



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5202

LCO No. 1426



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 15-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 For the purpose of [the laws of this state relating to aeronautics] this
4 chapter, the following words and phrases [shall] have the following
5 meanings, [herein given,] unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (1) "Aeronautics" means transportation by aircraft; the operation,
7 repair or maintenance of aircraft, [or] aircraft engines or unmanned
8 aircraft except by a manufacturer, including the repair, packing and
9 maintenance of parachutes; the design, establishment, construction,
10 extension, operation, improvement, repair or maintenance of airports,
11 heliports, vertiports, restricted landing areas or other air navigation
12 facilities, and air instruction.

13 (2) "Air instruction" means the imparting of aeronautical information
14 by any aeronautics instructor or in or by any air school or flying club.

15 (3) "Air navigation" means the operation or navigation of aircraft in
16 the air space over this state or upon any airport or restricted landing
17 area within this state.

18 (4) "Air navigation facility" means any facility, other than one owned
19 or controlled by the federal government, used in, available for use in or
20 designed for use in, aid of air navigation, including airports, heliports,
21 vertiports, restricted landing areas, and any structures, mechanisms,
22 lights, beacons, marks, communicating systems or other
23 instrumentalities or devices used or useful as an aid, or constituting an
24 advantage or convenience, to the safe taking-off, navigation and landing
25 of aircraft, or the safe and efficient operation or maintenance of an
26 airport, heliport, vertiport or restricted landing area, and any
27 combination of such facilities.

28 (5) "Aircraft" means any contrivance used or designed for navigation
29 of or flight in air, including (A) airplanes, meaning power-driven fixed-
30 wing aircraft, heavier than air, supported by the dynamic reaction of the
31 air against their wings, (B) gliders, meaning heavier than air aircraft, the
32 free flight of which does not depend principally upon a power-
33 generating unit, and (C) rotorcraft, meaning power-driven aircraft,
34 heavier than air, supported during flight by one or more rotors.
35 "Aircraft" does not include unmanned aircraft.

36 (6) "Airman" means (A) any individual who engages, as the person in
37 command, or as a pilot, mechanic or member of the crew, in the
38 navigation of aircraft while under way; [and (excepting any individual
39 employed outside the United States, any individual employed by a
40 manufacturer of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers or appliances to
41 perform duties as inspector or mechanic in connection therewith, and
42 any individual performing inspection or mechanical duties in
43 connection with aircraft owned or operated by him)] (B) any individual
44 who is directly in charge of the inspection, maintenance, overhauling or
45 repair of aircraft engines, propellers or appliances; and (C) any
46 individual who serves in the capacity of aircraft dispatcher or air-traffic
47 control-tower operator. "Airman" does not include any individual

48 employed outside the United States, any individual employed by a
49 manufacturer of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers or appliances to
50 perform duties as an inspector or mechanic in connection with such
51 aircraft, engines, propellers or appliances, and any individual
52 performing inspection or mechanical duties in connection with aircraft
53 owned or operated by such individual.

54 (7) "Airport" means any area of land or water, except a restricted
55 landing area, which is designed for the landing and takeoff of aircraft,
56 whether or not facilities are provided for the shelter, servicing or repair
57 of aircraft, or for receiving or discharging passengers or cargo, and all
58 appurtenant areas used or suitable for airport buildings or other airport
59 facilities, and all appurtenant rights-of-way.

60 (8) "Airport hazard" means any structure, object of natural growth or
61 use of land which obstructs the air space required for the flight of
62 aircraft in landing or taking off at any airport, heliport, vertiport or
63 restricted landing area or is otherwise hazardous to such landing or
64 taking-off.

65 (9) "Airport protection privileges" means easements through or other
66 interests in air space over land or water, interests in airport hazards
67 outside the boundaries of airports, heliports, vertiports or restricted
68 landing areas and other protection privileges the acquisition or control
69 of which is necessary to insure safe approaches to the landing areas of
70 airports, heliports, vertiports and restricted landing areas and the safe
71 and efficient operation thereof.

72 (10) "Careless, negligent or reckless operation" means the operation
73 or piloting of any aircraft or unmanned aircraft carelessly, negligently,
74 recklessly or in such manner as to endanger the property, life or limb of
75 any person, due regard being had to the proximity of other aircraft or
76 unmanned aircraft, the prevailing weather conditions and the territory
77 being flown over.

78 (11) "Civil aircraft" means any aircraft other than a public aircraft.

79 (12) Repealed by 1972, P.A. 134, S. 6.

80 (13) "Connecticut Airport Authority" or "authority" means the
81 Connecticut Airport Authority established pursuant to chapter 267b.

82 (14) "Executive director" means the executive director of the
83 Connecticut Airport Authority or [his or her] the executive director's
84 designee.

85 (15) "Flying club" means any person other than an individual which,
86 neither for profit nor reward, owns, leases or uses one or more aircraft
87 for the purpose of instruction or pleasure or both.

88 (16) "Manufacturer" means a person, partnership, association, limited
89 liability company or corporation which, during the calendar year
90 preceding application for registration, manufactured or assembled one
91 or more aircraft for sale, or which proves to the satisfaction of the
92 executive director that it intends in good faith to manufacture or
93 assemble one or more aircraft for sale during the year immediately
94 ensuing.

95 (17) "Municipality" means any city, town or borough or other
96 subdivision of this state.

97 (18) "Navigable air space" means air space above the minimum
98 altitudes of flight prescribed by the laws of this state or by procedures
99 of the authority. [consistent therewith.]

100 (19) "Nonresident" means any person whose legal residence is
101 outside this state.

102 (20) "Operation of aircraft" means the use of aircraft for the purpose
103 of air navigation and includes the navigation or piloting of aircraft. Any
104 person who causes or authorizes the operation of aircraft, whether with
105 or without the right of legal control thereof, shall be deemed to be
106 engaged in the operation of aircraft within the meaning of the statutes
107 of this state.

108 (21) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation,
109 limited liability company, company, association, joint stock association
110 or body politic and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee or other
111 similar representative thereof.

112 (22) "Public aircraft" means an aircraft used exclusively in the service
113 of any government or of any political subdivision thereof, including the
114 government of any state, territory or possession of the United States, or
115 the District of Columbia, but does not include any government-owned
116 aircraft engaged in carrying persons or property for commercial
117 purposes.

118 (23) "Restricted landing area" means any area of land or water or
119 both, which is used or is made available for the landing and takeoff of
120 aircraft, the use of which shall, except in case of emergency, be only as
121 provided from time to time by the executive director.

122 (24) Repealed by P.A. 85-130.

123 (25) Repealed by P.A. 77-614, S. 609, 610.

124 (26) Repealed by P.A. 77-614, S. 609, 610.

125 (27) "Helipport" means an area of defined dimensions, either at ground
126 level or elevated on a structure, designated for the landing and takeoff
127 of helicopters, which may be restricted solely for that purpose.

128 (28) "Ultra light aircraft" means (A) any aircraft which meets the
129 criteria established by the Federal Aviation Administration, federal Air
130 Regulation Part 103, or (B) any vehicle which: (i) Is used or intended to
131 be used for manned operation by a single occupant in the air; (ii) is used
132 or intended to be used for recreation or sport purposes only; (iii) has not
133 been issued an airworthiness certificate by the government of the United
134 States or any foreign government; and (iv) if unpowered, weighs less
135 than one hundred fifty-five pounds or, if powered, weighs less than two
136 hundred fifty-four pounds, empty weight, has a fuel capacity of no more
137 than five U.S. gallons, is not capable of more than fifty-five knots

138 calibrated air speed at full power in level flight and has a power-off stall
139 speed which does not exceed twenty-four knots calibrated air speed.

140 (29) "Unmanned aircraft" means a powered aircraft that (A) uses
141 aerodynamic forces to provide vertical lift, (B) is operated remotely by
142 a pilot in command or is capable of autonomous flight, (C) does not
143 carry a human operator, and (D) can be expendable or recoverable.

144 (30) "Vertiport" means an area of defined dimensions, either at
145 ground level or elevated on a structure, designated for the vertical
146 landing and takeoff of aircraft, which may be restricted solely for that
147 purpose.

148 Sec. 2. Section 13b-39a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
149 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
150 *1, 2024*):

151 [The] Not later than October first annually, the owner of any aircraft,
152 as defined in subdivision (5) of section 15-34, as amended by this act,
153 which is based or primarily used at any airport facility, heliport,
154 vertiport, air navigation facility, restricted landing area or seaplane base
155 in a municipality within this state shall [, not later than October 1, 1993,
156 and annually thereafter, be required to] register with the municipality
157 in which such aircraft is based or primarily used, by filing an application
158 form, or renewal thereof, and paying the appropriate registration fee, as
159 provided for in section 12-71, this section and section 13b-39b, as
160 amended by this act. The owner of any aircraft which is based or
161 primarily used at any such air navigation facility or restricted landing
162 area in this state shall register such aircraft not later than July 1, 1994,
163 and annually thereafter not later than the first of October. Any aircraft
164 shall be deemed to be based or primarily used in a municipality when
165 in the normal course of its use, it leaves from and returns to or remains
166 at one or more points within the municipality more often or longer than
167 at any other single location outside of the municipality.

168 Sec. 3. Section 13b-39b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
169 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

170 1, 2024):

171 The executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority shall
172 prepare and distribute to each municipality in which aircraft are based
173 or primarily used, forms and decals for the registration of aircraft and
174 the renewal of such registrations. Each municipality shall designate a
175 municipal registration official who may be an official or employee of the
176 municipality or of any airport facility, heliport, vertiport or seaplane
177 base located within the municipality, to utilize the information obtained
178 pursuant to section 13b-49a, as amended by this act, and perform the
179 duties of registration of aircraft as set forth in sections 13b-39a to 13b-
180 39g, inclusive, as amended by this act, and shall furnish to the executive
181 director, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of each
182 such official. The municipality shall immediately notify the executive
183 director upon any changes relative to the municipal registration official.

184 Sec. 4. Section 13b-46 of the general statutes is repealed and the
185 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

186 (a) The executive director may approve airports, heliports, vertiports,
187 restricted landing areas [] and other air navigation facilities. Any
188 municipality or person acquiring property for the purpose of
189 constructing or establishing an airport, heliport, vertiport or restricted
190 landing area shall, prior to such acquisition, apply to the executive
191 director for a certificate of approval of the site selected and the general
192 purpose or purposes for which the property is to be acquired, to [insure]
193 ensure that the property and its use shall conform to minimum
194 standards of safety and shall serve the public interest. Any proposed
195 airport, heliport, vertiport, restricted landing area or other air
196 navigation facility at which more than thirty-six landings and takeoffs
197 are expected to be made by aircraft in any year shall be approved by the
198 executive director before it shall be licensed to be used or operated. The
199 executive director shall make no charge for approval certificates of
200 proposed property acquisition for airport, heliport, vertiport or
201 restricted landing area purposes.

202 (b) The executive director may license airports, heliports, vertiports,
203 restricted landing areas and other air navigation facilities and renew
204 such licenses. When a certificate of approval of an airport, heliport,
205 vertiport or restricted landing area has been issued by the executive
206 director, [he or she] the executive director may grant a license for
207 operation and use. On and after July 1, 1995, the executive director shall
208 charge a fee of one hundred fifty dollars for each license or renewal
209 thereof. Each such license shall be effective for a period of three years
210 from the date of issuance. Each licensee shall certify, on a form provided
211 by the executive director, that the licensed facility shall comply with all
212 applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the
213 license period. Municipalities shall be exempt from the payment of any
214 license fee in connection with airports owned or operated by such
215 municipalities.

216 (c) No municipality or officer or employee thereof and no person
217 shall operate an airport, heliport, vertiport, restricted landing area or
218 other air navigation facility for which approval has not been granted,
219 and a license has not been issued, by the executive director. The
220 provisions of this section shall not apply to any airport, heliport,
221 vertiport, restricted landing area or other air navigation facility owned
222 by the federal government within this state.

223 (d) Any heliport in operation prior to October 1, 1985, shall be
224 deemed licensed for operation and use and the executive director shall
225 issue an original license for any such heliport upon the written request
226 of the person who controls and operates such heliport. Such heliports
227 shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter concerning the renewal
228 or revocation of licenses, inspection and review of air navigation
229 facilities and any other provision of this chapter except those concerning
230 the initial approval or licensing of such facilities. Such heliports shall be
231 subject to any rule or procedure adopted by the authority in accordance
232 with the provisions of this chapter except those concerning the initial
233 approval or licensing of any air navigation facility.

234 Sec. 5. Section 13b-48 of the general statutes is repealed and the

235 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

236 Upon receipt of any application for a certificate of approval of an
237 airport, heliport, vertiport or restricted landing area, or an original
238 license to use or operate an airport, heliport, vertiport, restricted landing
239 area or other air navigation facility, the executive director shall send
240 notice thereof by registered or certified mail to the chief executive officer
241 or first selectman of the municipality or municipalities in which the
242 proposed airport, heliport, vertiport, restricted landing area or other air
243 navigation facility is proposed to be located. If the applicant, or such
244 municipality within fifteen days after receipt of such notice, requests a
245 public hearing, the executive director shall set a time and place for such
246 hearing in the municipality in which the proposed airport, heliport,
247 vertiport, restricted landing area or other air navigation facility is
248 proposed to be situated, at which hearing interested parties shall have
249 an opportunity to be heard. The executive director may hold a public
250 hearing in any case where no such request is made. Notice of any such
251 hearing shall be published by the executive director in a newspaper of
252 general circulation in such municipality at least twice, the first
253 publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date of the hearing.
254 Upon the conclusion of such hearing, the executive director shall
255 consider all the relevant evidence and shall issue an order granting or
256 denying such application, written notice of which shall be sent by
257 registered or certified mail to the applicant and to the chief executive
258 officer or the first selectman of the municipality or municipalities in
259 which the proposed airport, heliport, vertiport, restricted landing area
260 or other air navigation facility is to be located. Orders issued pursuant
261 to this section shall comply with the requirements of section 15-66, as
262 amended by this act, and shall be subject to appeal as provided in
263 section 15-67.

264 Sec. 6. Section 13b-49 of the general statutes is repealed and the
265 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

266 The executive director may revoke temporarily or permanently any
267 certificate of approval or license upon a determination that an airport,

268 heliport, vertiport, restricted landing area or other navigation facility is
269 not being maintained or used in accordance with the provisions of this
270 chapter, or chapter 266, or any [regulations] procedures adopted
271 pursuant to said chapters.

272 Sec. 7. Section 13b-49a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
273 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
274 *1, 2024*):

275 (a) Not later than July thirty-first annually, the owner or operator of
276 any airport, heliport, vertiport, restricted landing area, seaplane base or
277 other air navigation facility licensed under the provisions of section 13b-
278 46, as amended by this act, shall submit to the executive director and the
279 municipality in which [the aircraft] such facility is based, the following
280 information with respect to an aircraft which is based or primarily used
281 at such facility as of July first of such year: (1) The identity and address
282 of the owner and form of ownership, including information as to
283 whether the owner is an individual, partnership, corporation or other
284 entity; (2) the type of aircraft, including the year of manufacture, the
285 manufacturer, the model and the certified gross weight; and (3) the
286 Federal Aviation Aircraft Registration number.

287 (b) The executive director, after notice and opportunity for hearing,
288 may suspend or revoke the license of any such facility in the event the
289 owner or operator thereof knowingly or intentionally fails to comply
290 with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

291 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 13b-50 of the 2024 supplement to the
292 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
293 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

294 (a) The executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority is
295 authorized to cooperate with the government of the United States or any
296 agency or department thereof in the acquisition, construction,
297 improvement, maintenance and operation of airports, heliports,
298 vertiports, landing fields and other aeronautical facilities in this state
299 where federal financial aid is received and to comply with the

300 provisions of the laws of the United States and any regulations made
301 thereunder for the expenditure of federal moneys upon such airports,
302 heliports, vertiports, landing fields and facilities. The executive director
303 is authorized to accept, receive and receipt for federal or other moneys
304 for and on behalf of this state or any political subdivision thereof for the
305 acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of
306 facilities within this state. All moneys accepted for disbursement by the
307 executive director pursuant to this subsection shall be disbursed in
308 accordance with the provisions of the respective grants.

309 Sec. 9. Section 13b-50p of the general statutes is repealed and the
310 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

311 (a) The executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, upon
312 receipt of a written complaint, in such form and containing such
313 information as the executive director may require, from any person
314 alleging that there have been repeated landings or takeoffs by aircraft
315 from any real property not licensed as an airport, heliport, vertiport,
316 restricted landing area or other air navigation facility under the
317 provisions of section 13b-46, as amended by this act, may require the
318 owner of such property to keep records of all landings and takeoffs
319 made by aircraft from such property for a period of one year. Upon
320 receipt of such records, the executive director shall, within ten days,
321 forward [them] such records to the chief elected official of the
322 municipality in which such area or facility is located. The provisions of
323 this subsection shall not apply to any landing or takeoff made by
324 military aircraft or an emergency medical service organization, any
325 landing made for emergency purposes or [to] any landing or takeoff
326 made at an annual special event or for agricultural purposes.

327 (b) The executive director shall adopt written procedures in
328 accordance with the provisions of section 1-121 to implement the
329 provisions of subsection (a) of this section. The procedures shall include,
330 but not be limited to, the type of information the property owner may
331 be required to record, the procedures for transmitting such information
332 to the executive director and standards for determining what constitutes

333 an annual special event and agricultural purposes.

334 (c) Any person who violates any provision of this section or any
335 procedure adopted pursuant to this section shall be fined not more than
336 five hundred dollars.

337 (d) In addition to the fine imposed pursuant to subsection (c) of this
338 section, a municipality may, by ordinance, establish a fine of not more
339 than two hundred fifty dollars for violating any provision of this section.

340 Sec. 10. Section 15-41 of the general statutes is repealed and the
341 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

342 The executive director may perform such acts, issue and amend such
343 orders, and make and amend such reasonable general or special
344 [regulations and procedure] procedures and establish such minimum
345 standards, consistent with the provisions of this chapter, as the
346 executive director deems necessary or appropriate, and which are
347 commensurate with and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the
348 general public interest and safety, the safety of persons receiving
349 instruction concerning, or operating, using or traveling in, aircraft, of
350 persons operating or using unmanned aircraft, and of persons and
351 property on land or water, and to develop and promote aeronautics in
352 this state. No [regulation] procedure of the executive director shall
353 apply to airports or other air navigation facilities owned by the federal
354 government within this state.

355 Sec. 11. Section 15-71b of the general statutes is repealed and the
356 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

357 As used in [section] sections 15-45, as amended by this act, and 15-
358 71a, as amended by this act, and chapter 267:

359 [(a)] (1) "Aircraft accident" means an occurrence associated with the
360 operation of an aircraft which takes place between the time any person
361 boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all such
362 persons have disembarked, in which any person suffers death or serious

363 injury as a result of such person being in or upon the aircraft or in direct
364 contact with the aircraft or anything attached thereto or as a result of the
365 operation of the aircraft, or the aircraft receives substantial damage;

366 [(b)] (2) "Operator" means any person who causes or authorizes the
367 operation of an aircraft or unmanned aircraft, such as the owner, lessee
368 or bailee of an aircraft or an unmanned aircraft;

369 [(c)] (3) "Substantial damage" means (A) damage in excess of one
370 thousand dollars to the property of any person, or (B) damage or
371 structural failure which adversely affects the structural strength,
372 performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft or unmanned
373 aircraft, and which would normally require major repair or replacement
374 of the affected component, [except that] but does not include engine
375 failure, damage limited to an engine, bent fairings or cowling, dented
376 skin, small punctured holes in the skin of fabric, ground damage to rotor
377 or propeller blades and damage to landing gear, wheels, tires, flaps,
378 engine accessories, brakes or wing tips; [are not considered "substantial
379 damage" for the purpose of this part.] and

380 (4) "Unmanned aircraft accident" means an occurrence associated
381 with the operation of an unmanned aircraft that takes place between the
382 time an unmanned aircraft takes off until such unmanned aircraft lands,
383 in which any person suffers death or serious injury because of such
384 person being in direct contact with the unmanned aircraft or anything
385 attached thereto or because of the operation of the unmanned aircraft,
386 or the unmanned aircraft incurs or causes substantial damage.

387 Sec. 12. Section 15-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the
388 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

389 The executive director may hold investigations, inquiries and
390 hearings concerning matters covered by the provisions of this chapter,
391 aircraft accidents, unmanned aircraft accidents or orders and
392 [regulations] procedures of the executive director.

393 Sec. 13. Section 15-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the

394 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

395 In any case in which the executive director of the Connecticut Airport
396 Authority refuses to issue a certificate of approval of, or license or
397 renewal of license for, an airport, restricted landing area, heliport,
398 vertiport or other air navigation facility, or in any case in which the
399 executive director issues any order requiring certain things to be done
400 or revoking any license, the executive director shall set forth the reasons
401 therefor and shall state the requirements to be met before such approval
402 shall be given, license granted or order modified or changed. Any order
403 made by the executive director pursuant to the provisions of this chapter
404 shall be served upon the interested persons by registered or certified
405 mail or in person. To carry out the provisions of this chapter, the
406 executive director and any official or employee of the authority and any
407 state or municipal officer charged with the duty of enforcing this chapter
408 may inspect and examine at reasonable hours any premises and the
409 buildings and other structures thereon where airports, restricted
410 landing areas, heliports, vertiports, air schools, flying clubs or other air
411 navigation facilities or aeronautical activities are operated or carried on.
412 No provision of this section shall prohibit the executive director from
413 suspending or revoking the right of any person to pilot, or the right to
414 any operation of any aircraft within this state, for any cause that is
415 deemed sufficient, with or without a hearing. No appeal taken from the
416 action of the executive director shall act as a stay of suspension or
417 revocation except with the executive director's consent and under such
418 conditions as the executive director may prescribe. No service of process
419 shall be necessary in connection with any of the prescribed activities of
420 the executive director. The term of any suspension or revocation shall
421 commence upon notice thereof by the executive director.

422 Sec. 14. Section 15-69 of the general statutes is repealed and the
423 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

424 (a) Any person who interferes or tampers with any airport, heliport,
425 vertiport, landing field or airway or the equipment thereof or who
426 interferes or tampers with or circumvents, attempts to circumvent or

427 thwart any security device or equipment installed or who circumvents,
428 attempts to circumvent or fails to comply with security measures or
429 procedures in operation at any airport shall be guilty of a class D felony.

430 (b) Any person who knowingly or intentionally provides false
431 information, makes a false written statement or withholds relevant
432 information on any application or other document required by airport
433 or airplane operator security plans or measures pursuant to federal law
434 and regulations which is submitted to any airport owner or operator, air
435 carrier, airport tenant, concessionaire or contractor shall be fined not
436 more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year
437 or be both fined and imprisoned.

438 Sec. 15. Section 15-71a of the general statutes is repealed and the
439 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

440 Any pilot, whether resident or nonresident, of a civil aircraft involved
441 in an aircraft accident [resulting in personal injury or substantial
442 damage to the aircraft] and any operator, whether resident or
443 nonresident, of an unmanned aircraft involved in an unmanned aircraft
444 accident shall immediately notify the executive director or the state
445 police. If the pilot, [or] pilots, operator or operators are incapacitated,
446 any person who caused or authorized the operation of such aircraft or
447 unmanned aircraft at the time of the accident shall be responsible for
448 giving such notification. [A] The pilot, pilots, operator or operators shall
449 file a written report [shall be filed] concerning the accident with the
450 executive director [within] not later than fourteen calendar days after
451 such accident on a form prescribed by the executive director. If
452 requested by the executive director, a written report may also be
453 required for an aircraft or unmanned accident when the damage is less
454 than substantial damage. The executive director may make an
455 investigation of such accidents as [he or she] the executive director
456 deems advisable or in lieu of a detailed investigation, may accept a copy
457 of the final report by a federal investigation agency.

458 Sec. 16. Section 15-72 of the general statutes is repealed and the

459 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

460 No person shall operate any aircraft or unmanned aircraft carelessly,
461 negligently or recklessly, or in such a manner as to endanger the
462 property, life or limb of any person, having regard to the proximity of
463 other aircraft or unmanned aircraft, weather conditions, field conditions
464 and, while in flight, the territory flown over.

465 Sec. 17. Section 15-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the
466 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

467 Where necessary in order to provide unobstructed air space for the
468 landing and taking-off of aircraft, in the case of airports, heliports,
469 vertiports and restricted landing areas acquired or operated by the
470 authority, the executive director or, if a taking is required, the
471 Commissioner of Transportation, and, in the case of municipal airports,
472 the municipality, is granted authority to acquire, in the same manner as
473 is provided for the acquisition of property for airport purposes,
474 easements through or other interests in air space over land or water,
475 interests in airport hazards outside the boundaries of the airports,
476 heliports, vertiports or restricted landing areas, and such other airport
477 protection privileges as are necessary to insure safe approaches to the
478 landing areas of such airports, heliports, vertiports and restricted
479 landing areas and the safe and efficient operation thereof. The executive
480 director or, if a taking is required, said commissioner, is empowered to
481 acquire in the same manner the right of easement for a term of years or
482 perpetually to place or maintain suitable marks for the daytime marking
483 and suitable lights for the nighttime marking of airport hazards for the
484 purpose of maintaining and repairing such lights and marks. No person
485 shall build, rebuild or create or cause to be built, rebuilt or created any
486 object, or plant, cause to be planted or permit to grow higher any tree or
487 trees or other vegetation, which encroach upon any airport protection
488 privileges acquired pursuant to the provisions of this section. Any such
489 encroachment is declared to be a public nuisance and may be abated in
490 the manner prescribed by law for the abatement of public nuisances, or
491 the municipality in charge of the airport, heliport, vertiport or restricted

492 landing area for which airport protection privileges have been acquired
493 as provided in this section may go upon the land of others and remove
494 any such encroachment without being liable for damages in so doing.
495 Before exercising any of the powers conferred [herein] in this section,
496 the executive director shall establish and publish in detailed form,
497 available to the public, the standards which the executive director has
498 adopted and will apply in making a determination that public
499 convenience and necessity require the taking of any parcel of land or
500 interest therein.

501 Sec. 18. Section 15-74a of the general statutes is repealed and the
502 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

503 Terms used in this section and sections 15-74b and 15-74c [,] shall be
504 construed as follows, unless another meaning is expressed or is clearly
505 apparent from the language or the context: "public service company"
506 means "public service company" as defined by section 16-1; "public
507 airport" means any state or municipality owned airport, heliport,
508 vertiport, restricted landing area or other air navigational facility or any
509 facility licensed by the executive director of the Connecticut Airport
510 Authority under section 13b-46, as amended by this act, except any
511 privately owned airport, heliport, vertiport, restricted landing area or
512 air navigational facility unless the same has been on file with the Federal
513 Aviation Administration for a period of at least two years and
514 designated by it as a facility open to the public; and "clear zone" means
515 an area extending for up to one-half mile from the end of a runway on a
516 public airport and designated by the executive director as a clear zone
517 in accordance with [regulations] procedures adopted by the executive
518 director.

519 Sec. 19. Section 15-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the
520 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

521 (a) No person shall operate or attempt to operate any aircraft or
522 unmanned aircraft on the ground or in the air while under the influence
523 of intoxicating liquor or of any drug.

524 (b) No person shall operate or attempt to operate any aircraft on the
525 ground or in the air carrying passengers who are under the influence of
526 intoxicating liquor or of any drug.

527 (c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a
528 first offense, be guilty of a class C misdemeanor and, for any subsequent
529 offense, be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

530 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The Connecticut Airport
531 Authority, in consultation with representatives from the unmanned
532 aircraft industry and organizations representing municipalities, may
533 adopt procedures pursuant to the provisions of section 1-121 of the
534 general statutes that (1) specify where unmanned aircraft may take off
535 and land, giving consideration to public health and safety, aesthetics
536 and the general welfare, and (2) govern the operation of unmanned
537 aircraft, unless otherwise prohibited by or provided for in federal law.

538 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this
539 section, (1) "aircraft" and "unmanned aircraft" have the same meanings
540 as provided in section 15-34 of the general statutes, as amended by this
541 act, (2) "deadly weapon", "dangerous instrument" and "firearm" have
542 the same meanings as provided in section 53a-3 of the general statutes,
543 (3) "ammunition" has the same meaning as provided in section 53a-217
544 of the general statutes, (4) "explosive or incendiary device" has the same
545 meaning as provided in section 53-206b of the general statutes, (5)
546 "armed forces of the United States" has the same meaning as "armed
547 forces" in section 27-103 of the general statutes, and (6) "armed forces of
548 the state" has the same meaning as described in section 27-2 of the
549 general statutes.

550 (b) No person shall equip an aircraft or unmanned aircraft with a
551 deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, firearm, ammunition or
552 explosive or incendiary device.

553 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any aircraft or
554 unmanned aircraft operated by a member of the armed forces of the
555 United States or armed forces of the state while engaged in the

556 performance of such member's official duties.

557 (d) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
558 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

559 Sec. 22. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this
560 section, "unmanned aircraft" has the same meaning as provided in
561 section 15-34 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

562 (b) No person shall operate an unmanned aircraft, or program an
563 unmanned aircraft to operate, at a height of less than two hundred fifty
564 feet over the boundaries of private premises without the prior approval
565 of the owner of such premises.

566 (c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall have
567 committed an infraction.

568 Sec. 23. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this
569 section:

570 (1) "Unmanned aircraft" has the same meaning as provided in section
571 15-34 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

572 (2) "Critical infrastructure facility" means the following, if the
573 property is completely enclosed by a fence or other physical barrier that
574 is clearly designed to exclude intruders, or if the property is clearly
575 marked with a sign or signs that are posted on the property, are
576 reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders and indicate that
577 entry is forbidden: (A) An electrical generating facility, electric
578 substation or switchyard or electric control system, (B) a facility for
579 storing, receiving or processing petroleum products and other fuels, (C)
580 a chemical or rubber manufacturing or storage facility, (D) a correctional
581 facility, (E) a telecommunications central office or wireless
582 telecommunications infrastructure, (F) a commercial port, harbor, rail
583 yard, truck terminal or other freight transportation facility, (G) a plant
584 for the manufacture and distribution of gas, (H) a transmission facility
585 of a television or radio station licensed by the Federal Communications

586 Commission, (I) any portion of an above-ground oil, gas or chemical
587 pipeline, (J) a dam classified as a high or significant hazard by the
588 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, (K) an air
589 navigation facility, as defined in section 15-34 of the general statutes, as
590 amended by this act, (L) a military facility, as defined in section 27-39 of
591 the general statutes, (M) a water treatment plant, distribution system
592 and pumping station or wastewater treatment plant, collection system
593 and pump station, (N) a government office building, (O) a hospital, or
594 (P) a public safety building or facility.

595 (3) "Armed forces of the United States" has the same meaning as
596 "armed forces" in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

597 (4) "Armed forces of the state" has the same meaning as described in
598 section 27-2 of the general statutes.

599 (5) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-
600 294a of the general statutes.

601 (b) No person shall (1) operate an unmanned aircraft, or program an
602 unmanned aircraft, to operate at a height of less than two hundred fifty
603 feet over or within two hundred fifty horizontal feet of a critical
604 infrastructure facility, or (2) use unmanned aircraft to conduct
605 surveillance of, gather evidence of or collect information about a critical
606 infrastructure facility without the prior approval of the owner or
607 administrator of such facility.

608 (c) The provision of this section shall not apply to (1) the operation of
609 an unmanned aircraft by an employee of the federal or state
610 government, a member of the armed forces of the United States, a
611 member of the armed forces of the state or a police officer when such
612 operation is in the performance of the official duties of such employee,
613 member or officer, or (2) a person operating an unmanned aircraft for
614 commercial purposes in compliance with authorization granted by the
615 Federal Aviation Administration.

616 (d) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be

617 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

618 Sec. 24. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this
619 section, (1) "laser" means any device that projects a beam or point of light
620 by means of light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation or
621 any device that emits light which simulates the appearance of a laser, (2)
622 "aircraft" has the same meaning as provided in section 15-34 of the
623 general statutes, as amended by this act, (3) "armed forces of the United
624 States" has the same meaning as "armed forces" in section 27-103 of the
625 general statutes, (4) "armed forces of the state" has the same meaning as
626 described in section 27-2 of the general statutes, and (5) "police officer"
627 has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general
628 statutes.

629 (b) No person shall intentionally project a laser on or at an aircraft or
630 at the flight path of an aircraft.

631 (c) The provision of this section shall not apply to any member of the
632 armed forces of the United States, armed forces of the state or a police
633 officer acting in the performance of the official duties of such member
634 or officer.

635 (d) Any person who violates the provision of this section shall be
636 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

637 Sec. 25. Subsection (g) of section 30-91 of the 2024 supplement to the
638 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
639 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

640 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) of this section,
641 food or nonalcoholic beverages may be sold, dispensed or consumed in
642 places operating under a cafe permit issued pursuant to subsection (d)
643 of section 30-22a, at any time, as allowed by agreement between the
644 Connecticut Airport Authority and its lessees or concessionaires. In the
645 case of premises operating at Bradley International Airport under a cafe
646 permit, the sale, dispensing or consumption or the presence in glasses
647 or other receptacles suitable to permit the consumption of alcoholic

648 liquor by an individual shall be unlawful on [:(1) Monday, Tuesday,
 649 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between the hours of one o'clock a.m.
 650 and six o'clock a.m., (2) Saturday and Sunday between the hours of two
 651 o'clock a.m. and six o'clock a.m., (3) Christmas, except for alcoholic
 652 liquor that is served where food is also available during the hours
 653 otherwise permitted by this section for the day on which Christmas falls,
 654 and (4) January first between the hours of three o'clock a.m. and six
 655 o'clock a.m.] any day between the hours of eleven o'clock p.m. and four
 656 o'clock a.m.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-34
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-39a
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-39b
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-46
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-48
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-49
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-49a
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-50(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-50p
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-41
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-71b
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-45
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-66
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-69
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-71a
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-72
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-73
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	15-74a
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	15-77
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	30-91(g)

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Connecticut Airport Authority regarding vertiports, unmanned aircraft, lasers and the sale of alcoholic liquor at Bradley International Airport.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]