant pursuant to subsection (b) of section 46b-67, as amended by this act, may be set aside at any time and the case reinstated to the docket upon a showing of material misrepresentation in the affidavit of the plaintiff filed pursuant to said subsection.

Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 51-51l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(b) The Judicial Review Council shall, not later than three business days after the termination of such investigation, notify the complainant,

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if any, and the judge, administrative law judge or family support magistrate that the investigation has been terminated and the results thereof. If the council finds that conduct under section 51-51i has not occurred, but the judge, administrative law judge or family support magistrate has acted in a manner which gives the appearance of impropriety or constitutes an unfavorable judicial or magisterial practice, the council may issue an admonishment to the judge, administrative law judge or family support magistrate recommending a change in judicial or magisterial conduct or practice. If an admonishment is issued, the council shall (1) notify the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary that an admonishment was issued and provide said committee with the substance of the admonishment, including copies of the complaint file, [and] (2) notify the chief court administrator that an admonishment was issued and provide the chief court administrator with the substance of the admonishment, including copies of the complaint file, and (3) inform the complainant, if any, that an admonishment was issued if the admonishment is the result of misconduct alleged in the complaint. Except as provided in [subdivision (1) of] this subsection, the substance of the admonishment shall not be disclosed to any person or organization.

Sec. 22. Subsection (d) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes, as amended by section 5 of public act 22-115, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(d) Records of cases of juvenile matters involving delinquency proceedings shall be available to (1) Judicial Branch employees who, in the performance of their duties, require access to such records, (2) judges and employees of the Probate Court who, in the performance of their duties, require access to such records, and (3) employees and authorized agents of municipal, state or federal agencies involved in (A) the delinquency proceedings, (B) the provision of services directly to the

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child, or (C) the delivery of court diversionary programs. Such employees and authorized agents include, but are not limited to, law enforcement officials, community-based youth service bureau officials, state and federal prosecutorial officials, school officials in accordance with section 10-233h, court officials including officials of both the regular criminal docket and the docket for juvenile matters and officials of the Division of Criminal Justice, the Division of Public Defender Services, the Department of Children and Families, if the child is under the oversight of the department's administrative unit pursuant to section 17a-3b, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information that identifies the child as residing in a justice facility or incarcerated, or, if the child is committed pursuant to section 46b-129, provided such disclosure shall be limited to (i) information that identifies the child as the subject of the delinquency petition, or (ii) the records of the delinquency proceedings, when the juvenile court orders the department to provide services to said child, the Court Support Services Division and agencies under contract with the Judicial Branch. Such records shall also be available to (I) the attorney representing the child, including the Division of Public Defender Services, in any proceeding in which such records are relevant, (II) the parents or guardian of the child, until such time as the subject of the record reaches the age of majority, (III) the subject of the record, upon submission of satisfactory proof of the subject's identity, pursuant to guidelines prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, provided the subject has reached the age of majority, (IV) law enforcement officials and prosecutorial officials conducting legitimate criminal investigations, as provided in subsection (o) of this section or orders to detain pursuant to section 46b-133, (V) a state or federal agency providing services related to the collection of moneys due or funding to support the service needs of eligible juveniles, provided such disclosure shall be limited to that information necessary for the collection of and application for such moneys, (VI) members and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and employees of the Department of Correction who, in the

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performance of their duties, require access to such records, provided the subject of the record has been convicted of a crime in the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court and such records are relevant to the performance of a risk and needs assessment of such person while such person is incarcerated, the determination of such person's suitability for release from incarceration or for a pardon, or the determination of the supervision and treatment needs of such person while on parole or other supervised release, and (VII) members and employees of the Judicial Review Council who, in the performance of their duties related to said council, require access to such records. Records disclosed pursuant to this subsection shall not be further disclosed, except that information contained in such records may be disclosed in connection with bail or sentencing reports in open court during criminal proceedings involving the subject of such information, or as otherwise provided by law.

Sec. 23. Subsection (b) of section 54-76l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(b) The records of any such youth, or any part thereof, may be disclosed to and between individuals and agencies, and employees of such agencies, providing services directly to the youth, including law enforcement officials, state and federal prosecutorial officials, school officials in accordance with section 10-233h, court officials, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Court Support Services Division, [and] a victim advocate under section 54-220 for a victim of a crime committed by the youth and the Department of Children and Families, if the child is under the oversight of the department's administrative unit pursuant to section 17a-3b, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information that identifies the child as residing in a justice facility or incarcerated. Such records shall also be available to the attorney representing the youth, in any proceedings in which such records are relevant, to the

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parents or guardian of such youth, until such time as the youth reaches the age of majority or is emancipated, and to the youth upon his or her emancipation or attainment of the age of majority, provided proof of the identity of such youth is submitted in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator. Such records shall also be available to members and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and employees of the Department of Correction who, in the performance of their duties, require access to such records, provided the subject of the record has been adjudged a youthful offender and sentenced to a term of imprisonment or been convicted of a crime in the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court, and such records are relevant to the performance of a risk and needs assessment of such person while such person is incarcerated, the determination of such person's suitability for release from incarceration or for a pardon, or the determination of the supervision and treatment needs of such person while on parole or other supervised release. Such records shall also be available to law enforcement officials and prosecutorial officials conducting legitimate criminal investigations or seeking an order to detain pursuant to section 46b-133. Such records shall also be available to members and employees of the Judicial Review Council who, in the performance of their duties, require access to such records. Records disclosed pursuant to this subsection shall not be further disclosed.

Sec. 24. Subsection (b) of section 31-51q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, any employer, including the state and any instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, who subjects or threatens to subject any employee to discipline or discharge on account of (1) the exercise by such employee of rights guaranteed by the first amendment to the United States Constitution or section 3, 4 or 14 of article first of the Constitution

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of the state, provided such activity does not substantially or materially interfere with the employee's bona fide job performance or the working relationship between the employee and the employer, shall be liable to such employee for damages caused by such discipline or discharge, including punitive damages, and for reasonable attorney's fees as part of the costs of any such action for damages; or (2) such employee's refusal to (A) attend an employer-sponsored meeting with the employer or its agent, representative or designee, the primary purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters, or (B) listen to speech or view communications, the primary purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters, shall be liable to such employee for the full amount of gross loss of wages or compensation, with costs and such reasonable attorney's fees as may be allowed by the court. If the court determines that such action for damages was brought without substantial justification, the court may award costs and reasonable attorney's fees to the employer.

Sec. 25. Subsection (a) of section 4b-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) (1) No repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of five hundred thousand dollars or less or, in the case of repairs, alterations or additions to a building rented or occupied by the Judicial Branch, [~~one million two hundred fifty thousand~~] two million dollars or less or, in the case of repairs, alterations or additions to a building rented or occupied by a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, two million dollars or less, shall be made to any state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department, institution, board, commission or council of the state government and no contract for any construction, repairs, alteration or addition shall be entered into without the prior approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services,

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except repairs, alterations or additions to a building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management or the Military Department and repairs, alterations or additions to a building under the supervision of The University of Connecticut. Repairs, alterations or additions which are made pursuant to such approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall conform to all guidelines and procedures established by the Department of Administrative Services for agency-administered projects. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of five hundred thousand dollars or less may be made to any state building or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, under the terms of section 4b-11, and any contract for any such construction, repairs or alteration may be entered into by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit of the state system of higher education without the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

Sec. 26. Section 51-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

For purposes of establishing venue, the Superior Court shall consist of the following judicial districts:

(1) The judicial district of Ansonia-Milford, consisting of the towns of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton and West Haven;

(2) The judicial district of Danbury, consisting of the towns of Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman;

(3) The judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport, consisting of the

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towns of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull;

(4) The judicial district of Hartford, consisting of the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Marlborough, Simsbury, South Windsor, Suffield, West Hartford, Windsor and Windsor Locks;

(5) The judicial district of Litchfield, consisting of the towns of Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, New Milford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington and Winchester;

(6) The judicial district of Middlesex, consisting of the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook;

(7) The judicial district of New Britain, consisting of the towns of Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Newington, Plainville, Plymouth, Rocky Hill, Southington and Wethersfield;

(8) The judicial district of New Haven, consisting of the towns of Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Wallingford and Woodbridge;

(9) The judicial district of New London, consisting of the towns of Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown and Waterford;

(10) The judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk, consisting of the

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towns of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton;

(11) The judicial district of Tolland, consisting of the towns of Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Ellington, Hebron, Mansfield, Somers, Stafford, Tolland, Union, Vernon and Willington;

(12) The judicial district of Waterbury, consisting of the towns of Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Southbury, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott and Woodbury; and

(13) The judicial district of Windham, consisting of the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham and Woodstock.

Sec. 27. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 51-345 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(a) Except as provided in section 51-348 and subsections (b) to (h), inclusive, of this section, all civil process shall be made returnable to a judicial district, as follows:

(1) If all of the parties reside outside this state, to the judicial district where (A) the injury occurred, (B) the transaction occurred, or (C) the property is located or lawfully attached.

(2) If the defendant is not a resident, to the judicial district where the attached property is located.

(3) If either or both the plaintiff or the defendant are residents of this state, to the judicial district where either the plaintiff or the defendant resides, except:

(A) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of

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Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

(B) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(C) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

(D) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(E) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport.

(F) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(G) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.

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(H) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in rules of court.

(I) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Middlesex.

(J) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(K) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial district of Tolland.

(b) In all actions involving the title to land, for trespass to land and to foreclose or redeem mortgages or liens upon real property, civil process shall be made returnable to the judicial district where the real property is located, either entirely or in part, except:

(1) If the land is located in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

(2) If the land is located in the town of Plymouth and either the

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plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(3) If the land is located in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

(4) If the land is located in the town of Southbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(5) If the land is located in the town of Weston, Westport or Wilton and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in any one of these towns, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport.

(6) If the land is located in the town of Watertown or Woodbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(7) If the land is located in the town of Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.

(8) If the land is located in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town

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of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in rules of court.

(9) If the land is located in the town of New Milford and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 51-346 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(a) Process in all civil actions brought to a judicial district, except small claims as provided in subsection (b) of this section, shall be made returnable as follows:

(1) If brought to the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford, to the court at Ansonia or Milford as the plaintiff elects;

(2) If brought to the judicial district of Danbury, to the court at Danbury;

(3) If brought to the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport, to the court at Bridgeport;

(4) If brought to the judicial district of Hartford, to the court at Hartford;

(5) If brought to the judicial district of Litchfield, to the court at Torrington;

(6) If brought to the judicial district of Middlesex, to the court at Middletown;

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(7) If brought to the judicial district of New Britain, to the court at New Britain;

(8) If brought to the judicial district of New Haven, to the court at New Haven or Meriden as the plaintiff elects;

(9) If brought to the judicial district of New London, to the court at New London or Norwich as the plaintiff elects;

(10) If brought to the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk, to the court at Stamford;

(11) If brought to the judicial district of Tolland, to the court at Rockville;

(12) If brought to the judicial district of Waterbury, to the court at Waterbury;

(13) If brought to the judicial district of Windham, to the court at Putnam.

Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 51-347 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any writ returnable to a judicial district and any motion, pleading or appearance shall be filed with the clerk of the judicial district to which the writ is returnable as follows:

(1) At the courthouse for the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford if returnable to the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford at Ansonia or Milford;

(2) At Danbury if returnable to the judicial district of Danbury;

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(3) At Bridgeport if returnable to the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport;

(4) At Hartford if returnable to the judicial district of Hartford;

(5) At Torrington if returnable to the judicial district of Litchfield;

(6) At Middletown if returnable to the judicial district of Middlesex;

(7) At New Britain if returnable to the judicial district of New Britain;

(8) (A) At New Haven if returnable to the judicial district of New Haven at New Haven, (B) at Meriden if returnable to the judicial district of New Haven at Meriden;

(9) (A) At New London if returnable to the judicial district of New London at New London, (B) at Norwich if returnable to the judicial district of New London at Norwich;

(10) At Stamford if returnable to the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk;

(11) At Rockville if returnable to the judicial district of Tolland;

(12) At Waterbury if returnable to the judicial district of Waterbury;
and

(13) At Putnam if returnable to the judicial district of Windham.

Sec. 30. Section 51-348b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

Housing matters, as defined in section 47a-68, shall be heard on a docket separate from other matters within the judicial districts of Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, [Fairfield] Bridgeport, Waterbury and Stamford-Norwalk, provided in the judicial district of (1) New Britain, such matters shall be heard by the judge assigned to hear

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housing matters in the judicial district of Hartford, (2) Waterbury, such matters shall be heard by the judge assigned to hear housing matters in the judicial district of New Haven, and (3) Stamford-Norwalk, such matters shall be heard by the judge assigned to hear housing matters in the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport. The records, files and other documents pertaining to housing matters shall be maintained separate from the records, files and other documents of the court. Housing matters do not have to be heard in the facilities to which the process is returned and the pleadings are filed.

Sec. 31. Section 51-181 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

The Superior Court shall sit continuously throughout the year, at such times and places and for such periods as are set by the Chief Court Administrator or, with the approval of the Chief Court Administrator, his or her designee, in the following cities or towns, except as otherwise provided by law: (1) In the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford, at Ansonia or Derby and at Milford; (2) in the judicial district of Danbury, at Danbury; (3) in the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport, at Bridgeport; (4) in the judicial district of Hartford, at Hartford and, whenever suitable accommodations are provided without expense to the state, at Manchester; (5) in the judicial district of Litchfield, at Torrington; (6) in the judicial district of Middlesex, at Middletown; (7) in the judicial district of New Britain, at New Britain; (8) in the judicial district of New Haven, at New Haven and Meriden; (9) in the judicial district of New London, at Norwich and New London; (10) in the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk, at Stamford; (11) in the judicial district of Tolland, at Rockville; (12) in the judicial district of Waterbury, at Waterbury; and (13) in the judicial district of Windham, at Putnam.

Sec. 32. Section 51-52b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

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The chief clerk of the superior court at Bridgeport shall, on the request of any justice of the peace or commissioner of the Superior Court in the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport or Stamford-Norwalk and on the receipt of a fee of one dollar, furnish to the chief clerk of the superior court at Stamford a duplicate of the certificate of qualification or appointment of such justice of the peace or commissioner of the Superior Court and said clerk at Stamford may thereafter certify to the authority of such justice of the peace or commissioner of the Superior Court.

Sec. 33. Subsection (d) of section 15-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(d) Any person aggrieved by any action taken or order issued by said commissioner under authority of this section may within thirty days appeal to the superior court for the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport and said court shall take such action in the premises as equity may require.

Sec. 34. Subsection (c) of section 46b-15f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(c) The organization administering the program may only award a grant (1) to provide services in the judicial districts of [Fairfield] Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford-Norwalk or Waterbury, and (2) in an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars, except that a grant to provide services in the judicial district with the highest average number of applications for restraining orders under section 46b-15 over the previous three fiscal years may receive a grant of not more than four hundred thousand dollars. Grants may not be used to provide services to individuals who are not indigent.

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Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 47a-69 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(a) The judges of the Superior Court or an authorized committee thereof may appoint such housing mediators as they deem necessary for the purpose of assisting the court in the prompt and efficient hearing of housing matters within the limit of their appropriation therefor. Such judges or such committee shall appoint not less than two such mediators for each of the judicial districts of Hartford, New Haven and [Fairfield] Bridgeport and may designate one of them in each judicial district as chief housing mediator. Such judges or committee shall also appoint not less than three such housing mediators for all other judicial districts. The housing mediators for the judicial district of New Haven shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial district of Waterbury, the housing mediators for the judicial district of Hartford shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial district of New Britain and the housing mediators for the judicial district of [Fairfield] Bridgeport shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk.

Sec. 36. Subsection (a) of section 47a-70 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

(a) All proceedings involving a housing matter in the judicial district of Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, [Fairfield] Bridgeport, Waterbury or Stamford-Norwalk shall first be placed on the housing docket for that district, provided [that] the judge before whom such proceeding is brought may transfer such matter to the regular docket for a judicial district if he determines that such matter is not a housing matter or that such docket is more suitable for the disposition of the case. Any case so entered or transferred to either docket shall be proceeded upon as are other cases of like nature standing on such docket.

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Sec. 37. Section 47a-71a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

There is hereby created the Connecticut Advisory Council on Housing Matters consisting of eighteen members. The members of the advisory council shall be appointed by the Governor for terms of four years, from July first of the year of their appointment. The advisory council shall consist of representatives of tenants, landlords, and others concerned with housing and shall reflect a balance of the interests of tenants and landlords. The members of the advisory council shall elect their own chairperson. Five members shall be residents of the judicial districts of Hartford or New Britain; five members shall be residents of the judicial districts of New Haven, Waterbury or Ansonia-Milford; five members shall be residents of the judicial districts of [Fairfield] Bridgeport or Stamford-Norwalk; and three members shall be residents of the judicial districts of Danbury, Litchfield, Middlesex, New London, Tolland or Windham. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from office. Any vacancy in the membership of the advisory council shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired portion of the term.

Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 5-141d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The state shall save harmless and indemnify any state officer or employee, as defined in section 4-141, and any member of the Public Defender Services Commission from financial loss and expense arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of his alleged negligence or alleged deprivation of any person's civil rights or other act or omission resulting in damage or injury, if the officer, employee or member is found to have been acting in the discharge of his duties or within the scope of his employment and such act or omission is found

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not to have been wanton, reckless or malicious. As used in this section, "state officer or employee" includes any member of a state officer's or employee's immediate family who is named or included in any such claim, demand, suit or judgment solely by reason of such familial relationship; and "immediate family" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79.

Sec. 39. Subsection (b) of section 12-15 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The commissioner may disclose (1) returns or return information to (A) an authorized representative of another state agency or office, upon written request by the head of such agency or office, when required in the course of duty or when there is reasonable cause to believe that any state law is being violated, or (B) an authorized representative of an agency or office of the United States, upon written request by the head of such agency or office, when required in the course of duty or when there is reasonable cause to believe that any federal law is being violated, provided no such agency or office shall disclose such returns or return information, other than in a judicial or administrative proceeding to which such agency or office is a party pertaining to the enforcement of state or federal law, as the case may be, in a form which can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer except that the names and addresses of jurors or potential jurors and the fact that the names were derived from the list of taxpayers pursuant to chapter 884 may be disclosed by the Judicial Branch; (2) returns or return information to the Auditors of Public Accounts, when required in the course of duty under chapter 23; (3) returns or return information to tax officers of another state or of a Canadian province or of a political subdivision of such other state or province or of the District of Columbia or to any officer of the United States Treasury Department or the United States Department of Health

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and Human Services, authorized for such purpose in accordance with an agreement between this state and such other state, province, political subdivision, the District of Columbia or department, respectively, when required in the administration of taxes imposed under the laws of such other state, province, political subdivision, the District of Columbia or the United States, respectively, and when a reciprocal arrangement exists; (4) returns or return information in any action, case or proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction, when the commissioner or any other state department or agency is a party, and when such information is directly involved in such action, case or proceeding; (5) returns or return information to a taxpayer or its authorized representative, upon written request for a return filed by or return information on such taxpayer; (6) returns or return information to a successor, receiver, trustee, executor, administrator, assignee, guardian or guarantor of a taxpayer, when such person establishes, to the satisfaction of the commissioner, that such person has a material interest which will be affected by information contained in such returns or return information; (7) information to the assessor or an authorized representative of the chief executive officer of a Connecticut municipality, when the information disclosed is limited to (A) a list of real or personal property that is or may be subject to property taxes in such municipality, or (B) a list containing the name of each person who is issued any license, permit or certificate which is required, under the provisions of this title, to be conspicuously displayed and whose address is in such municipality; (8) real estate conveyance tax return information or controlling interest transfer tax return information to the town clerk or an authorized representative of the chief executive officer of a Connecticut municipality to which the information relates; (9) estate tax returns and estate tax return information to the Probate Court Administrator or to the court of probate for the district within which a decedent resided at the date of the decedent's death, or within which the commissioner contends that a decedent resided at the date of the decedent's death or, if a decedent died a nonresident of this state, in the court of probate for

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the district within which real estate or tangible personal property of the decedent is situated, or within which the commissioner contends that real estate or tangible personal property of the decedent is situated; (10) returns or return information to the (A) Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for purposes of subsection (b) of section 12-7a, and (B) Office of Fiscal Analysis for purposes of, and subject to the provisions of, subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 12-7b; (11) return information to the Jury Administrator or Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, when the information disclosed is limited to the names, addresses, federal Social Security numbers and dates of birth, if available, of residents of this state, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-701; (12) returns or return information to any person to the extent necessary in connection with the processing, storage, transmission or reproduction of such returns or return information, and the programming, maintenance, repair, testing or procurement of equipment, or the providing of other services, for purposes of tax administration; (13) without written request and unless the commissioner determines that disclosure would identify a confidential informant or seriously impair a civil or criminal tax investigation, returns and return information which may constitute evidence of a violation of any civil or criminal law of this state or the United States to the extent necessary to apprise the head of such agency or office charged with the responsibility of enforcing such law, in which event the head of such agency or office may disclose such return information to officers and employees of such agency or office to the extent necessary to enforce such law; (14) names and addresses of operators, as defined in section 12-407, to tourism districts, as defined in section 10-397; (15) names of each licensed dealer, as defined in section 12-285, and the location of the premises covered by the dealer's license; (16) to a tobacco product manufacturer that places funds into escrow pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-28i, return information of a distributor licensed under the provisions of chapter 214 or chapter 214a, provided the information disclosed is limited to

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information relating to such manufacturer's sales to consumers within this state, whether directly or through a distributor, dealer or similar intermediary or intermediaries, of cigarettes, as defined in section 4-28h, and further provided there is reasonable cause to believe that such manufacturer is not in compliance with section 4-28i; (17) returns, which shall not include a copy of the return filed with the commissioner, or return information for purposes of section 12-217z; (18) returns or return information to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, upon written request by said commission, when necessary to investigate suspected violations of state election laws; (19) returns or return information for purposes of, and subject to the conditions of, subsection (e) of section 5-240; and (20) to the extent allowable under federal law, return information to another state agency or to support a data request submitted through CP20 WIN, established in section 10a-57g, in accordance with the policies and procedures of CP20 WIN for the purposes of evaluation or research, provided the recipient of such data enters into a data sharing agreement pursuant to section 4-67aa if such recipient is not a state agency.

Sec. 40. Section 5-164 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A department head, as defined in section 4-5, or any commissioner appointed to office in the executive branch by the Governor with or without the approval of the General Assembly or either branch thereof, who reaches his retirement date, namely, the first day of the month on or after his seventieth birthday, during the term for which he is appointed, may continue in office after such retirement date until the expiration of such term. Any such person who had reached such date prior to his reappointment as such commissioner may serve for the term for which he is so reappointed.

(b) A member who has reached the retirement age of seventy may be continued in his position in state service, if such continuation is

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approved by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. The appointing authority requesting such continuation shall certify in writing to the Commissioner of Administrative Services that the continuation is desirable for the efficient conduct of the state's business and that the member is able and qualified to perform the work required. Approval by the Commissioner of Administrative Services of such continuation shall be for a period of one year, which may be renewed by said commissioner upon request by the appointing authority.

(c) A department head, head of an institution or administrator of a state fund may be continued as provided in subsection (b) of this section. A continuation of such employee beyond the age of seventy-three shall be requested by the appointing authority in writing and shall require the approval of the Governor.

[(d) A duly appointed and acting messenger or assistant messenger of any constituent court of the Judicial Department who has reached his retirement date may be reemployed, pursuant to section 51-78, in the service of the court in which he has been a messenger at the salary paid him at the time of his retirement. Such reemployment shall continue until such time as the judges of said court terminate the same. Subsection (b) of this section does not apply to any such messenger.]

[(e)] (d) Except as provided in section 5-164a, the existing retirement rights of a member continued under this section after his retirement date shall not be affected by such continuation, and additional retirement rights shall accrue to him. Retirement contributions shall be deducted from his salary during the period of continued employment. The provisions of chapter 67 dealing with examinations, certifications and appointments to and separations from the service shall not apply to any such member.

Sec. 41. Subsection (d) of section 5-257 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

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passage):

(d) The insurance of any employee insured under this section shall cease on termination of employment, and of any member of the General Assembly at the end of such member's term of office, subject to any conversion privilege provided in the group life insurance policy or policies. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the amounts of life insurance of insured employees retired in accordance with any retirement plan for state employees shall be as follows: The amount of life insurance of an insured employee retired before, on or after July 1, 1998, with twenty-five or more years of state service, as defined in section 5-196, or a member of the General Assembly who is retired on or after July 1, 1988, with twenty-five or more years of service, shall be one-half of the amount of life insurance for which the employee was insured immediately before retirement, provided in no case shall the amount be less than ten thousand dollars, those with less than twenty-five years of service shall receive the proportionate amount that such years of service is to twenty-five years rounded off to the nearest hundred dollars of coverage, except that the amount of life insurance of an insured employee who is retired on or after July 1, 1982, under the provisions of section 5-173 shall be one-half of the amount of life insurance for which the employee was insured immediately before retirement, regardless of the number of years of service by such employee. In no case shall a retired employee be required to contribute to the cost of any such reduced insurance. For the purposes of this section, no employee shall be deemed to be retired as long as such employee's employment continues under subsections (b) and [(e)] (d) of section 5-164, as amended by this act.

Sec. 42. Subsection (e) of section 5-192l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) Retirement on the first day of the month on or after the member's

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seventieth birthday is mandatory regardless of whether he is eligible for a retirement income under this section except:

(1) A department head, as defined in section 4-5, or any commissioner appointed to office in the executive branch by the Governor with or without the approval of the General Assembly or either branch thereof, who reaches his retirement date, namely, the first day of the month on or after his seventieth birthday, during the term for which he is appointed, may continue in office after such retirement date until the expiration of such term. Any such person who had reached such date prior to his reappointment as such commissioner may serve for the term for which he is so reappointed.

(2) A member who has reached the retirement age of seventy may be continued in his position in state service, if such continuation is approved by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. The appointing authority requesting such continuation shall certify in writing to the Commissioner of Administrative Services that the continuation is desirable for the efficient conduct of the state's business and that the member is able and qualified to perform the work required. Approval by the Commissioner of Administrative Services of such continuation shall be for a period of one year, which may be renewed by said commissioner upon request by the appointing authority.

(3) A member who is a teacher, instructor, principal, superintendent, or supervisor employed by the State Board of Education or any state institution, and who has reached the retirement age of seventy may be continued in his position of state service to the end of the fiscal year in which his seventieth birthday falls, without the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

(4) A department head, head of an institution, or administrator of a state fund may be continued as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection. A continuation of such employee beyond the age of seventy-

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three shall be requested by the appointing authority in writing and shall require the approval of the Governor.

[(5) A duly appointed and acting messenger or assistant messenger of any constituent court of the Judicial Department who has reached his retirement age of seventy may be reemployed, pursuant to section 51-78, in the service of the court in which he has been a messenger at the salary paid him at the time of his retirement. Such reemployment shall continue until such time as the judges of said court terminate the same. Subdivision (2) of this subsection does not apply to any such messenger.]

[[6)] (5) Except as provided in section 5-192v, the existing retirement rights of a member continued under this section after his retirement date shall not be affected by such continuation, and additional retirement rights shall accrue to him. The provisions of chapter 67 dealing with examinations, certifications, and appointments to and separations from the service shall not apply to any such member.

Sec. 43. Section 51-274 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

All special acts or provisions thereof inconsistent with this chapter and with sections 1-1a, 2-5, 2-40, 2-61, 5-164, as amended by this act, 5-189, 7-80, 8-12, 9-63, 9-258, 9-368, 12-154, 14-141, 14-142, 18-65, 18-73, 19a-220, 21a-96, 29-13, 29-362, 30-105, 30-107, 30-111, 35-22, 46b-120, as amended by this act, 46b-133, 46b-560, 47a-23, 47a-28, 47a-35, 47a-37, 49-61, 49-62, 51-6a, 51-9, 51-15, 51-27, 51-30, 51-33, 51-34, 51-36, 51-48, 51-49, 51-50, 51-51, 51-52, 51-59, 51-72, 51-73, [51-78,] 51-95, 51-183b, 51-183d, 51-183f, 51-183g, 51-215a, 51-229, 51-232, 51-237 and 51-241, subsection (a) of section 51-243 and sections 51-247, 51-347, as amended by this act, 52-45a, 52-45b, 52-46, 52-97, 52-112, 52-139, 52-193, 52-194, 52-196, 52-209, 52-212, as amended by this act, 52-215, 52-226, 52-240, 52-257, 52-258, 52-261, 52-263, 52-268, 52-270, 52-278i, 52-293, 52-297, 52-298, 52-324,

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52-351, 52-397, 52-425, 52-427, 52-428, 52-521, 53-308, 53-328, 54-2a, 54-56f, 54-66, 54-72, 54-74, 54-82g, 54-82j, 54-82k, 54-95a, 54-96a, 54-96b, 54-97, 54-108, 54-154, 54-166 and 54-169 to 54-174, inclusive, are repealed.

Sec. 44. Sections 51-77, 51-78 and 51-79 of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 45. Sections 46b-148, 46b-149, 46b-149c, 46b-149e, 46b-149f and 51-181d of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2023*)

Approved June 13, 2023