General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2023

Offered by:
REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6941 File No. 0 Cal. No. 0

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIAL ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET."

1 In line T42, strike "1,473,561" and insert "2,473,561" and strike "1,507,561" and insert "2,507,561" in lieu thereof

2 In line T45, strike "12,074,001" and insert "13,074,001" and strike "12,204,587" and insert "13,204,587" in lieu thereof

3 In line T67, strike "28,150,681" and insert "27,950,681" and strike "28,513,099" and insert "28,313,099" in lieu thereof

4 In line T68, strike "8,549,826" and insert "8,749,826" and strike "7,181,334" and insert "7,381,334" in lieu thereof

5 In line T240, strike "7,699,942" and insert "10,699,942" and strike

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LCO No. 9942 2023LCO09942-R00-AMD.DOCX 1 of 78
"12,345,022" and insert "10,845,022" in lieu thereof

In line T250, strike "35,765,931" and insert "38,765,931" and strike "38,981,644" and insert "37,481,644" in lieu thereof

In line T419, strike "142,264,785" and insert "137,514,785" in lieu thereof

In line T436, strike "3,386,699,629" and insert "3,381,949,629" in lieu thereof

In line T636, strike "22,235,296,540" and insert "22,239,296,540" and strike "22,993,822,293" and insert "22,988,572,293" in lieu thereof

In line T644, strike "22,101,580,970" and insert "22,105,580,970" and strike "22,811,106,723" and insert "22,805,856,723" in lieu thereof

In line T1392, after "Manchester" insert "- YSB"

In line T1393, after "Hartford" insert "- YSB"

In line 369, after "Other Expenses," insert "for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,"

In line 373, strike "homes" and insert "preservation" in lieu thereof

In line 386, strike "Ellington" and insert "East Windsor" in lieu thereof

In line 406, strike "for programming in the Hartford, East Hartford and"

In line 407, strike "Manchester school districts"

In line 425, strike "city of Danbury" and insert "Connecticut Afghanistan, Iraq War Veterans Monument Fund" in lieu thereof

In line 465, after "2024," insert "for the purpose of providing a grant to the town of Simsbury"
In line 482, strike "2024" and insert "2025" in lieu thereof.

In line 484, strike "and the town of Manchester"

In line 522, strike "be made" and insert "continue to be" in lieu thereof.

Strike lines 523 to 525, inclusive in their entirety, and insert the following in lieu thereof: "available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for the same purpose."

In line 549, after "Run" insert "Greater Hartford"

In line T1777, strike the opening and closing brackets and strike "," and strike "604,000"

Strike sections 63 to 65, inclusive, in their entirety and renumber the remaining sections and internal references accordingly.

After line 2939, insert the following:

"(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be distributed to the regional council of governments formed pursuant to section 4-124j, in the amount totaling seven million dollars. Such funds shall be distributed under a formula determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in consultation with the regional council of governments, that includes (A) a base payment amount payable to each such regional council, and (B) a per capita payment amount to each such regional council based upon population data for each such regional council from the most recent federal decennial census. Such formula shall be reviewed and updated every five years after the initial adoption of such formula."

In line 2940, bracket "(2)" and after the closing bracket insert "(3)"

Strike sections 152 to 155, inclusive, in their entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:
"Sec. 152. Section 3-36a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

As used in this section and sections 3-36b to [3-36i] 3-36h, inclusive:

(1) "Designated beneficiary" means an individual born on or after July 1, 2023, whose birth was subject to medical coverage provided under HUSKY Health, as defined in section 17b-290;

(2) "Eligible expenditure" means an expenditure associated with any of the following, each as prescribed by the Treasurer: (A) Education of a designated beneficiary; (B) purchase of a home in Connecticut by a designated beneficiary; (C) investment in a business in Connecticut by a designated beneficiary; or (D) any investment in financial assets or personal capital that provides long-term gains to wages or wealth; and

(3) "Trust" means the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust.

Sec. 153. Section 3-36b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) Commencing July 1, 2023, there is established the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust. The trust shall constitute an instrumentality of the state and shall perform essential governmental functions as provided in sections 3-36a to 3-36h, inclusive. The trust shall receive and hold all payments and deposits or contributions intended for the trust, as well as gifts, bequests, endowments or federal, state or local grants and any other funds from any public or private source and all earnings until disbursed in accordance with [section] sections 3-36c, 3-36d and 3-36g.

(b) The amounts on deposit in the trust shall not constitute property of the state and the trust shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the state. Amounts on deposit in the trust shall not be commingled with state funds and the state shall have no claim to or against, or interest in, such funds. Any contract entered into by or any obligation of the trust shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the state
and the state shall have no obligation to any designated beneficiary or any other person on account of the trust and all amounts obligated to be paid from the trust shall be limited to amounts available for such obligation on deposit in the trust. The amounts on deposit in the trust may only be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of [section] sections 3-36c, 3-36d and 3-36g. The trust shall continue in existence as long as it holds any deposits or has any obligations and until its existence is terminated by law and upon termination any unclaimed assets shall return to the state. Property of the trust shall not be governed by section 3-61a.

(c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, maintenance, administration, investing and disbursements of amounts from the trust. The trust shall not receive deposits in any form other than cash.

Sec. 154. Section 3-36c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

The Treasurer, on behalf of the trust and for purposes of the trust, may:

(1) Receive and invest moneys in the trust in any instruments, obligations, securities or property in accordance with section 3-36d;

(2) Enter into one or more contractual agreements, including contracts for legal, actuarial, accounting, custodial, advisory, management, administrative, advertising, marketing and consulting services for the trust and pay for such services from the assets of the trust;

(3) Procure insurance in connection with the trust's property, assets, activities or deposits to the trust;

(4) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources to enable the trust to carry out its objectives;
(5) Adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 for purposes of sections 3-36b to [3-36i] 3-36h, inclusive;

(6) Sue and be sued;

(7) Establish one or more funds within the trust; and

(8) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 3-36b to [3-36i] 3-36h, inclusive, and incidental to the duties imposed on the Treasurer pursuant to said sections.

Sec. 155. Section 3-36e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

[The property of the trust and the earnings on] Disbursements from the trust shall be exempt from all taxation by the state and all political subdivisions of the state."

Strike sections 166 to 171, inclusive, in their entirety and renumber the remaining sections and internal references accordingly.

In line 6667, after "of" insert "more than six thousand and"

Change the effective date of section 183 to "Effective July 1, 2024"

In line 6676, strike "2024" and insert "2025" in lieu thereof

In line 6726, strike "2025" and insert "2026" in lieu thereof

Strike section 210 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections and internal references accordingly.

In line 8264, after "sixty per cent," insert "except the Comptroller may increase such actuarial value limit if the Comptroller determines that such actuarial value limit results in less than half of eligible paraeducators in the state qualifying for a stipend under this section,"

In line 8333, after "Strategy" insert ", the Comptroller, or the
Comptroller's designee,"

Strike section 250 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections and internal references accordingly

Strike sections 271 to 274, inclusive, in their entirety and renumber the remaining sections and internal references accordingly

Strike section 275 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 275. Subsection (c) of section 15-120nn of the general statutes, as amended by section 52 of substitute senate bill 904 of the current session, as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A", is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2023):

(c) The authority may purchase or acquire title in fee simple to, or any lesser estate, interest or right in, any airport, restricted landing area or other air navigation facility owned or controlled by any municipality or by any two or more municipalities jointly or by any other person, except any such purchase or lease of an airport owned or controlled by a municipality, or any political subdivision thereof, shall be subject to the approval of the legislative [body] bodies of the municipality that owns or controls the airport and the municipality within whose territorial limits the airport is located, which such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to displace or supersede an existing agreement that is executed between a municipality, or any political subdivision thereof, that owns or controls an airport and the municipality within whose territorial limits the airport is located with regard to the airport."

Strike subsections (a) and (b) of section 314 in their entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"(a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall appoint and convene a working group of ten members to review and evaluate the incidence
and implications of excess licensed bed capacity and any space not presently in use at skilled nursing facilities. Such review and evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) A survey of excess licensed bed capacity and any space not presently in use that identifies (A) licensed bed capacity, occupancy percentages and the identification and location within the facility of licensed beds not presently in operation in a closed facility wing or elsewhere in the facility, (B) beds voluntarily taken out of service in an open portion of the facility but where the beds remain counted in the facility licensed beds capacity, (C) any other space not presently in use that was formerly used for nursing facility care and services, and operations, and (D) beds made unavailable due to inability to staff at minimum staffing levels, in accordance with section 19a-563h of the general statutes, or operator-preferred staffing levels; (2) a review and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of Medicaid payment policies that support right-sizing and rebalancing efforts, including, but not limited to (A) minimum occupancy rate-setting requirements, and (B) a price-based component for the administrative and general component of reimbursement based on the median of the peer group spending in the administrative and general component of the rates; (3) a review and evaluation of the mitigating implications of staffing shortages as an impediment to skilled nursing facility admissions and occupancy; and (4) consideration of the physical plant conditions of the existing skilled nursing facilities.

(b) The working group shall include: (1) Three representatives from the Department of Social Services, at least one of whom shall be from the certificate of need and rate-setting division; (2) two representatives from the Department of Public Health, one of whom shall be from the facilities licensing division and one of whom shall be from the life safety division; (3) two representatives of an organization or organizations representing long-term care facilities, including, but not limited to, assisted living facilities; and (4) three representatives from an organization representing nonprofit long-term care facilities, at least one of whom shall be a representative of a collective bargaining unit.
representing nurses. The chairpersons of the working group may invite
the participation of others with subject matter knowledge that may be
needed in the review and evaluation."

In line 16036, strike "fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30,
2025" and insert "fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026" in
lieu thereof

Change the effective date of section 343 to "Effective July 1, 2024"

In line 16069, strike "2023" and insert "2024" in lieu thereof

In line 16102, strike "January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026" and insert
"January 1, 2026, and January 1, 2027" in lieu thereof

Strike section 306 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
and internal references accordingly

Strike section 385 and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 385. (Effective July 1, 2023) For each of the fiscal years ending
June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall transfer eight
million dollars from the resources of the Special Transportation Fund to
the Connecticut airport and aviation account established under section
13b-50c of the general statutes, provided the executive director of the
Connecticut Airport Authority (1) enters into a management agreement
with the city of Bridgeport for the day-to-day operation and
maintenance of the Sikorsky Airport, (2) provides written notice to the
Comptroller that such management agreement was executed, and (3)
provides written notice to the chief elected official of the Town of
Stratford that such management agreement was executed."

Strike section 390 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
and internal references accordingly

In line 22817, strike "29-251b,"
After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and internal references accordingly:

"Sec. 501. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 1 of this act are supported by the GENERAL FUND revenue estimates as follows:

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<td>69,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>T18</td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL TAXES</td>
<td>22,060,700,000</td>
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<td>22,502,200,000</td>
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<td>T19</td>
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<tr>
<td>T20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Refunds of Taxes</td>
<td>(1,879,500,000)</td>
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<td>(1,971,900,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>T21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Earned Income Tax Credit</td>
<td>(191,600,000)</td>
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<td>(196,200,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>T22</td>
<td></td>
<td>R &amp; D Credit Exchange</td>
<td>(7,500,000)</td>
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<td>(7,800,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>T23</td>
<td></td>
<td>NET GENERAL FUND REVENUE</td>
<td>19,982,100,000</td>
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<td>20,326,300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>T25</td>
<td></td>
<td>OTHER REVENUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>T26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transfers - Special Revenue</td>
<td>406,500,000</td>
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<td>411,900,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>T27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indian Gaming Payments</td>
<td>283,700,000</td>
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<td>286,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>T28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Licenses, Permits, Fees</td>
<td>356,500,000</td>
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<td>330,700,000</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>T29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sales of Commodities and Services</td>
<td>16,900,000</td>
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<td>17,800,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### HB 6941

| T30 | Rents, Fines and Escheats | 172,900,000 | 175,200,000 |
| T31 | Investment Income | 198,900,000 | 201,700,000 |
| T32 | Miscellaneous | 153,200,000 | 158,000,000 |
| T33 | Refunds of Payments | (85,700,000) | (67,100,000) |
| T34 | NET TOTAL OTHER REVENUE | 1,502,900,000 | 1,514,200,000 |

| T35 |

| T36 | OTHER SOURCES |
| T37 | Federal Grants | 1,867,800,000 | 1,886,500,000 |
| T38 | Transfer From Tobacco Settlement | (272,700,000) | (70,400,000) |
| T39 | Transfers To/From Other Funds | 108,400,000 | 106,700,000 |
| T40 | Transfer to Budget Reserve Fund - Volatility Cap | (683,200,000) | (659,600,000) |
| T41 | NET TOTAL OTHER SOURCES | 1,020,300,000 | 1,263,200,000 |

| T42 |

| T43 | TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE | 22,505,300,000 | 23,103,700,000 |

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Sec. 502. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 2 of this act are supported by the SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND revenue estimates as follows:

| T44 | TAXES |
| T45 | |
| T46 | Motor Fuels | $495,600,000 | $506,700,000 |
| T47 | Oil Companies | 387,000,000 | 357,200,000 |
| T48 | Sales and Use | 860,200,000 | 883,200,000 |
| T49 | Sales Tax DMV | 107,500,000 | 106,500,000 |
| T50 | Highway Use | 90,000,000 | 94,100,000 |
| T51 | Refund of Taxes | (16,900,000) | (16,600,000) |
| T52 | TOTAL TAXES | 1,923,400,000 | 1,931,100,000 |

| T53 |

| T54 | OTHER SOURCES |
| T55 | Motor Vehicle Receipts | 254,100,000 | 255,400,000 |
| T56 | Licenses, Permits, Fees | 123,700,000 | 126,100,000 |
| T57 | Interest Income | 59,300,000 | 51,000,000 |
| T58 | Federal Grants | 9,200,000 | 8,100,000 |
| T59 | Transfers To/From Other Funds | (13,500,000) | (13,500,000) |
240 Sec. 503. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 3 of this act are supported by the MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T64</th>
<th>Transfers from General Fund</th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T65</td>
<td></td>
<td>$52,600,000</td>
<td>$52,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T66</td>
<td>TOTAL MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND REVENUE</td>
<td>52,600,000</td>
<td>52,600,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

243 Sec. 504. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 4 of this act are supported by the BANKING FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T67</th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T68</td>
<td>Fees and Assessments</td>
<td>$34,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T69</td>
<td>TOTAL BANKING FUND REVENUE</td>
<td>34,800,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

246 Sec. 505. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 5 of this act are supported by the INSURANCE FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T70</th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T71</td>
<td>Fees and Assessments</td>
<td>$104,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T72</td>
<td>TOTAL INSURANCE FUND REVENUE</td>
<td>104,600,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

249 Sec. 506. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 6 of this act are supported by the CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND revenue estimates as follows:
Sec. 507. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 7 of this act are supported by the WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T74 Fees and Assessments</td>
<td>$37,200,000</td>
<td>$38,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T75 TOTAL CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND REVENUE</td>
<td>37,200,000</td>
<td>38,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sec. 508. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 8 of this act are supported by the CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T76 Fees and Assessments</td>
<td>$28,900,000</td>
<td>$29,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T77 TOTAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND REVENUE</td>
<td>28,900,000</td>
<td>29,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sec. 509. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 9 of this act are supported by the TOURISM FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T78 Room Occupancy Tax</td>
<td>$14,600,000</td>
<td>$14,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T79 Restitutions</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T80 TOTAL CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND REVENUE</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T81 Transfers To/From Other Funds</td>
<td>2,900,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T82 TOTAL TOURISM FUND</td>
<td>17,500,000</td>
<td>16,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sec. 510. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 10 of this act are supported by the CANNABIS SOCIAL EQUITY AND INNOVATION FUND revenue estimates as follows:
Sec. 511. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 11 of this act are supported by the CANNABIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY SERVICES FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T86</td>
<td>2023-2024</td>
<td>2024-2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T87</td>
<td>Cannabis Excise Tax</td>
<td>$5,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T88</td>
<td>TOTAL CANNABIS SOCIAL EQUITY AND INNOVATION FUND</td>
<td>5,800,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sec. 512. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 12 of this act are supported by the CANNABIS REGULATORY FUND revenue estimates as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T92</td>
<td>2023-2024</td>
<td>2024-2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T93</td>
<td>Cannabis Excise Tax</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T94</td>
<td>TOTAL CANNABIS REGULATORY FUND</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sec. 513. (Effective July 1, 2023) The appropriations in section 13 of this act are supported by the MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING FUND revenue estimates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023-2024</th>
<th>2024-2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T95</td>
<td>2023-2024</td>
<td>2024-2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T96</td>
<td>Sales and Use Tax</td>
<td>$458,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T97</td>
<td>Transfers To/From Other Funds</td>
<td>115,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T98</td>
<td>TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING FUND</td>
<td>574,300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sec. 514. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) As used in this section and
sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act:

(1) "Alternative method of election" means a method of electing candidates to the legislative body of a municipality other than an at-large method of election or a district-based method of election, and includes, but is not limited to, proportional ranked-choice voting, cumulative voting and limited voting;

(2) (A) "At-large method of election" means a method of electing candidates to the legislative body of a municipality in which such candidates are voted upon by all electors of such municipality;

(B) "At-large method of election" does not include any alternative method of election;

(3) "District-based method of election" means a method of electing candidates to the legislative body of a municipality in which, for municipalities divided into districts, a candidate for any such district is required to reside in such district and candidates representing or seeking to represent such district are voted upon by only the electors of such district;

(4) "Federal Voting Rights Act" means the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 USC 10301 et seq., as amended from time to time;

(5) "Government enforcement action" means any denial of administrative or judicial preclearance by the state or federal government, pending litigation filed by a state or federal entity, final judgment or adjudication, consent decree or other similar formal action;

(6) "Legislative body" means the board of aldermen, council, board of burgesses, representative town meeting, board of education, district committee, association committee or other similar body, as applicable, of a municipality;

(7) "Municipality" or "municipal" means any town, city or borough,
whether consolidated or unconsolidated, any local or regional school
district, any district, as defined in section 7-324 of the general statutes,
or any other district authorized under the general statutes;

(8) "Organization" means a person other than an individual;

(9) "Protected class" means a class of citizens who are members of a
race, color or language minority group, as referenced in the federal
Voting Rights Act;

(10) "Divergent voting patterns" means voting in which the candidate
or electoral choice preferred by protected class members diverges from
the candidate or electoral choice preferred by electors who are not
protected class members; and

(11) "Vote" or "voting" includes any action necessary to cast a ballot
and make such ballot effective in any election or primary, including, but
not limited to, admission as an elector, application for an absentee ballot
and any other action required by law as a prerequisite to casting a ballot
and having such ballot counted, canvassed or certified properly and
included in the appropriate totals of votes cast with respect to
candidates for election or nomination and to referendum questions.

(b) In the construction of this section and sections 515 to 522,
inclusive, of this act, words and phrases that are not defined in
subsection (a) of this section, but that are used in the federal Voting
Rights Act and interpreted in relevant case law, including, but not
limited to, "political process" and "prerequisite to voting", shall be
construed in a manner consistent with such usage and interpretation.

Sec. 515. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) (1) No qualification for
eligibility to be an elector in a municipality or other prerequisite to
voting may be imposed, no ordinance, regulation or other law regarding
the administration of elections may be enacted by a municipality, and
no standard, practice, procedure or policy may be applied by a
municipality, in a manner that results in an impairment of the right to
vote for any protected class member.

(2) It shall be a violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection for any
municipality to impose any qualification for eligibility to be an elector
or other prerequisite to voting, to enact any ordinance, regulation or
other law regarding the administration of elections or to apply any
standard, practice, procedure or policy that:

(A) Results or will result in a disparity between such municipality's
protected class members and the other members of such municipality's
electorate in electoral participation, access to voting opportunities or
ability to participate in the political process; or

(B) Based on the totality of the circumstances, results in an
impairment of the opportunity or ability of such municipality's
protected class members to participate in the political process and elect
candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of
elections.

(b) (1) No municipality shall employ any method of election for any
office of the municipality that has the effect, or is motivated in part by
the intent, of impairing the opportunity or ability of protected class
members to participate in the political process and elect candidates of
their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of municipal elections
as a result of diluting the vote of such protected class members.

(2) (A) The following shall constitute a violation of subdivision (1) of
this subsection:

(i) Any municipality that employs an at-large method of election, in
which the candidates or electoral choices preferred by protected class
members would usually be defeated and in which (I) divergent voting
patterns occur and such at-large method of election results in a dilutive
effect on the vote of protected class members, or (II) based on the totality
of the circumstances, the opportunity or ability of protected class members to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of elections is impaired; or

(ii) Any municipality that employs a district-based method of election or an alternative method of election, in which the candidates or electoral choices preferred by protected class members would usually be defeated and in which (I) divergent voting patterns occur and such district-based or alternative method of election results in a dilutive effect on the vote of protected class members, or (II) based on the totality of the circumstances, the ability of protected class members to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of elections is impaired.

(B) (i) In determining whether divergent voting patterns occur in a municipality or whether a method of election in such municipality results in a dilutive effect on the vote of protected class members, the superior court for the judicial district in which such municipality is located (I) shall consider elections held prior to the filing of an action pursuant to this section as more probative than elections conducted after such filing, (II) shall consider evidence concerning elections for any municipal office in such municipality as more probative than evidence concerning elections for other offices, but may still afford probative value to evidence concerning elections for such other offices, (III) shall consider statistical evidence as more probative than nonstatistical evidence, (IV) in the case of claims brought on behalf of two or more protected classes that are politically cohesive in such municipality, shall combine members of such protected classes to determine whether voting by such combined protected class members is divergent from other electors and shall not require evidence that voting by each such protected class's members is separately divergent from such other electors, and (V) shall not require evidence concerning the intent of electors, elected officials or such municipality to discriminate against protected class members.
(ii) Evidence concerning the causes of, or reasons for, the occurrence of divergent voting patterns shall not be deemed relevant to the determination of whether divergent voting patterns occur or whether a method of election results in a dilutive effect on the vote of protected class members.

(c) (1) In determining whether, based on the totality of the circumstances, an impairment of the right to vote for any protected class member in a municipality, or of the opportunity or ability of protected class members in a municipality to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of elections, has occurred, the superior court for the judicial district in which such municipality is located may consider factors that include, but are not limited to: (A) The history of discrimination in or affecting the municipality or state; (B) the extent to which protected class members have been elected to office in the municipality; (C) the use of any qualification for eligibility to be an elector or other prerequisite to voting, any statute, ordinance, regulation or other law regarding the administration of elections, or any standard, practice, procedure or policy, by the municipality that may enhance the dilutive effects of a method of election in such municipality; (D) the extent of any history of unequal access on the part of protected class members or candidates to election administration or campaign finance processes that determine which candidates will receive access to the ballot or financial or other support in a given election for an office of the municipality; (E) the extent to which protected class members in the municipality or state have historically made expenditures, as defined in section 9-601b of the general statutes, at lower rates than other individuals in such municipality or state; (F) the extent to which protected class members in the municipality or state vote at lower rates than other electors in the municipality or state, as applicable; (G) the extent to which protected class members in the municipality are disadvantaged, or otherwise bear the effects of public or private discrimination, in areas that may hinder their ability to participate effectively in the political process, such as
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education, employment, health, criminal justice, housing, transportation, land use or environmental protection; (H) the extent to which protected class members in the municipality are disadvantaged in other areas that may hinder their ability to participate effectively in the political process; (I) the use of overt or subtle racial appeals in political campaigns in the municipality or surrounding the adoption or maintenance of a challenged practice; (J) the extent to which candidates face hostility or barriers while campaigning due to their membership in a protected class; (K) a significant or recurring lack of responsiveness on the part of elected officials of the municipality to the particularized needs of a community or communities of protected class members, except that compliance with a court order shall not be considered to be evidence of such responsiveness; and (L) whether the particular method of election, ordinance, regulation or other law regarding the administration of elections, standard, practice, procedure or policy was designed to advance, and does materially advance, a valid state interest.

(2) No particular combination or number of factors under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be required for the court to determine the occurrence of an impairment under this subsection.

(d) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this section, any organization whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by such a violation or the Secretary of the State may file an action alleging a violation of this section in the superior court for the judicial district in which such violation has occurred. Members of two or more protected classes that are politically cohesive in a municipality may jointly file such an action in such court.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of title 9 of the general statutes and any special act, charter or home rule ordinance, whenever the superior court for a judicial district finds a violation by a municipality within such judicial district of any provision of this section, such court shall order appropriate remedies that are tailored to address such
violation in such municipality and to ensure protected class members have equitable opportunities to fully participate in the political process and that can be implemented in a manner that will not unduly disrupt the administration of an ongoing or imminent election. Such court shall take into account the ability of officials who administer elections in such municipality to implement any change to voting for an ongoing or imminent election in a manner that is orderly and fiscally sound, and shall not order any remedy that contravenes the Constitution of Connecticut. Appropriate remedies may include, but need not be limited to: (A) A district-based method of election; (B) an alternative method of election; (C) new or revised districting or redistricting plans; (D) elimination of staggered elections so that all members of the legislative body are elected at the same time; (E) reasonably increasing the size of the legislative body; (F) additional voting days or hours; (G) additional polling places; (H) additional means of voting, such as voting by mail, or additional opportunities to return ballots; (I) holding of special elections; (J) expanded opportunities for admission of electors; (K) additional elector education; (L) the restoration or addition of individuals to registry lists; or (M) retaining jurisdiction for such period of time as the court may deem appropriate, during which period no qualification for eligibility to be an elector or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice or procedure with respect to voting, that is different from that which was in effect at the time an action under subsection (d) of this section was commenced shall be enforced unless the court finds that such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure does not have the purpose, and will not have the effect, of impairing the right to vote on the basis of protected class membership or in contravention of the guarantees with respect to such right that are set forth in sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act, provided, in any action brought pursuant to chapter 149 of the general statutes, any remedy ordered shall be consistent with the provisions of said chapter. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (M) of this subdivision, any such finding by the court shall not be a bar to any
subsequent action to enjoin enforcement of such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure.

(2) Such court may only order a remedy if such remedy will not impair the ability of protected class members to participate in the political process and elect their preferred candidates or otherwise influence the outcome of elections. Such court shall consider remedies proposed by any parties to an action filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and by other interested persons who are not such parties. The court shall not give deference or priority to a remedy proposed by a municipality simply because it has been proposed by such municipality. The court shall have authority to order that a municipality implement one or more remedies that may be inconsistent with the provisions of any municipal law or of any special act relating to the conduct of elections, where such inconsistent provisions would otherwise preclude the court from ordering an appropriate remedy.

(f) (1) In the case of any proposal for a municipality to enact and implement (A) a new method of election to replace such municipality's at-large method of election with either a district-based method of election or an alternative method of election, or (B) a new districting or redistricting plan, the legislative body of such municipality shall act in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection if any such proposal was made after the receipt of a notification letter described in subsection (g) of this section or after the filing of a claim pursuant to this section or the federal Voting Rights Act.

(2) (A) Prior to drawing a draft districting or redistricting plan or plans, or transitioning to a proposed district-based method of election or alternative method of election, the municipality shall hold at least one public hearing at which members of the public may provide input regarding such draft or proposal, including, if applicable, the composition of districts. Notice of each such hearing shall be published at least three weeks prior to the date of such hearing. In advance of each
such hearing, the municipality shall conduct outreach to members of the public, including to language minority groups, to explain the districting or redistricting process and to encourage such input.

(B) After all such draft districting or redistricting plans are drawn, the municipality shall publish and make available for public dissemination at least one such plan and include the potential sequence of elections in the event the members of the legislative body of such municipality would be elected for staggered terms under such plan. The municipality shall hold at least one public hearing at which members of the public may provide input regarding the content of such plan or plans and, if applicable, such potential sequence of elections. Such plan or plans shall be published at least three weeks prior to consideration at each such hearing. If such plan or plans are revised at or following any such hearing, the municipality shall publish and make available for public dissemination such revised plan or plans at least two weeks prior to any adoption of such revised plan or plans.

(g) (1) Prior to filing an action against a municipality pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, any party described in subsection (d) of this section shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, a notification letter to the clerk of such municipality asserting that such municipality may be in violation of the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act.

(2) (A) No such party may file an action pursuant to this section earlier than fifty days after sending such notification letter to such municipality.

(B) Prior to receiving a notification letter, or not later than fifty days after any such notification letter is sent to a municipality, the legislative body of such municipality may pass a resolution (i) affirming such municipality's intention to enact and implement a remedy for a potential violation of the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act, (ii) setting forth specific measures such municipality will take
to facilitate approval and implementation of such a remedy, and (iii) providing a schedule for the enactment and implementation of such a remedy. No party described in subsection (d) of this section may file an action pursuant to this section earlier than ninety days after passage of any such resolution by such legislative body.

(C) If, under the laws of the state or under any charter or home rule ordinance, the legislative body of a municipality lacks authority to enact or implement a remedy identified in any such resolution within ninety days after the passage of such resolution, or if such municipality is a covered jurisdiction as described in section 518 of this act, such legislative body shall take the following measures upon such passage:

(i) The municipality shall hold at least one public hearing on any proposal to remedy any potential violation of the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act, at which members of the public may provide input regarding any such proposed remedies. In advance of each such hearing, the municipality shall conduct outreach to members of the public, including to language minority groups, to encourage such input.

(ii) The legislative body of such municipality may approve any such proposed remedy that complies with the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act and submit such proposed remedy to the Secretary of the State.

(iii) Notwithstanding any provision of title 9 of the general statutes and any special act, charter or home rule ordinance, the Secretary of the State shall, not later than ninety days after submission of such proposed remedy by such municipality, approve or reject such proposed remedy in accordance with the provisions of this clause. The Secretary may require that such municipality or any other party provide additional information related to the submission of such proposed remedy. The Secretary may only approve such proposed remedy if the Secretary concludes (I) such municipality may be in violation of the provisions of
sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act, (II) the proposed remedy would address any such potential violation, (III) the proposed remedy does not violate the Constitution of Connecticut or any federal law, and (IV) the proposed remedy can be implemented in a manner that will not unduly disrupt the administration of an ongoing or imminent election.

(iv) Notwithstanding any provision of title 9 of the general statutes and any special act, charter or home rule ordinance, if the Secretary of the State approves the proposed remedy, such proposed remedy shall be enacted and implemented immediately or, if immediate implementation would unduly disrupt the administration of an ongoing or imminent election, as soon as possible. If the municipality is a covered jurisdiction as described in section 518 of this act, such municipality shall not be required to obtain preclearance for such proposed remedy.

(v) If the Secretary of the State denies the proposed remedy, (I) such proposed remedy shall not be enacted or implemented, (II) the Secretary shall set forth the reasons for such denial, and (III) the Secretary may recommend another remedy that the Secretary would approve.

(vi) If the Secretary of the State does not approve or reject such proposed remedy within ninety days after the submission of such proposed remedy by the municipality, the proposed remedy shall not be enacted or implemented.

(D) A municipality that has passed a resolution described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may enter into an agreement with any party who sent a notification letter described in subdivision (1) of this subsection providing that such party shall not file an action pursuant to this section earlier than ninety days after entering into such agreement. If such party agrees to so enter into such an agreement, such agreement shall require that the municipality either enact and implement a remedy that complies with the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act or pass such a resolution and submit such resolution to the Secretary of the State. If such party declines to so enter
into such an agreement, such party may file an action pursuant to this
section at any time, subject to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this
subdivision.

(E) If, pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, a municipality
enacts or implements a remedy or the Secretary of the State approves a
proposed remedy, a party who sent a notification letter described in
subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding a potential violation that is
related to such remedy may, not later than thirty days after such
enactment, implementation or approval, submit a claim for
reimbursement from such municipality for the costs associated with
producing and sending such notification letter. Such party shall submit
such claim in writing and substantiate such claim with financial
documentation, including a detailed invoice for any demography
services or analysis of voting patterns in such municipality. Upon
receipt of any such claim, such municipality may request additional
financial documentation if that which has been provided by such party
is insufficient to substantiate such costs. Such municipality shall
reimburse such party for reasonable costs claimed or for an amount to
which such party and such municipality agree, except that the
cumulative amount of any such reimbursements to all such parties other
than the Secretary of the State shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars,
adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for
all urban consumers as published by the United States Department of
Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. If any such party and such
municipality fail to agree to a reimbursement amount, either such party
or such municipality may file an action for a declaratory judgment with
the superior court for the judicial district in which such municipality is
located for a clarification of rights.

(F) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a party
described in subsection (d) of this section may seek preliminary relief
for a regular election held in a municipality by filing an action pursuant
to this section during the one hundred twenty days prior to such regular
election. Not later than the filing of such action, such party shall send a notification letter described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to such municipality. In the event any such action is withdrawn or dismissed as being moot as a result of such municipality’s enactment or implementation of a remedy, or the approval by the Secretary of the State of a proposed remedy, any such party may only submit a claim for reimbursement in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (E) of this subdivision.

(ii) In the case of preliminary relief sought pursuant to subparagraph (F)(i) of this subdivision by a party described in subsection (d) of this section, the superior court for the judicial district in which such municipality is located shall grant such relief if such court determines that (I) such party has shown a substantial likelihood of success on the merits, and (II) it is possible to implement an appropriate remedy that would resolve the violation alleged under this section prior to such election in a manner that will not unduly disrupt such election.

Sec. 516. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2024) (a) The Secretary of the State shall establish a state-wide database of information necessary to assist the state and any municipality in (1) evaluating whether and to what extent current laws and practices related to election administration are consistent with the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act, (2) implementing best practices in election administration to further the purposes of said sections, and (3) investigating any potential infringement upon the right to vote. The Secretary may enter into an agreement with The University of Connecticut or a member of the Connecticut State University System to perform or assist in performing the functions described in this section.

(b) The Secretary of the State shall designate an employee of the office of the Secretary of the State to serve as manager of the state-wide database. Such employee shall possess an advanced degree from an accredited college or university, or equivalent experience, and have
expertise in demography, statistical analysis and electoral systems. Such employee shall be responsible for the operation of such state-wide database and shall manage such staff as is necessary to implement and maintain such state-wide database.

(c) The state-wide database shall maintain in electronic format the following data and records, at a minimum, for no fewer than the prior twelve years:

(1) Estimates of total population, voting age population and citizen voting age population by race, color and language minority group, broken down annually to the voting district level for each municipality, based on information from the United States Census Bureau, including from the American Community Survey, or information of comparable quality collected by a similar governmental agency, and accounting for population adjustments pursuant to section 9-169h of the general statutes, as applicable;

(2) Election results at the district level for each state-wide election and each election in each municipality;

(3) Regularly updated registry lists, geocoded locations for each elector and elector history files for each election in each municipality;

(4) Contemporaneous maps, descriptions of boundaries and other similar items, which shall be provided as shapefiles or in a comparable electronic format if an electronic format is available;

(5) Geocoded locations of polling places and absentee ballot drop boxes for each election in each municipality, and a list or description of the voting districts or geographic areas served by each such location;

(6) Any other information the Secretary of the State deems advisable to maintain in furtherance of the purposes of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act.
(d) Except for any data, information or estimates that identify individual electors, the data, information or estimates maintained in the state-wide database shall be published on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the State and made publicly available in electronic format at no cost.

(e) Any estimates prepared pursuant to this section, including estimates of eligible electors, shall be prepared using the most advanced, peer-reviewed and validated methodologies.

(f) At the time the Secretary of the State is prepared to commence administration of the state-wide database established under this section, the Secretary shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, certifying such fact.

(g) Upon the certification of election results and the completion of the elector history file after each election, the officials responsible for administering elections in each municipality shall transmit to the Secretary of the State, in electronic format, copies of (1) such election results at the voting district level, (2) updated registry lists, (3) elector history files, (4) maps, descriptions of boundaries and other similar items, and (5) lists of polling place and absentee ballot drop box locations and lists or descriptions of the voting districts or geographic areas served by such locations.

(h) At least annually or upon the request by the Secretary of the State, the Criminal Justice Information Systems Governing Board established under section 54-142q of the general statutes, or any other state entity identified by the Secretary as possessing data, statistics or other information that the office of the Secretary of the State requires to carry out its duties and responsibilities under title 9 of the general statutes, shall provide to the Secretary such data, statistics or information.
(i) The office of the Secretary of the State may provide nonpartisan technical assistance to municipalities, researchers and members of the public seeking to use the resources of the state-wide database.

(j) In each action filed pursuant to section 515 of this act, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the data, estimates or other information maintained in the state-wide database is valid.

Sec. 517. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2024) (a) The Secretary of the State shall designate one or more languages, other than English, for which assistance in voting and elections shall be provided in a municipality if the Secretary finds that a significant and substantial need exists for such assistance.

(b) (1) The Secretary of the State shall find that such significant and substantial need exists if, based on the best available data, which may include information from the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey, or data of comparable quality collected by a governmental entity:

(A) More than two per cent of the citizens of voting age of such municipality speak a particular shared language other than English and are limited English proficient individuals;

(B) More than four thousand of the citizens of voting age of such municipality speak a particular shared language other than English and are limited English proficient individuals; or

(C) In the case of a municipality that contains any part of a Native American reservation, more than two per cent of the Native American citizens of voting age within such Native American reservation speak a particular shared language other than English and are limited English proficient individuals. As used in this subdivision, "Native American" includes any person recognized by the United States Census Bureau, or this state, as "American Indian".
(2) As used in this section, "limited English proficient individual" means an individual who does not speak English as such individual's primary language and who speaks, reads or understands the English language less than "very well", in accordance with United States Census Bureau data or data of comparable quality collected by a governmental entity.

(c) Not later than January 15, 2024, and at least annually thereafter, the Secretary of the State shall publish on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the State a list of (1) each municipality in which assistance in voting and elections in a language other than English shall be provided, and (2) each such language in which such assistance shall be provided in each such municipality. The Secretary's determinations under this section shall be effective upon such publication. The Secretary shall distribute to each affected municipality the information contained in such list.

(d) Each municipality described in subsection (c) of this section shall provide assistance in voting and elections, including related materials, in any language designated by the Secretary of the State under subsection (a) of this section to electors in such municipality who are limited English proficient individuals.

(e) Whenever the Secretary of the State determines, pursuant to this section, that language assistance shall be provided in a municipality, such municipality shall provide competent assistance in each designated language and shall provide related materials (1) in English, and (2) in each designated language, including registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, ballots or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, except that in the case of a language that is oral or unwritten, including historically unwritten as may be the case for some Native Americans, such municipality may provide only oral instructions, assistance or other information relating to the electoral process in such language. All materials provided in a
designated language shall be of an equal quality to the corresponding English materials. All provided translations shall convey the intent and essential meaning of the original text or communication and shall not rely solely on any automatic translation service. Whenever available, language assistance shall also include live translation.

(f) The Secretary of the State shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish a review process under which the Secretary shall determine, upon receipt of a request submitted under this subsection, whether a significant and substantial need exists in a municipality for a language to be designated for the provision of assistance in voting and elections whenever such a need has not been found under subsection (b) of this section. Such process shall include, at a minimum, (1) an opportunity for any elector, organization whose membership includes or is likely to include electors, organization whose mission would be frustrated by a municipality's failure to provide such language assistance or organization that would expend resources in order to fulfill such organization's mission as a result of such a failure, to submit a request for the Secretary to consider so designating a language in a municipality, (2) an opportunity for public comment, and (3) that, upon receipt of any such request and consideration of any such public comment, the Secretary may, in accordance with the process for making such determination, so designate any language in a municipality.

(g) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this section, any organization whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by such a violation or the Secretary of the State may file an action alleging a violation of this section in the superior court for the judicial district in which such violation has occurred, except that no determination of the Secretary under this section to designate a municipality or a language for the provision of assistance shall constitute a violation of this section.
provisions of this section, the enactment or implementation of a covered
policy, as described in subsection (b) of this section, by a covered
jurisdiction, as described in subsection (c) of this section, shall be subject
to preclearance, as described in subsections (e) and (f) of this section, by
the Secretary of the State or the superior court for the judicial district in
which such covered jurisdiction is located.

(b) A covered policy shall include any new or modified qualification
for admission as an elector, prerequisite to voting or ordinance,
regulation, standard, practice, procedure or policy concerning:

(1) Method of election;
(2) Form of government;
(3) Annexation, incorporation, dissolution, consolidation or division
of a municipality;
(4) Removal of individuals from registry lists or enrollment lists and
other activities concerning any such list;
(5) Hours of any polling place, or location or number of polling places
or absentee ballot drop boxes;
(6) Assignment of voting districts to polling place or absentee ballot
drop box locations;
(7) Assistance offered to protected class members; or
(8) Districting or redistricting, provided the enactment or
implementation of a covered policy under this subdivision shall be
subject to preclearance only in a covered jurisdiction described in
subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section.

(c) (1) A covered jurisdiction includes:

(A) Any municipality that, within the prior twenty-five years, has
been subject to any court order or government enforcement action based upon a finding of any violation of the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act, the federal Voting Rights Act, any state or federal civil rights law, the fifteenth amendment to the United States Constitution or the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, which violation concerns the right to vote or a pattern, practice or policy of discrimination against any protected class;

(B) Any municipality that, within the three immediately preceding years, has failed to comply with such municipality's obligations to provide data or information to the state-wide database pursuant to section 517 of this act, except that inadvertent or unavoidable delays in such compliance, if communicated to the Secretary of the State and corrected within a reasonable time, shall not constitute such failure;

(C) Any municipality (i) that is not a school district, (ii) that contains at least one thousand eligible electors of any protected class, or in which members of any protected class constitute at least ten per cent of the eligible elector population of such municipality, and (iii) in which, during any of the prior ten years, based on data from criminal justice information systems, as defined in section 54-142q of the general statutes, the combined misdemeanor and felony arrest rate of any protected class exceeds the combined misdemeanor and felony arrest rate of the entire population of such municipality by at least twenty per cent;

(D) Any municipality (i) that contains at least one thousand eligible electors of any protected class, or in which members of any protected class constitute at least ten per cent of the eligible elector population of such municipality, and (ii) in which, during any of the prior ten years, the percentage of electors of any such protected class in such municipality that participated in any general election for any municipal office is at least ten percentage points lower than the percentage of all electors in the municipality that participated in such election; or
(E) On or after January 1, 2034, any municipality that, during any of the prior ten years, was a covered jurisdiction that was found to have enacted or implemented a covered policy for which preclearance was required without obtaining preclearance for such covered policy pursuant to the process described in subparagraph (G) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section.

(2) (A) A municipality that is a covered jurisdiction under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be subject to preclearance for a covered policy described in subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (b) of this section.

(B) In addition to the preclearance requirement set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, a municipality that is a covered jurisdiction under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be subject to preclearance for a covered policy described in subdivision (8) of subsection (b) of this section if, within the past twenty-five years, such municipality:

(i) Has been subject to three or more court orders or government enforcement actions based upon a finding of any violation of the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act, the federal Voting Rights Act, any state or federal civil rights law, the fifteenth amendment to the United States Constitution or the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, which violation concerns the right to vote or a pattern, practice or policy of discrimination against any protected class; or

(ii) Has been subject to any such court order or government enforcement action that concerns districting or redistricting or method of election.

(d) At least annually, the Secretary of the State shall determine which municipalities are covered jurisdictions pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and publish on the Internet web site of the office of the
Secretary of the State a list of such municipalities. A determination of the Secretary as to coverage under this subsection shall be effective upon such publication and may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes. Any such appeal shall be privileged with respect to assignment for trial.

(e) (1) If a covered jurisdiction seeks preclearance from the Secretary of the State for the adoption or implementation of any covered policy, such covered jurisdiction shall submit, in writing, such covered policy to the Secretary and may obtain such preclearance in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

(2) When the Secretary of the State receives any such submission of a covered policy:

(A) As soon as practicable but not later than ten days after such receipt, the Secretary shall publish on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the State such submission of a covered policy.

(B) Members of the public shall have an opportunity to comment on such published submission within the time period set forth in subparagraph (I) of this subdivision. For the purposes of facilitating public comment on any such submission, the Secretary shall allow members of the public to sign up to receive notifications or alerts regarding submissions of covered policies for preclearance.

(C) The Secretary shall review such submission and any public comment thereon, and shall, within the time period set forth in subparagraph (I) of this subdivision, provide a report and determination as to whether preclearance of the covered policy should be granted or denied. Such time period shall run concurrently with the time period for public comment.

(D) The covered jurisdiction shall bear the burden of proof in any determination as to preclearance of a covered policy. The Secretary may
request from a covered jurisdiction, at any time during the Secretary's review, additional information for the purpose of developing the Secretary's report and determination. Failure of such covered jurisdiction to timely comply with reasonable requests for such additional information may constitute grounds for the denial of preclearance. The Secretary shall publish on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the State each such report and determination upon completion thereof.

(E) In any such determination, the Secretary shall state in writing whether the Secretary is approving or rejecting the covered policy, provided the Secretary may designate preclearance as "preliminary" and subsequently approve or deny final preclearance not later than ninety days after receipt of submission of such covered policy. A covered policy for which preclearance is designated as "preliminary" may be implemented on an interim basis, subject to the Secretary's subsequent determination.

(F) (i) The Secretary shall deny preclearance to a submitted covered policy only if the Secretary determines that (I) such covered policy is more likely than not to diminish the opportunity or ability of protected class members to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of elections, or (II) such covered policy is more likely than not to violate the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act.

(ii) For any such denial, the Secretary shall interpose objections explaining the Secretary's basis for such denial, and the covered policy shall not be enacted or implemented.

(G) If the Secretary grants preclearance to a submitted covered policy, the covered jurisdiction may immediately enact or implement such covered policy. A determination by the Secretary to so grant preclearance shall not be admissible in, or otherwise considered by, a court in any subsequent action challenging such covered policy.
(H) If the Secretary fails to deny or grant preclearance to a submitted covered policy within the time period set forth in subparagraph (I) of this subdivision, such covered policy shall be deemed precleared and the covered jurisdiction may enact or implement such covered policy.

(I) The time periods for review by the Secretary of the State of any submitted covered policy, for public comment and for any determination of the Secretary to grant or deny preclearance to such covered policy shall be as follows:

(i) For any covered policy concerning the location of polling places or absentee ballot drop boxes, (I) the time period for public comment shall be ten business days, and (II) the time period in which the Secretary shall review the covered policy, including any public comment thereon, and make a determination to grant or deny preclearance to such covered policy, shall be not more than thirty days after the receipt of the submission of such covered policy, except that the Secretary may invoke an extension of not more than twenty days to make any determination under subparagraph (I)(i)(II) of this subdivision; and

(ii) For any other covered policy, (I) the time period for public comment shall be ten business days, except that, for any covered policy that concerns the implementation of a district-based method of election or an alternative method of election, districting or redistricting plans or a change to a municipality’s form of government, such time period shall be twenty business days, and (II) the time period in which the Secretary shall review such other covered policy, including any public comment thereon, and make a determination to grant or deny preclearance to such other covered policy, shall be not more than ninety days after the receipt of the submission of such other covered policy, except that the Secretary may invoke up to two extensions of not more than ninety days apiece to make any determination under subparagraph (I)(ii)(II) of this subdivision.

(J) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish an expedited, emergency preclearance process under which the Secretary may address covered policies that are submitted during or immediately preceding an election as a result of any attack, disaster, emergency or other exigent circumstance. Any preclearance granted pursuant to the regulations adopted under this subparagraph shall be designated "preliminary" and the Secretary may subsequently approve or deny final preclearance not later than ninety days after receipt of submission of such covered policy.

(K) Any denial of preclearance under this subdivision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes. Any such appeal shall be privileged with respect to assignment for trial.

(f) (1) If a covered jurisdiction seeks preclearance from the superior court for the judicial district in which such covered jurisdiction is located for the adoption or implementation of any covered policy, in lieu of seeking such preclearance from the Secretary of the State pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, such covered jurisdiction shall submit, in writing, such covered policy to such court and may obtain such preclearance in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, provided (A) such covered jurisdiction shall also contemporaneously transmit to the Secretary of the State a copy of such submission, and (B) failure to so provide such copy shall result in an automatic denial of such preclearance. Notwithstanding the transmission to the Secretary of a copy of any such submission, the court shall exercise exclusive jurisdiction over such submission. The covered jurisdiction shall bear the burden of proof in the court's determination as to preclearance.

(2) The court shall grant or deny preclearance not later than ninety days after the receipt of submission of a covered policy.

(3) The court shall deny preclearance to a submitted covered policy only if such court determines that (A) such covered policy is more likely
than not to diminish the opportunity or ability of protected class members to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of elections, or (B) such covered policy is more likely than not to violate the provisions of sections 515 to 522, inclusive, of this act.

(4) If the court grants preclearance to such covered policy, the covered jurisdiction may immediately enact or implement such covered policy. A determination by the court to grant preclearance to a covered policy shall not be admissible in, or otherwise considered by, a court in any subsequent action challenging such covered policy.

(5) If the court denies preclearance to a covered policy, or fails to make a determination within ninety days of receipt of submission of such covered policy, such covered policy shall not be enacted or implemented.

(6) Any denial of preclearance under this subsection may be appealed in accordance with the ordinary rules of appellate procedure. Any action brought pursuant to this subsection shall be privileged with respect to assignment for trial or appeal, as applicable, including expedited pretrial and other proceedings.

(g) If any covered jurisdiction enacts or implements any covered policy without obtaining preclearance for such covered policy in accordance with the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State or any party described in subsection (d) of section 516 of this act may file an action in the superior court for the judicial district in which such covered jurisdiction is located to enjoin such enactment or implementation and seek sanctions against such covered jurisdiction for violations of this section.

(h) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to effectuate the purposes of this section. Any estimates prepared for the purpose of
identifying covered jurisdictions under this section, including estimates of eligible electors, shall be prepared using the most advanced, peer-reviewed and validated methodologies.

Sec. 519. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 151 of the general statutes, a person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall not engage in acts of intimidation, deception or obstruction that interfere with any elector's right to vote.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Any person who uses or threatens to use any force, violence, restraint, abduction or duress, who inflicts or threatens to inflict any injury, damage, harm or loss or who by any other conduct practices intimidation that causes or will reasonably have the effect of causing interference with any elector's right to vote;

(2) Any person who knowingly uses any deceptive or fraudulent device, contrivance or communication that causes or will reasonably have the effect of causing interference with any elector's right to vote; or

(3) Any person who obstructs, impedes or otherwise interferes with access to any polling place or absentee ballot drop box or any office or place of business of an election official or who obstructs, impedes or otherwise interferes with any elector or election official in a manner that causes or will reasonably have the effect of causing interference with any elector's right to vote or any delay in voting or the voting process.

(c) (1) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this section or any organization whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by such a violation may file an action alleging a violation of this section in the superior court for the judicial district in which such violation has occurred. Such an action may be filed irrespective of any action that may
be filed by the State Elections Enforcement Commission, the Attorney
General or the State's Attorney as a result of such a violation.

(2) In any action brought pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
subsection, the complainant shall file a certification attached to the
complaint indicating that (A) a copy of such complaint has been sent by
first-class mail or delivered to the State Elections Enforcement
Commission, or (B) a copy of such complaint will be so sent or delivered
not later than the following business day.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of title 9 of the general statutes
and any special act, charter or home rule ordinance, whenever such
court finds a violation of any provision of this section, such court shall
order appropriate remedies that are tailored to address such violation,
including, but not limited to, providing for additional time to vote at an
election, primary or referendum.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section, or who
aids in the violation of any of such provisions, shall be liable for any
damages awarded by such court, including, but not limited to, nominal
damages for any such violation and compensatory or punitive damages
for any such wilful violation.

Sec. 520. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) Any provision of the general
statutes, regulation adopted thereunder, special act, charter, home rule
ordinance or other state or municipal enactment relating to the right to
vote shall be construed liberally in favor of (1) protecting the right to
cast a ballot and make such ballot effective, (2) ensuring that qualified
individuals seeking to be admitted as electors are not impaired in being
so admitted, (3) ensuring electors are not impaired in voting, including,
but not limited to, having their votes counted, (4) making the
fundamental right to vote more accessible to qualified individuals, and
(5) ensuring equitable access for protected class members to
opportunities to be admitted as electors and to vote.
Sec. 521. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) Nothing in the provisions of sections 514 to 520, inclusive, of this act shall be construed to affect the powers and duties of (1) the State Elections Enforcement Commission to attempt to secure voluntary compliance relating to any election, primary or referendum or pursue any other remedy authorized under sections 9-7a and 9-7b of the general statutes, or (2) the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, as provided in chapter 814c of the general statutes.

Sec. 522. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) In any action to enforce the provisions of sections 514 to 520, inclusive, of this act, the court may award reasonable attorneys' fees and litigation costs, including, but not limited to, expert witness fees and expenses, to the party that filed such action, other than the state or any municipality, and that prevailed in such action. The party that filed such action shall be deemed to have prevailed when, as a result of litigation, the party against whom such action was filed has yielded much or all of the relief sought in such action. In the case of a party against whom such action was filed and who prevailed in such action, the court shall not award such party any costs unless such court finds such action to be frivolous, unreasonable or without foundation.

Sec. 523. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2023) For the purposes of this section and sections 524 and 525 of this act:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(2) "Contact" means any communication transmitted in person or by telephone, electronic mail, text message or other electronic means between a pharmaceutical representative and a prescribing practitioner, to promote or provide information relating to a legend drug;

(3) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;
(4) "Legend drug" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-571 of the general statutes;

(5) "Pharmaceutical manufacturer" means any person, including, but not limited to, a virtual manufacturer, as defined in section 20-571 of the general statutes, who produces, prepares, cultivates, grows, propagates, compounds, converts or processes a controlled substance, either directly or indirectly, by extraction from substances of natural origin, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis, or packages or repackages a controlled substance container under such person's own name or a trademark or label for the purpose of selling such controlled substance;

(6) "Pharmaceutical representative" means any person, including, but not limited to, a sales representative or medical science liaison, who markets, promotes or provides legend drug information to a prescribing practitioner and is employed or compensated by a pharmaceutical manufacturer;

(7) "Pharmacist" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-571 of the general statutes; and

(8) "Prescribing practitioner" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-571 of the general statutes.

Sec. 5 24. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2023) (a) No person shall engage in business as a pharmaceutical representative in this state unless such person has first obtained a license issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

(b) Any person seeking a license as a pharmaceutical representative shall (1) submit to the commissioner an application for such license in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, (2) pay a nonrefundable application fee of five hundred fifty dollars, and (3) submit evidence that such applicant has completed the continuing
professional education requirements set forth in subsection (f) of this section.

(c) The commissioner shall issue to each applicant who meets the requirements for licensure, as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, a pharmaceutical representative license.

(d) Each licensee holding a license as a pharmaceutical representative shall, annually, not later than June thirtieth, (1) renew such license with the commissioner, (2) submit a nonrefundable payment of five hundred fifty dollars, and (3) certify that such licensee has completed the continuing professional education requirements set forth in subsection (f) of this section.

(e) A licensee shall file a report with the commissioner not later than five business days after any change of name, address or other contact information for such licensee.

(f) Prior to submitting an application for (1) a license under subsection (b) of this section, or (2) a renewal of a license under subsection (d) of this section, such applicant or licensee shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant or licensee has completed not less than five hours of continuing professional education. Continuing professional education shall include training in ethical standards, health equity, whistleblower protections, laws and regulations applicable to pharmaceutical marketing and any other training approved by the commissioner and published on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. Each applicant or licensee shall maintain continuing education certificate of completion records for not less than three years following the completion date for each continuing professional education training and, upon request by the commissioner, such applicant or licensee shall produce such records to the commissioner.
(g) The commissioner shall review submissions for continuing professional education programs and shall, upon approval by the commissioner, publish a list of approved continuing professional education programs on the department’s Internet web site.

(h) Continuing professional education training programs shall (1) be approved by the commissioner, and (2) adhere to the following:

(A) An employer of a licensed pharmaceutical representative or an applicant for such license in this state shall not be a provider of continuing professional education;

(B) A provider of continuing professional education shall disclose any conflicts of interests, including, but not limited to, any personal conflict of interest that would interfere or prevent such provider from conducting continuing professional education training honestly, objectively and effectively; and

(C) Funding for continuing professional education shall not be provided by an entity in the pharmaceutical industry or by a third-party entity that is compensated by an entity in the pharmaceutical industry.

(i) Upon renewal of a license under subsection (d) of this section, or not later than July thirty-first if such license is not renewed, such licensee shall provide the commissioner with the following information for the previous calendar year in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner:

(1) The aggregate number of contacts such licensee had with prescribing practitioners;

(2) The names and specialties of the prescribing practitioners such licensee contacted;

(3) The location and length of each contact;
(4) The name and a description of each legend drug marketed to each contact;

(5) A description of each gift, voucher, coupon or other compensation of any value that was provided to a prescribing practitioner or staff in a prescribing practitioner's office; and

(6) Any other information requested by the commissioner.

(j) The license of a pharmaceutical representative in this state may be revoked, suspended or annulled, after notice and hearing if the commissioner determines that (1) such licensee obtained the license by means of fraud or misrepresentation, or (2) such licensee violated any provisions of this section, or regulations adopted by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

Sec. 525. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2023) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of sections 523 and 524 of this act concerning the licensing of pharmaceutical representatives. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, of the general statutes in order to effectuate this section, prior to adopting such regulations, the commissioner may issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions concerning the licensing of pharmaceutical representatives that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System not less than fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 of the general statutes or forty-eight months from October 1, 2023, if such regulations have not been submitted to the standing legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170 of the general statutes.
Sec. 526. Section 31-57f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2023):

(a) As used in this section: (1) "Required employer" means any provider of food, building, property or equipment services or maintenance listed in this subdivision whose rate of reimbursement or compensation is determined by contract or agreement with the state or any state agent: (A) Building, property or equipment service companies; (B) management companies providing property management services; and (C) companies providing food preparation or service, or both; (2) "state agent" means any state official, state employee or other person authorized to enter into a contract or agreement on behalf of the state; (3) "person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives or organized groups of persons; (4) "building, property or equipment service" means any janitorial, cleaning, maintenance, security or related service; (5) "prevailing rate of wages" means the hourly wages paid for work performed within the city of Hartford under the collective bargaining agreement covering the largest number of hourly nonsupervisory employees employed within Hartford County in each classification established by the Labor Commissioner under subsection (e) of this section, provided the collective bargaining agreement covers no less than five hundred employees in the classification; (6) "prevailing rate of benefits" means the total cost to the employer on an hourly basis for work performed within the city of Hartford, under a collective bargaining agreement that establishes the prevailing rate of wages, of providing health, welfare and retirement benefits, including, but not limited to, (A) medical, surgical or hospital care benefits; (B) disability or death benefits; (C) benefits in the event of unemployment; (D) pension benefits; (E) vacation, holiday and personal leave; (F) training benefits; and (G) legal service benefits, and may include payment made directly to employees, payments to purchase insurance and the amount of payment or contributions paid or payable by the employer on behalf of each employee to any employee benefit fund; (7) "employee benefit
fund" means any trust fund established by one or more employers and
one or more labor organizations or one or more other third parties not
affiliated with such employers to provide, whether through the
purchase of insurance or annuity contracts or otherwise, benefits under
an employee health, welfare or retirement plan, but does not include
any such fund where the trustee or trustees are subject to supervision
by the Banking Commissioner of this state or of any other state, or the
Comptroller of the Currency of the United States or the Board of
Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and (8) "benefits under an
employee health, welfare or retirement plan" means one or more
benefits or services under any plan established or maintained for
employees or their families or dependents, or for both, including, but
not limited to, medical, surgical or hospital care benefits, benefits in the
event of sickness, accident, disability or death, benefits in the event of
unemployment, retirement benefits, vacation and paid holiday benefits,
legal service benefits or training benefits.

(b) On and after July 1, 2000, the wages paid on an hourly basis to any
employee of a required employer in the provision of food, building,
property or equipment services provided to the state pursuant to a
contract or agreement with the state or any state agent, shall be at a rate
not less than the standard rate determined by the Labor Commissioner
pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

(c) Any required employer or agent of such employer that violates
subsection (b) of this section shall pay a civil penalty in an amount not
less than two thousand five hundred dollars but not more than five
thousand dollars for each offense. Each pay period in which an
employee is paid at a rate less than that required under the provisions
of this section shall be a separate offense. The contracting department of
the state that has imposed such civil penalty on the required employer
or agent of such employer shall, within two days after taking such
action, notify the Labor Commissioner, in writing, of the name of the
employer or agent involved, the violations involved and steps taken to
collect the fine.

(d) The Labor Commissioner may make complaint to the proper prosecuting authorities for the violation of any provision of subsection (b) of this section.

(e) For the purpose of predetermining the standard rate of covered wages on an hourly basis, the Labor Commissioner shall establish classifications for all hourly nonsupervisory employees based on the applicable occupation codes and titles set forth in the federal Register of Wage Determinations under the Service Contract Act of 1965, 41 USC 351, et seq., provided the Labor Commissioner shall classify any individual employed on or before July 1, 2009, as a grounds maintenance laborer or laborer as a janitor, and shall classify any individual hired after July 1, 2009, performing the duty of grounds maintenance laborer, laborer or janitor as a light cleaner, heavy cleaner, furniture handler or window cleaner, as appropriate. The Labor Commissioner shall then determine the standard rate of wages for each classification of hourly nonsupervisory employees which shall be (1) the prevailing rate of wages paid to employees in each classification, or if there is no such prevailing rate of wages, the minimum hourly wages set forth in the federal Register of Wage Determinations under the Service Contract Act, plus (2) the prevailing rate of benefits paid to employees in each classification, or if there is no such prevailing rate of benefits, a thirty per cent surcharge on the amount determined in subdivision (1) of this subsection to cover the cost of any health, welfare and retirement benefits, other than those otherwise required by federal, state or local law, or, if no such benefits are provided to the employees, an amount equal to thirty per cent of the amount determined in subdivision (1) of this section, which shall be paid directly to the employees. The standard rate of wages for any employee entitled to receive such rate on or before July 1, 2009, shall not be less than the minimum hourly wage for the classification set forth in the federal Register of Wage Determinations under the Service Contract Act plus
the prevailing rate of benefits for such classification for as long as that employee continues to work for a required employer.

(f) Required employers with employees covered by collective bargaining agreements which call for wages and benefits that are reasonably related to the standard rate of wages shall not be economically disadvantaged in the bidding process, provided the collective bargaining agreement was arrived at through arms-length negotiations.

(g) The Labor Commissioner shall, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, determine the standard rate of wages for each classification on an hourly basis where any covered services are to be provided, and the state agent empowered to let such contract shall contact the Labor Commissioner at least ten days prior to the date such contract will be advertised for bid, to ascertain the standard rate of wages and shall include the standard rate of wages on an hourly basis for all classifications of employment in the proposal for the contract. The standard rate of wages on an hourly basis shall, at all times, be considered the minimum rate for the classification for which it was established. Each required employer shall contact the Labor Commissioner on or before September first of each year for the duration of such contract to ascertain the standard rate of wages to be paid each year and shall make any necessary adjustments to such standard compensation paid or payable on or before October first, annually.

(h) Where a required employer is awarded a contract to perform services that are substantially the same as services that have been rendered under a predecessor contract, such required employer shall retain, for a period of ninety days, all employees who had been employed by the predecessor to perform services under such predecessor contract, except that the successor contract need not retain employees who worked less than fifteen hours per week or who had been employed at the site for less than sixty days. During such ninety-
day period, the successor contract shall not discharge without just cause an employee retained pursuant to this subsection. If the performance of an employee retained pursuant to this subsection or section 4a-82 is satisfactory during the ninety-day period, the successor contractor shall offer the employee continued employment for the duration of the successor contract under the terms and conditions established by the successor contractor, or as required by law. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any contract covered by section 31-57g or subsections (n) and (o) of section 4a-82.

(i) Each required employer subject to the provisions of this section shall (1) keep, maintain and preserve such records relating to the wages and hours worked by each employee and a schedule of the occupation or work classification at which each person is employed during each work day and week in such manner and form as the Labor Commissioner establishes to assure the proper payments due to such employees, [and] (2) annually or upon written request, submit to the contracting state agent a certified payroll which shall consist of a complete copy of such records accompanied by a statement signed by the employer which indicates that (A) such records are correct, (B) the rate of wages paid to each employee is not less than the standard rate of wages required by this section, (C) such employer has complied with the provisions of this section, and (D) such employer is aware that filing a certified payroll which it knows to be false is a class D felony for which such employer may be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, and (3) and not later than the first day upon which work is required to be performed under the contract, and for the duration of the contract, post in a prominent and accessible place a poster stating (A) the standard rate of wages owed to employees under this section, (B) employee rights and remedies for a violation of this section, and (C) the contact information of the Labor Commissioner. The Labor Commissioner shall develop a suitable a poster containing the information described in subdivision (3) of this subsection for employers and provide such poster to required
employers. The Labor Commissioner shall post its determinations of the corresponding standard rates for each classification on its Internet web site. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1-210, the certified payroll shall be considered a public record and every person shall have the right to inspect and copy such record in accordance with the provisions of section 1-212. The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of section 31-59, section 31-66 and section 31-69 which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section shall apply. Any person who files a false certified payroll in violation of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be guilty of a class D felony for which such person may be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(j) This section shall not apply to contracts, agreements or grants which do not exceed forty-nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine dollars per annum.

(k) [On receipt of a complaint for nonpayment of the standard rate of wages.] Any employee or group of employees and their designated representatives alleging nonpayment of the standard rate of wages may bring a complaint to the Labor Commissioner. The Labor Commissioner, the Director of Wage and Workplace Standards and wage enforcement agents of the Labor Department shall have power to enter, during usual business hours, the place of business or employment of any employer to determine compliance with this section, and for such purpose may examine payroll and other records and interview employees, call hearings, administer oaths, take testimony under oath and take depositions in the manner provided by sections 52-148a to 52-148e, inclusive. The commissioner or the director, for such purpose, may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and records. Any required employer, an officer or agent of such employer, or the officer or agent of any corporation, firm or partnership who wilfully fails to furnish time and wage records as required by law to the commissioner, the director or any wage enforcement agent upon
request or who refuses to admit the commissioner, the director or such
agent to a place of employment or who hinders or delays the
commissioner, the director or such agent in the performance of any
duties in the enforcement of this section shall be fined not less than
twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, and each day of
such failure to furnish time and wage records to the commissioner, the
director or such agent shall constitute a separate offense, and each day
of refusal of admittance, of hindering or of delaying the commissioner,
the director or such agent shall constitute a separate offense.

(l) An employee or group of employees aggrieved by a violation of
any provision of this section may, as an alternative to bringing a
complaint to the Labor Commissioner under subsection (k) of this
section, bring a civil action in the Superior Court. If the court finds that
the employer has violated any provision of this section, the court may
enjoin the employer from engaging in such violation and may order
such affirmative action as the court deems appropriate, including, but
not limited to, payment of back pay and the prevailing rate of benefits
or thirty per cent surcharge, as required by subsection (e) of this section,
or other equitable relief as the court deems appropriate. The court may
order compensatory and punitive damages if the court finds that the
employer committed a violation with malice or with reckless
indifference to the provisions of this section. Any employee who
prevails in a civil action may be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and
costs to be taxed by the court.

[(l)] (m) Notwithstanding subsection (j) of this section, any employer
that pays the state for a franchise to provide food preparation or service,
or both, for the state shall be required to certify that the wages and
benefits paid to its employees are not less than the standard rate
established pursuant to this section, provided, if no prevailing rate of
wages or benefits was in effect at the time the state entered into a
franchise agreement, then the employer shall not be required to pay the
prevailing rate of wages or benefits during the life of the agreement,
unless the agreement is amended, extended or renewed.

[(m)] (n) The Labor Commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this section.

[(n)] (o) The provisions of this section and any regulation adopted pursuant to subsection (m) of this section shall not apply to any contract or agreement entered into before July 1, 2000.

Sec. 527. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) The Secretary of the State may, within available appropriations, develop and conduct a state-wide public awareness campaign to educate the public regarding the availability of early voting at elections and primaries and to provide information to the public concerning such early voting, including, but not limited to, the number of days of early voting prior to an election or primary, the hours for early voting during such days and the procedures for casting a ballot at locations designated for the conduct of early voting.

(b) The Secretary of the State shall develop an early voting procedure manual, which shall include, but need not be limited to, a model plan for the designation and staffing of locations for the conduct of early voting, and shall revise such procedure manual as necessary in accordance with changes in the law relating to the conduct of early voting. The Secretary shall distribute such procedure manual, and any revision to such procedure manual, to each registrar of voters and municipal clerk and shall publish such procedure manual, and any such revision, on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 528. Subsection (a) of section 3-112 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2023):

(a) The Comptroller shall: (1) Establish and maintain the accounts of
the state government and perform such other duties as are prescribed by the Constitution of the state; (2) register all warrants or orders for the disbursement of the public money; (3) adjust and settle all demands against the state not first adjusted and settled by the General Assembly and give orders on the Treasurer for the balance found and allowed; (4) prescribe the mode of keeping and rendering all public accounts of departments or agencies of the state and of institutions supported by the state or receiving state aid by appropriation from the General Assembly; (5) prepare and issue effective accounting and payroll manuals for use by the various agencies of the state; (6) from time to time, examine and state the amount of all debts and credits of the state; present all claims in favor of the state against any bankrupt, insolvent debtor or deceased person; and institute and maintain suits, in the name of the state, against all persons who have received money or property belonging to the state and have not accounted for it; [and] (7) administer the Connecticut Retirement Security Program, established pursuant to section 31-418; and (8) provide a subsidy to paraeducators who open a health savings account pursuant to the provisions of section 213 of this act."

Sec. 529. Subsection (b) of section 4a-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(b) Any state agency, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services or [his or her] said commissioner's designee, may purchase equipment, supplies, materials and services from (1) another state, including an instrumentality or political subdivision of another state, or (2) a person who has a contract to sell such property or services to other state governments, other branches, divisions or departments of this state, political subdivisions of this state, nonprofit organizations or public purchasing consortia, in accordance with the terms and conditions of such contract.

Sec. 530. Subsection (f) of section 4a-57 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(f) The commissioner shall post any contract entered into under this section that has not been subject to competitive bidding or competitive negotiation on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services, provided nothing except for minor nonrecurring or emergency purchases in an amount of twenty-five thousand dollars or less. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the disclosure of any information not required to be disclosed under subsection (b) of section 1-210.

Sec. 531. Section 4d-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

[(a)] No contractor shall award a subcontract for work under a contract or for work under an amendment to a contract without the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services or a designee of (1) the selection of the subcontractor, and (2) the disclosure of the provisions of the subcontract.

[(b) Each such contractor shall file a copy of each executed subcontract or amendment to the subcontract with the Commissioner of Administrative Services, who shall maintain the subcontract or amendment as a public record, as defined in section 1-200.]

Sec. 532. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 4a-57 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2023):

(a) All purchases of, and contracts for, supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services, except purchases and contracts made pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) or (d) of this section and public utility services as provided in subsection (e) of this section shall be based, when possible, on competitive bids or competitive negotiation. The
commissioner shall solicit competitive bids or proposals by providing notice of the planned purchase in a form and manner that the commissioner determines will maximize public participation in the competitive bidding or competitive negotiation process, including participation by small contractors, as defined in section 4a-60g, and promote competition. In the case of an expenditure that is estimated to exceed [fifty] one hundred thousand dollars, such notice shall be posted, not less than five calendar days before the final date of submitting bids or proposals, on the State Contracting Portal. Each notice of a planned purchase under this subsection shall indicate the type of goods and services to be purchased and the estimated value of the contract award. The notice shall also contain a notice of state contract requirements concerning nondiscrimination and affirmative action pursuant to section 4a-60 and, when applicable, requirements concerning the awarding of contracts to small contractors, minority business enterprises, individuals with a disability and nonprofit corporations pursuant to section 4a-60g. Each bid and proposal shall be kept sealed or secured until opened publicly at the time stated in the notice soliciting such bid or proposal.

(b) The commissioner may, at the commissioner's discretion, waive the requirement of competitive bidding or competitive negotiation in the case of minor nonrecurring or emergency purchases of [ten] twenty-five thousand dollars or less in amount.

Sec. 533. Subsection (b) of section 4a-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2023):

(b) Whenever an emergency exists by reason of extraordinary conditions or contingencies that could not reasonably be foreseen and guarded against, or because of unusual trade or market conditions, the Commissioner of Administrative Services, or, in the case of purchases, leases and contracts for information systems, information technology
personal property and telecommunication systems, the Chief Information Officer, may, if it is in the best interests of the state, waive
the competitive bid or proposal requirements set forth in section 4a-57. If any such procurement is estimated to cost [fifty] one hundred thousand dollars or more, such waiver shall be subject to the approval of the Standardization Committee. A statement of all purchases made under the provisions of this section and, in the case of a contract, the contract shall be posted on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services, provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the disclosure of any information not required to be disclosed under subsection (b) of section 1-210.

Sec. 534. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 4a-60a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(1) Any contractor who has one or more contracts with an awarding agency or who is a party to a municipal public works contract or a contract for a quasi-public agency project shall include a nondiscrimination affirmation provision in the contract certifying that the contractor understands the obligations of this section and will maintain a policy for the duration of the contract to assure that the contract will be performed in conformance with the nondiscrimination requirements of this section. The authorized signatory of the contract shall demonstrate his or her understanding of this obligation by either (A) initialing the nondiscrimination affirmation provision in the body of the contract, [or] (B) providing an affirmative response in the required online bid or response to a proposal question which asks if the contractor understands its obligations, or (C) signing the contract.

Sec. 535. Subsections (m) and (n) of section 10a-151b of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(m) The chief executive officer of a constituent unit may join with a
federal agency, another state government, other branch, division or department of this state, another constituent unit, political subdivision of this state or private or nonprofit organization in a cooperative purchasing plan when the best interests of the state would be served by such plan.

(n) The state, through the chief executive officer of a constituent unit, may purchase equipment, supplies, materials and services from a person who has a contract to sell such property or services to a federal agency, another state government, other branch, division or department of this state, another constituent unit, political subdivision of this state, nonprofit organization or private or public purchasing consortium, in accordance with the terms and conditions of such contract.

Sec. 536. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10a-151b of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2023):

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, purchases made pursuant to this section shall be based, when possible, on competitive bids or competitive negotiation. Such chief executive officer shall solicit competitive bids or proposals by sending notice to prospective suppliers and by posting notice on a public bulletin board in such officer's office. Such notice shall contain a notice of state contract requirements pursuant to section 4a-60. Each bid or proposal shall be kept sealed until opened publicly at the time stated in the notice soliciting such bid or proposal. Sealed bids or proposals shall include bids or proposals sealed within an envelope or maintained within a safe and secure electronic environment until such time as they are publicly opened. If the amount of the expenditure is estimated to exceed [fifty] one hundred thousand dollars, not later than five calendar days before the final date of submitting competitive bids or proposals, competitive bids or proposals shall be solicited by public notice posted on the Internet. All purchases [fifty] one hundred thousand dollars or less in
amount shall be made in the open market, but shall, when possible, be
based on at least three competitive quotations. If desired by the
constituent unit, competitive quotations may include quotations
submitted to the constituent unit within a safe and secure electronic
environment. The constituent unit shall not refuse to consider a bid,
proposal or quotation because it is not submitted electronically.

(c) Competitive bidding or competitive negotiation is not required in
the case of (1) minor purchases of ten twenty-five thousand dollars or
less in amount, (2) purchases made pursuant to subsection (k) of this
section, (3) emergency purchases, (4) agricultural purchases of dairy
products, poultry, farm-raised seafood, beef, pork, lamb, eggs, fruits,
vegetables or other farm products in an amount of fifty thousand dollars
or less, or (5) a qualified contract, as described in subdivision (1) of
subsection (b) of section 10a-151f, that is entered into pursuant to the
policies adopted by either the Board of Trustees of The University of
Connecticut or the Board of Regents for Higher Education pursuant to
section 10a-151g. Whenever an emergency exists by reason of
extraordinary conditions or contingencies that could not reasonably be
foreseen and guarded against, or because of unusual trade or market
conditions, the chief executive officer may, if it is for the best interest of
the state, make purchases without competitive bidding. A statement of
all emergency purchases made under the provisions of this subsection
shall be set forth in the annual report of the chief executive officer. The
chief executive officer, when making an agricultural purchase in
accordance with subdivision (4) of this subsection, shall give preference
to dairy products, poultry, farm-raised seafood, beef, pork, lamb, eggs,
fruits, vegetables or other farm products grown or produced in this state
when such products, poultry, farm-raised seafood, beef, pork, lamb,
eggs, fruits or vegetables are comparable in cost to other dairy products,
poultry, eggs, fruits or vegetables being considered for purchase by the
chief executive officer that have not been grown or produced in this
state.
Sec. 537. Subdivision (9) of subsection (c) of section 10a-109n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(9) (A) The university shall not enter into a construction manager at-risk project delivery contract that does not provide for a maximum guaranteed price for the cost of construction which shall be determined not later than the time of the receipt and approval by the university of the trade contractor bids. Each construction manager at-risk shall invite bids and give notice of opportunities to bid on project elements, by posting any such invitation or notice on the State Contracting Portal. Each bid shall be kept sealed until opened publicly at the time and place as set forth in the notice soliciting such bid. The construction manager at-risk shall, after consultation with and approval by the university, award any related contracts for project elements to the responsible qualified contractor, who shall be prequalified pursuant to section 4a-100, submitting the lowest bid in compliance with the bid requirements, provided [(A)] (i) the construction manager at-risk shall not be eligible to submit a bid for any such project element, and [(B)] (ii) construction shall not begin prior to the determination of the maximum guaranteed price, except (I) for the project elements of site preparation and demolition that have been previously put out to bid and awarded, and (II) for the project elements of site preparation, demolition, public utility installation and connections and building envelope components, including the roof, doors, windows and exterior walls, as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

(B) Construction may begin prior to the determination of the maximum guaranteed price for the project elements of site preparation, demolition, public utility installation and connections and building envelope components, including the roof, doors, windows and exterior walls, provided (i) the project involves the renovation of an existing building or facility; (ii) the project element or elements involved in such early work have been previously put out to bid and awarded; and (iii) ...
the total cost of construction of the early work does not exceed twenty-
five per cent of the estimated cost of construction for the entire project.

(C) If such project involves the renovation of an existing building or
facilities that will be performed in multiple phases while such building or
facilities remains occupied, the university may enter into a construction
manager at-risk project delivery contract that provides for the
maximum guaranteed price to be determined for each phase of the
project, prior to beginning each such phase, provided each party to the
contract complies with all of the requirements of subparagraph (A) of
this subdivision, except the timing of the determination of the maximum
guaranteed price set forth in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision.

Sec. 538. Subdivisions (2) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (c) of section
10a-109n of the general statutes are repealed and the following is
substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2023):

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph [(B)] (D) of this
subdivision, any total cost basis contract or other contract for the
construction of a university project which is estimated to cost more than
five hundred thousand dollars, shall be publicly let by the university.
The university shall give notice to contractors interested in
[prequalifying to submit] submitting a project proposal or bid, by
posting any such notice on the university web site and on the State
Contracting Portal. The notice to [prequalify] contractors shall contain
(i) the requirement that contractors be prequalified pursuant to section
4a-100, or subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as applicable to such
contract, (ii) a statement of the time and place where the responses shall
be received, and (iii) such additional information as the university
deems appropriate. Upon receipt of such responses, the university shall
select [each] any contractor who (I) to the extent required pursuant to
the provisions of section 4b-91, has been prequalified pursuant to
section 4a-100, [and] (II) has shown itself able to post surety bonds
required by such contract, [and] (III) has [demonstrated that it possesses
the financial, managerial and technical ability and the integrity
necessary and without conflict of interest for faithful and efficient
performance of the work provided for therein. The no conflict of
interest in the performance of work required by such contract, and (IV)
for any such contract that is estimated to cost more than one million
dollars, has been prequalified by the university pursuant to
subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

(B) For any contract subject to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of
this subdivision that is estimated to cost more than one million dollars,
the university shall prequalify each contractor by evaluating
whether (i) each such contractor (I) has demonstrated that it possesses
the financial, managerial and technical ability and integrity necessary to
faithfully and efficiently perform work for the university in accordance
with the requirements set forth in the prequalification application
issued by the university, and (II) is responsible and qualified based on
its experience with projects similar to that for which the bid or proposal
is to be submitted and based on objective written criteria included in the
application to request prequalification with respect to such contract.
The university shall also consider whether a contractor, and
prequalification application issued by the university, and (ii) any
subcontractor on the contractor's previous projects, has been in
compliance with the provisions of part III of chapter 557 and chapter 558
during the previous five calendar years. The university, in its discretion,
may include additional qualification requirements in the notice posted
pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

(C) The university may issue a confirmation of prequalification for
contracts subject to the provisions of this subdivision to any contractor
who meets the requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) of this
subdivision. Such confirmation of prequalification shall be effective for
one year from the date of issuance and, upon receipt of a completed
renewal application and any other materials as prescribed by the
university, may be renewed for a period not exceeding two years.
[(B)] (D) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the board of trustees may approve a total cost basis contract or other contract for the construction of a university project which is estimated to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars that has not been publicly let pursuant to the provisions of said subparagraph (A), provided the board deems the contract to address an emergency.

(3) The university shall thereafter give notice to those so prequalified by the university pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section of the time and place where the public letting shall occur and shall include in such notice such information of the work required as appropriate.] Each bid or proposal shall be kept sealed until opened publicly at the time and place as set forth in the notice soliciting such bid or proposal. The university shall not award any construction contract, including, but not limited to, any total cost basis contract, after public letting, except to the responsible qualified contractor, submitting the lowest bid or proposal in compliance with the bid or proposal requirements of the solicitation document. The university may, however, waive any informality in a bid or proposal, and may either reject all bids or proposals and again advertise for bids or proposals or interview at least three responsible qualified contractors and negotiate and enter into with any one of such contractors that construction contract which is both fair and reasonable to the university.

(4) The notice to each contractor prequalified to submit a proposal or bid and the construction contract, including each total cost basis contract, awarded by the university shall contain such other terms and conditions, and such provisions for penalties as the university may deem appropriate.

Sec. 539. Subdivision (10) of subsection (c) of section 10a-109n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2023):

(10) If the university designates a project as suitable for a design-build
contract, the university may enter into a single contract with a design-
builder recommended by a selection panel and selected by the
university. The university shall give notice of such project and
specifications for such project by posting such notice on the State
Contracting Portal. The university shall establish a selection panel for
each project to score the qualifications and past performance of each
design-builder who submits a competitive proposal to the university for
such project. The selection panel shall score the qualifications and past
performance of each design-builder using a predetermined scoring
method developed by the university and provided to each design-
builder in advance of such design-builder's development of the
competitive proposal. The selection panel's scoring method may be
unique to each project, but shall consist of combining the score of each
design-builder's qualifications and past performance and evaluating the
technical merit of the competitive proposal and each design-builder's
projected project cost. The design-build contract shall (A) include, but
not be limited to, such project elements as permitting, engineering,
design, construction and, if applicable, site acquisition, and (B) be based
on the competitive proposal submitted by the design-builder that is
selected by the university. No design-build contract for which the total
cost is estimated to be more than [five hundred thousand dollars] the
amount set forth in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 4b-91 may
be awarded to a design-builder who is not prequalified for the project
in accordance with section 4a-100. Such design-build contracts shall
state the responsibilities of the design-builder to deliver a completed
and acceptable project on a date certain and the maximum costs of the
project and, if applicable, as a separate item, the cost of any site
acquisition. The university shall determine all other requirements and
conditions for such competitive proposals, selection of a design-builder
and other awards and shall have sole responsibility for all other aspects
of such design-build contracts.

Sec. 540. Subsection (a) of section 4a-100 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October
(a) As used in this section: (1) "Prequalification" means prequalification issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services to bid on a contract or perform work pursuant to a contract for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling, repair or demolition of any public building or any other public work by the state or a municipality, except a public highway or bridge project or any other construction project administered by the Department of Transportation, or to perform work under such a contract as a substantial subcontractor; (2) "subcontractor" means a person who performs work with a value in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars for a contractor pursuant to a contract for work for the state or a municipality which is estimated to cost more than $500,000; (3) "principals and key personnel" includes officers, directors, shareholders, members, partners and managerial employees; (4) "aggregate work capacity rating" means the maximum amount of work an applicant is capable of undertaking for any and all projects; (5) "single project limit" means the highest estimated cost of a single project that an applicant is capable of undertaking; (6) "contract" means an agreement for work for the state or a municipality that is estimated to cost more than $500,000 and is funded, in whole or in part, by state funds; and (7) "substantial subcontractor" means a person who performs work with a value in excess of $500,000 for a contractor pursuant to a contract for work for the state or a municipality which is estimated to cost more than $500,000.

Sec. 541. Subsection (c) of section 4a-101 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2023):

(c) As used in this section, "public agency" means a public agency, as defined in section 1-200, "contract" means an agreement for work for the
state or a municipality that is estimated to cost more than [five hundred
thousand] one million dollars and is funded, in whole or in part, by state
funds, "subcontractor" means a person who performs work with a value
in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars for a contractor pursuant to a
contract and "substantial subcontractor" means a substantial
subcontractor, as defined in section 4a-100.

Sec. 542. Subsection (a) of section 4b-91 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October
1, 2023):

(a) (1) As used in this section, "prequalification classification" means
the prequalification classifications established by the Commissioner of
Administrative Services pursuant to section 4a-100, "public agency" has
the same meaning as provided in section 1-200, "awarding authority"
means the Department of Administrative Services, except "awarding
authority" means (A) the Joint Committee on Legislative Management,
in the case of a contract for the construction of or work on a building or
other public work under the supervision and control of the joint
committee, (B) a constituent unit of the state system of higher education,
in the case of a contract for the construction of or work on a building or
other public work under the supervision and control of such constituent
unit, or (C) the Military Department, in the case of a contract for the
construction of or work on a building or other public work under the
supervision and control of said department and "community court
project", "downtown Hartford higher education center project",
"correctional facility project", "juvenile residential center project" and
"priority higher education facility project" have the same meanings as
provided in section 4b-55.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, every
contract for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling,
repair or demolition of any public building or any other public work by
the state that is estimated to cost more than [five hundred thousand] one
million dollars shall be awarded to the lowest responsible and qualified general bidder who is prequalified pursuant to section 4a-100 on the basis of competitive bids in accordance with the procedures set forth in this chapter, after the awarding authority has invited such bids by posting notice on the State Contracting Portal. The awarding authority shall indicate the prequalification classification required for the contract in such notice.

(3) The requirements set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not apply to (A) a public highway or bridge project or any other construction project administered by the Department of Transportation, or (B) a contract awarded by the Commissioner of Administrative Services for (i) any public building or other public works project administered by the Department of Administrative Services that is estimated to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars or less, (ii) a community court project, (iii) the downtown Hartford higher education center project, (iv) a correctional facility project, (v) a juvenile residential center project, or (vi) a student residential facility for the Connecticut State University System that is a priority higher education facility project.

(4) Every contract for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling, repair or demolition of any public building or any other public work by a public agency that is paid for, in whole or in part, with state funds and that is estimated to cost more than [five hundred thousand] one million dollars shall be awarded to a bidder that is prequalified pursuant to section 4a-100 after the public agency has invited such bids by posting notice on the State Contracting Portal, except for (A) a public highway or bridge project or any other construction project administered by the Department of Transportation, or (B) any public building or other public works project administered by the Department of Administrative Services that is estimated to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars or less. The awarding authority or public agency, as the case may be, shall indicate the prequalification
classification required for the contract in such notice.

(5) (A) The Commissioner of Administrative Services may select contractors to be on lists established for the purpose of providing contractor services for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling, repair or demolition of any public building or other public works project administered by the Department of Administrative Services involving an expense to the state of one million five hundred thousand dollars or less. The commissioner shall use the prequalification classifications established pursuant to section 4a-100 to determine the specific categories of services that contractors may perform after being selected in accordance with this subparagraph and subparagraph (B) of this subdivision and awarded a contract in accordance with subparagraph (C) of this subdivision. The commissioner may establish a separate list for projects involving an expense to the state of less than [five hundred thousand] one million dollars for the purpose of selecting and utilizing the services of small contractors and minority business enterprises, as such terms are defined in section 4a-60g.

(B) The commissioner shall invite contractors to submit qualifications for each specific category of services sought by the department by posting notice of such invitation on the State Contracting Portal. The notice shall be in the form determined by the commissioner, and shall set forth the information that a contractor is required to submit to be considered for selection. Upon receipt of the submittal from the contractor, the commissioner shall select, for each specified category, those contractors who (i) are determined to be the most responsible and qualified, as such terms are defined in section 4b-92, to perform the work required under the specified category, (ii) have demonstrated the skill, ability and integrity to fulfill contract obligations considering their past performance, financial responsibility and experience with projects of the size, scope and complexity required by the state under the specified category, and (iii) for projects with a cost exceeding [five
1993 hundred thousand] one million dollars, have the ability to obtain the
1994 requisite bonding. The commissioner shall establish the duration that
1995 each list remains in effect, which in no event may exceed three years.

1996 (C) For any public building or public works project involving an
1997 expense to the state of one million five hundred thousand dollars or less,
1998 the commissioner shall invite bids from only those contractors selected
1999 pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision for the
2000 specific category of services required for the particular project. The
2001 commissioner shall determine the form of bid invitation, the manner of,
2002 and time for, submission of bids, and the conditions and requirements
2003 of such bids. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible
2004 and qualified bidder, subject to the provisions of sections 4b-92 and 4b-
2005 94. In the event that fewer than three bids are received in response to an
2006 invitation to bid under this subdivision, or that all the bids are in excess
2007 of the amount of available funds for the project, the commissioner may
2008 negotiate a contract with any of the contractors submitting a bid, or
2009 reject the bids received and rebid the project in accordance with this
2010 section.

2011 Sec. 543. Subsection (j) of section 4b-91 of the general statutes is
2012 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October
2013 1, 2023):

2014 (j) No person whose subcontract exceeds [five hundred thousand]
2015 one million dollars in value may perform work as a subcontractor on a
2016 project for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling,
2017 repair or demolition of any public building or any other public work by
2018 the state or a municipality, except a public highway or bridge project or
2019 any other construction project administered by the Department of
2020 Transportation, which project is estimated to cost more than [five
2021 hundred thousand] one million dollars and is paid for, in whole or in
2022 part, with state funds, unless, at the time of the bid submission, the
2023 person is prequalified in accordance with section 4a-100. The provisions
of this subsection shall not apply to the downtown Hartford higher education center project.

Sec. 544. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2023) (a) As used in this section, "contract" means a contract for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling, repair or demolition of any public building or any other public work by the state or a municipality that is funded, in whole or in part, by state funds, except a public highway or bridge project or any other construction project administered by the Department of Transportation. Any bid of a contractor or substantial contractor on a contract to perform work with a value of more than five hundred thousand dollars but less than one million dollars in response to an invitation to bid issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services, shall include the following information: (1) The bidder's form of organization; (2) the bidder's principals and key personnel and any names under which the bidder, principals or key personnel conducted business during the past five years; (3) any legal or administrative proceedings settled or concluded adversely against the bidder or any of the bidder's principals or key personnel within the past five years which relate to the procurement or performance of any public or private construction contract; (4) any legal or administrative proceedings concluded adversely against the bidder or any of the bidder's principals or key personnel within the past five years which relate to the nonpayment or underpayment of wages or benefits to the bidder's, principal's or key personnel's employees during the performance of any public or private construction contract; (5) any administrative proceedings that concluded adversely against the bidder during the past five years with the imposition of any civil penalties pursuant to section 31-69a of the general statutes or the issuance of any stop work orders pursuant to section 31-288 of the general statutes; (6) a statement of whether (A) the bidder has been disqualified pursuant to section 4a-100, 4b-95, 31-57c or 31-57d of the general statutes, (B) the bidder is disqualified or prohibited from being awarded a contract pursuant to section 31-57b of the general statutes, (C) the bidder has been
disqualified by another state, (D) the bidder has been disqualified by a federal agency or pursuant to federal law, (E) the bidder's registration has been suspended or revoked by the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 20-341gg of the general statutes, (F) the bidder has been disqualified by a municipality, and (G) the matters that gave rise to any such disqualification, suspension or revocation have been eliminated or remedied; and (7) other information as the commissioner deems relevant to the determination of the bidder's qualifications and responsibilities. Any failure to disclose any of the information required under this subsection shall disqualify a contractor or substantial subcontractor from any associated bid on a contract.

(b) Any employer performing work under a contract pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall participate in a workforce development program in which newly hired employees and existing employees are given the opportunity to develop skills. Such program may include, but need not be limited to: (1) An apprenticeship training through an apprenticeship program registered with the Labor Department or a federally recognized state apprenticeship agency that complies with the requirements of 29 CFR 29 and 29 CFR 30, as each may be amended from time to time, and (2) pre-apprenticeship training that will enable students to qualify for registered apprenticeship training.

(c) Not later than October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall hold one training session for the purpose of discussing state contracting requirements.

Sec. 545. Section 3-36f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, to the extent permitted by federal law no [moneys invested in the] disbursements from Connecticut Baby Bond Trust shall be considered to be an asset or income for purposes of determining an individual's
eligibility for assistance under any program administered by the
[Department of Social Services] state.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no
moneys invested in disbursements from the trust shall be considered
to be an asset for purposes of determining an individual's eligibility for
need-based, institutional aid grants offered to an individual at the
public eligible educational institutions in the state.

Sec. 546. Section 3-36g of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

[(a) The Treasurer shall establish in the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust
an accounting for each designated beneficiary. Each such accounting
shall include the amount transferred to the trust pursuant to section 3-36h,
plus the designated beneficiary's pro rata share of total net earnings
from investments of sums held in the trust.]

[(b) (a)] Upon a designated beneficiary's eighteenth birthday and
completion of a financial literacy requirement as prescribed by the
Treasurer, such beneficiary shall become eligible to receive the total
sum of the accounting under subsection (a) of this section to be used for
an eligible expenditure. The Treasurer may adopt regulations, in
accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes
of this section] request an amount, to be used for payment of an eligible
expenditure, of up to the total sum of the amount allocated or
transferred, as applicable, on behalf of the designated beneficiary
pursuant to section 3-36h, plus the designated beneficiary's pro rata
share of the total net earnings from investments of sums held in the trust
at the time of disbursement.

[(c) (b)] A designated beneficiary may submit a claim [for such
accounting until his or her thirtieth birthday,] pursuant to subsection (a)
of this section, in such form and manner as prescribed by the Treasurer,
until such designated beneficiary's thirtieth birthday, provided such
designated beneficiary is a resident of the state at the time of such claim.
If a designated beneficiary (1) is deceased before submitting a valid
claim, or (2) fails to submit a valid claim, as determined by the Treasurer,
before [his or her thirtieth birthday, such accounting shall be credited
back to the assets of the trust] such designated beneficiary's thirtieth
birthday, the sum such designated beneficiary was eligible to claim shall
be retained by the trust to credit to designated beneficiaries born in
subsequent years.

[(d) Subject to obtaining adequate consent authorizing the disclosure
of confidential information related to designated beneficiaries in
accordance with all applicable state or federal laws, the] (c) The
Treasurer and the Department of Social Services shall enter into a
memorandum of understanding to establish information sharing
practices in accordance with all applicable state or federal
laws in order
to carry out the purposes of [public act 21-111] sections 3-36b to 3-36h,
inclusive.

Sec. 547. Section 3-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

[Upon the birth of a designated beneficiary, the Treasurer may
transfer up to three thousand two hundred dollars from the bond
proceeds issued pursuant to section 3-36i to the trust to be credited
toward the accounting of such designated beneficiary as described in
section 3-36g. For any year in which the funds made available pursuant
to section 3-36i is insufficient to provide such amount per beneficiary
the amount so transferred shall be reduced pro rata.] Notwithstanding
any provision of the general statutes, the Department of Social Services
shall, not later September 1, 2024, and not later than September first
annually thereafter, inform the Treasurer of the number of designated
beneficiaries born in the prior fiscal year. After receiving such number,
the Treasurer my transfer up to three thousand two hundred dollars in
the trust for each designated beneficiary born in the prior fiscal year and
transfer such money to any fund established pursuant to section 3-36c to achieve the purpose of this section for such beneficiary.

Sec. 548. Section 3-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

[Trust funds as] As used in sections 3-13 to 3-13e, inclusive, and 3-31b, [shall be construed to include] "trust funds" includes the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund A, the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund B, the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund, the State's Attorneys' Retirement Fund, the Teachers' Annuity Fund, the Teachers' Pension Fund, the Teachers' Survivorship and Dependency Fund, the School Fund, the State Employees Retirement Fund, the Hospital Insurance Fund, the Policemen and Firemen Survivor's Benefit Fund, any trust fund described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 7-450 that is administered, held or invested by the State Treasurer, the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust and all other trust funds administered, held or invested by the State Treasurer.

Sec. 549. Section 19 of public act 23-5 is repealed. (Effective July 1, 2023)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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