



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5273

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION WITHIN
THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 12-94a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 On or before July first, annually, the [tax collector] assessor of each
4 municipality shall certify to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
5 Management, on a form furnished by said secretary, the amount of tax
6 revenue which such municipality, except for the provisions of
7 subdivision (55) of section 12-81, would have received, together with
8 such supporting information as said secretary may require, except that
9 for the assessment year commencing October 1, 2003, such certification
10 shall be made to the secretary on or before August 1, 2004. Any
11 municipality which neglects to transmit to said secretary such claim and
12 supporting documentation as required by this section shall forfeit two
13 hundred fifty dollars to the state, provided said secretary may waive
14 such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards adopted
15 by regulation in accordance with chapter 54. Said secretary shall review
16 each such claim as provided in section 12-120b. Any claimant aggrieved
17 by the results of the secretary's review shall have the rights of appeal as

18 set forth in section 12-120b. The secretary shall, on or before December
19 fifteenth, annually, certify to the Comptroller the amount due each
20 municipality under the provisions of this section, including any
21 modification of such claim made prior to December fifteenth, and the
22 Comptroller shall draw an order on the Treasurer on the fifth business
23 day following and the Treasurer shall pay the amount thereof to such
24 municipality on or before the thirty-first day of December following. If
25 any modification is made as the result of the provisions of this section
26 on or after the December fifteenth following the date on which the [tax
27 collector] assessor has provided the amount of tax revenue in question,
28 any adjustments to the amount due to any municipality for the period
29 for which such modification was made shall be made in the next
30 payment the Treasurer shall make to such municipality pursuant to this
31 section. For the purposes of this section, "municipality" means a town,
32 city, borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and
33 borough. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the assessment
34 year commencing on October 1, 2002. In the fiscal year commencing July
35 1, 2004, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the grant
36 payable to each municipality in accordance with this section shall be
37 reduced proportionately in the event that the total amount of the grants
38 payable to all municipalities exceeds the amount appropriated.

39 Sec. 2. Section 12-9 of the general statutes is repealed and the
40 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

41 [The] Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
42 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall [annually] cause
43 to be prepared by the tax collector complete statements relating to the
44 mill rate and tax levy [during the preceding] for the ensuing fiscal year,
45 such statements to be made upon printed blanks to be prepared and
46 furnished by the secretary to all such officers at least thirty days before
47 the date prescribed by the secretary for the filing of such statements.
48 Any person who neglects to file a true and correct report in the office of
49 the secretary at the time and in the form required by [him] the secretary
50 or which, in making and filing such report, includes therein any wilful

51 misstatement, shall forfeit one hundred dollars to the state, provided the
52 secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and
53 standards adopted by regulation in accordance with chapter 54.

54 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 7-325 of the general statutes is
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
56 *passage*):

57 (d) Not later than July 1, [2022] 2024, and annually thereafter, the tax
58 collector of each district shall submit a statement to the Secretary of the
59 Office of Policy and Management on a form prescribed by the secretary.
60 Such statement shall include complete information concerning the mill
61 rate and tax levy in the district for the [preceding] ensuing fiscal year.
62 Any tax collector who neglects to submit a true and correct statement
63 shall forfeit one hundred dollars to the state.

64 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2024, and
65 annually thereafter, each special services district established under
66 chapter 105a of the general statutes shall submit a statement to the
67 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on a form prescribed
68 by the secretary. Such statement shall include complete information
69 concerning the mill rate and tax levy in the district for the ensuing fiscal
70 year. Any such district that neglects to submit a true and correct
71 statement shall forfeit one hundred dollars to the state.

72 Sec. 5. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-62c of the general
73 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
74 (*Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or*
75 *after October 1, 2024*):

76 (a) (1) A town implementing a revaluation of all real property may
77 phase in a real property assessment increase, or a portion of such
78 increase resulting from such revaluation, by requiring the assessor to
79 gradually increase the assessment or the rate of assessment applicable
80 to such property in the assessment year preceding that in which the
81 revaluation is implemented, in accordance with one of the methods set

82 forth in subsection (b) of this section. The legislative body of the town
83 shall approve the decision to provide for such phase-in, the method by
84 which it is accomplished and its term, provided the number of
85 assessment years over which such gradual increases are reflected shall
86 not exceed five assessment years, including the assessment year for
87 which the revaluation is effective. If a town chooses to phase in a portion
88 of the increase in the assessment of each parcel of real property resulting
89 from said revaluation, said legislative body shall establish a factor,
90 which shall be not less than twenty-five per cent in any assessment year
91 commencing prior to October 1, 2024, or twenty per cent in any
92 assessment year commencing on or after October 1, 2024, and shall
93 apply such factor to such increases for all parcels of real property,
94 regardless of property classification. A town choosing to phase in a
95 portion of assessment increase shall multiply such factor by the total
96 assessment increase for each such parcel to determine the amount of
97 such increase that shall not be subject to the phase-in. The assessment
98 increase for each parcel that shall be subject to the gradual increases in
99 amounts or rates of assessment, as provided in subsection (b) of this
100 section, shall be (A) the difference between the result of said
101 multiplication and the total assessment increase for any such parcel, or
102 (B) the result derived when such factor is subtracted from the actual
103 percentage by which the assessment of each such parcel increased as a
104 result of such revaluation, over the assessment of such parcel in the
105 preceding assessment year and said result is multiplied by such parcel's
106 total assessment increase.

107 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 8-23 of the general statutes is repealed
108 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

109 (a) (1) At least once every ten years, the commission shall prepare or
110 amend and shall adopt a plan of conservation and development for the
111 municipality. Following adoption, the commission shall regularly
112 review and maintain such plan. The commission may adopt such
113 geographical, functional or other amendments to the plan or parts of the
114 plan, in accordance with the provisions of this section, as it deems

115 necessary. The commission may, at any time, prepare, amend and adopt
116 plans for the redevelopment and improvement of districts or
117 neighborhoods which, in its judgment, contain special problems or
118 opportunities or show a trend toward lower land values.

119 (2) If a plan is not amended decennially, the chief elected official of
120 the municipality shall submit a letter to the Secretary of the Office of
121 Policy and Management and the Commissioners of Transportation,
122 Energy and Environmental Protection and Economic and Community
123 Development that explains why such plan was not amended. A copy of
124 such letter shall be included in each application by the municipality for
125 discretionary state funding in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars
126 submitted to any state agency.

127 Sec. 7. Section 4-124s of the general statutes is repealed and the
128 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

129 (a) For purposes of this section:

130 (1) "Regional council of governments" means any such council
131 organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive;

132 (2) "Municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and
133 borough;

134 (3) "Legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town council,
135 city council, board of alderman, board of directors, board of
136 representatives or board of the warden and burgesses of a municipality;

137 (4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
138 Management or the designee of the secretary;

139 (5) "Regional educational service center" has the same meaning as
140 provided in section 10-282; and

141 (6) "Employee organization" means any lawful association, labor
142 organization, federation or council having as a primary purpose the

143 improvement of wages, hours and other conditions of employment.

144 (b) There is established a regional performance incentive program
145 that shall be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
146 Management. Any regional council of governments, regional
147 educational service center or a combination thereof may submit a
148 proposal to the secretary for: (1) The provision of any service that [one]
149 two or more participating municipalities of such council or local or
150 regional board of education of such regional educational service center
151 [currently] may provide [but which is not provided] on a regional and
152 ongoing basis, (2) the redistribution of grants awarded pursuant to
153 sections 4-66g, 4-66h, 4-66m and 7-536, according to regional priorities,
154 or (3) regional revenue sharing among such participating municipalities
155 pursuant to section 7-148bb. A copy of said proposal shall be sent to the
156 legislators representing said participating municipalities or local or
157 regional boards of education. Any regional educational service center
158 serving a population greater than one hundred thousand may submit a
159 proposal to the secretary for a regional special education initiative.

160 (c) (1) A regional council of governments or regional educational
161 service center shall submit each proposal in the form and manner the
162 secretary prescribes and shall, at a minimum, provide the following
163 information for each proposal: (A) Service or initiative description; (B)
164 the explanation of the need for such service or initiative; (C) the method
165 of delivering such service or initiative on a regional basis; (D) the
166 organization that would be responsible for regional service or initiative
167 delivery; (E) a description of the population that would be served; (F)
168 the manner in which the proposed regional service or initiative delivery
169 will achieve economies of scale for participating municipalities or
170 boards of education; (G) [the amount by which participating
171 municipalities will reduce their mill rates as a result of savings realized]
172 an estimate of anticipated savings or costs that will not be incurred by
173 participating municipalities during the grant award period and in fiscal
174 years beyond such period; (H) a cost benefit analysis for the provision
175 of the service or initiative by each participating municipality and by the

176 entity or board of education submitting the proposal; (I) a plan of
177 implementation for delivery of the service or initiative on a regional
178 basis that addresses any potential growth or reduction in rates of
179 participation during the grant award period; (J) a resolution endorsing
180 such proposal approved by the governing body of the council or center,
181 which shall include a statement affirming that the council or center shall
182 fund an increasing proportion of the cost of such proposal over the
183 duration of the grant award period, that not less than [twenty-five] fifty
184 per cent of the total cost of such proposal shall be funded by the council
185 or center [in the first year of operation, and that by the fourth year of
186 operation the council or center] by the end of the grant award period
187 and that the council or center shall fund one hundred per cent of such
188 cost thereafter; (K) a resolution endorsing such proposal approved by
189 the governing body of the council of each planning region in which the
190 service or initiative is to be provided; (L) a copy of an acknowledgment
191 from any employee organization that may be impacted by such
192 proposal that they have been informed of and consulted about the
193 proposal; and (M) an explanation of the potential legal obstacles, if any,
194 to the regional provision of the service or initiative, and how such
195 obstacles will be resolved.

196 (2) The secretary shall review each proposal and shall award grants
197 for proposals the secretary determines best satisfy the following criteria:
198 (A) The proposed service or initiative will (i) reduce municipal and state
199 costs, (ii) enhance capacity in the delivery of services, or (iii) result in an
200 improvement in the level of service provided when compared to the
201 local delivery of such service, (B) the proposed service or initiative will
202 be available to or benefit all participating members of the regional
203 council of governments or regional educational service center regardless
204 of such members' participation in the grant application process; [(B)
205 when compared to the existing delivery of services by participating
206 members of the council or center, the proposal demonstrates (i) a
207 positive cost benefit to such members, (ii) increased efficiency and
208 capacity in the delivery of services, (iii) a diminished need for state
209 funding, and (iv) increased cost savings;] (C) the proposed service or

210 initiative promotes cooperation among participating members that may
211 lead to a reduction in economic or social inequality; (D) the proposal has
212 been approved by a majority of the members of the council or center;
213 [and, pursuant to this subsection, contains a statement that not less than
214 twenty-five per cent of the cost of such proposal shall be funded by the
215 council or center in the first year of operation, and that by the fourth
216 year of operation the council or center shall fund one hundred per cent
217 of such cost;] and (E) any employee organizations that may be impacted
218 by such proposal have been informed of and consulted about such
219 proposal, pursuant to this subsection.

220 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-339a to 7-339l,
221 inclusive, or any other provision of the general statutes, no regional
222 council of governments or regional educational service center or any
223 member municipalities or local or regional boards of education of such
224 councils or centers shall be required to execute an interlocal agreement
225 to implement a proposal submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of this
226 section.

227 (e) Any board of education awarded a grant for a proposal submitted
228 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may deposit any cost savings
229 realized as a result of the implementation of the proposed service or
230 initiative into a nonlapsing account pursuant to section 10-248a.

231 (f) The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing
232 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
233 relating to finance, revenue and bonding a report on the grants provided
234 pursuant to this section. Each such report shall (1) include information
235 on the amount of each grant and the potential of each grant for
236 leveraging other public and private investments, and (2) describe any
237 [property tax reductions] municipal or state cost savings and improved
238 services achieved by means of the program established pursuant to this
239 section. The secretary shall submit a report for the fiscal year
240 commencing July 1, 2011, not later than February 1, 2012, and shall
241 submit a report for each subsequent fiscal year not later than the first
242 day of March in such fiscal year.

243 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 12-170d of the general statutes is
244 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
245 *2024*):

246 (a) Beginning with the calendar year 1973 and for each calendar year
247 thereafter any renter of real property, or of a mobile manufactured
248 home, as defined in section 12-63a, which such renter occupies as his or
249 her home, who meets the qualifications set forth in this section, shall be
250 entitled to receive in the following year in the form of direct payment
251 from the state, a grant in refund of utility and rent bills actually paid by
252 or for such renter on such real property or mobile manufactured home
253 to the extent set forth in section 12-170e. Such grant by the state shall be
254 made upon receipt by the state of a certificate of grant with a copy of the
255 application therefor attached, as provided in section 12-170f, as
256 amended by this act. [, provided such application shall be made within
257 one year from the close of the calendar year for which the grant is
258 requested.] If the rental quarters are occupied by more than one person,
259 it shall be assumed for the purposes of this section and sections 12-170e
260 and 12-170f, as amended by this act, that each of such persons pays his
261 or her proportionate share of the rental and utility expenses levied
262 thereon and grants shall be calculated on that portion of utility and rent
263 bills paid that are applicable to the person making application for grant
264 under said sections. For purposes of this section and sections 12-170e
265 and 12-170f, as amended by this act, a married couple shall constitute
266 one tenant, and a resident of cooperative housing shall be a renter. To
267 qualify for such payment by the state, the renter shall meet qualification
268 requirements in accordance with each of the following subdivisions: (1)
269 (A) At the close of the calendar year for which a grant is claimed be sixty-
270 five years of age or over, or his or her spouse who is residing with such
271 renter shall be sixty-five years of age or over, at the close of such year,
272 or be fifty years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a renter who
273 at the time of his or her death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief
274 under this chapter, provided such spouse was domiciled with such
275 renter at the time of his or her death, or (B) at the close of the calendar
276 year for which a grant is claimed be under age sixty-five and eligible in

277 accordance with applicable federal regulations, to receive permanent
278 total disability benefits under Social Security, or if such renter has not
279 been engaged in employment covered by Social Security and
280 accordingly has not qualified for Social Security benefits but has become
281 qualified for permanent total disability benefits under any federal, state
282 or local government retirement or disability plan, including the Railroad
283 Retirement Act and any government-related teacher's retirement plan,
284 determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to
285 contain requirements in respect to qualification for such permanent total
286 disability benefits which are comparable to such requirements under
287 Social Security; (2) shall reside within this state and shall have resided
288 within this state for at least one year or such renter's spouse who is
289 domiciled with such renter shall have resided within this state for at
290 least one year and shall reside within this state at the time of filing the
291 claim and shall have resided within this state for the period for which
292 claim is made; (3) shall have taxable and nontaxable income, the total of
293 which shall hereinafter be called "qualifying income", during the
294 calendar year preceding the filing of such renter's claim in an amount of
295 not more than twenty thousand dollars, jointly with spouse, if married,
296 and not more than sixteen thousand two hundred dollars if unmarried,
297 provided such maximum amounts of qualifying income shall be subject
298 to adjustment in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
299 section 12-170e, and provided the amount of any Medicaid payments
300 made on behalf of the renter or the spouse of the renter shall not
301 constitute income; and (4) shall not have received financial aid or
302 subsidy from federal, state, county or municipal funds, excluding Social
303 Security receipts, emergency energy assistance under any state
304 program, emergency energy assistance under any federal program,
305 emergency energy assistance under any local program, payments
306 received under the federal Supplemental Security Income Program,
307 payments derived from previous employment, veterans and veterans
308 disability benefits and subsidized housing accommodations, during the
309 calendar year for which a grant is claimed, for payment, directly or
310 indirectly, of rent, electricity, gas, water and fuel applicable to the rented
311 residence. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (4) of this

312 subsection, a renter who receives cash assistance from the Department
313 of Social Services in the calendar year prior to that in which such renter
314 files an application for a grant may be entitled to receive such grant
315 provided the amount of the cash assistance received shall be deducted
316 from the amount of such grant and the difference between the amount
317 of the cash assistance and the amount of the grant is equal to or greater
318 than ten dollars. Funds attributable to such reductions shall be
319 transferred annually from the appropriation to the Office of Policy and
320 Management, for tax relief for elderly renters, to the Department of
321 Social Services, to the appropriate accounts, following the issuance of
322 such grants. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of section
323 12-170aa, the owner of a mobile manufactured home may elect to
324 receive benefits under section 12-170e in lieu of benefits under said
325 section 12-170aa.

326 Sec. 9. Section 12-170f of the general statutes is repealed and the
327 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

328 (a) Any renter, believing himself or herself to be entitled to a grant
329 under section 12-170d, as amended by this act, for any calendar year,
330 shall apply for such grant to the assessor of the municipality in which
331 the renter resides or to the duly authorized agent of such assessor or
332 municipality on or after April first and not later than [October first]
333 September thirtieth of each year with respect to such grant for the
334 calendar year preceding each such year. Such application shall be made
335 on a form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the Office of
336 Policy and Management or electronically in a manner prescribed by the
337 secretary. Municipalities that require notarization of a landlord
338 verification of property rental on an application under this section (1)
339 shall exempt a renter from the requirement if a landlord verification for
340 the same property rental by the same renter has been previously
341 notarized, and (2) shall not delay submission of the application of an
342 otherwise qualified renter to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
343 Management if the renter fails to meet the deadline for notarizing such
344 landlord verification. [A renter may apply to the secretary prior to

345 November fifteenth of the claim year for an extension of the application
346 period. The secretary may grant such extension in the case of
347 extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as evidenced
348 by a certificate signed by a physician, physician assistant or an advanced
349 practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines
350 there is good cause for doing so.] A renter making such application shall
351 present to such assessor or agent, in substantiation of the renter's
352 application, a copy of the renter's federal income tax return, and if not
353 required to file a federal income tax return, such other evidence of
354 qualifying income, receipts for money received, or cancelled checks, or
355 copies thereof, and any other evidence the assessor or such agent may
356 require. When the assessor or agent is satisfied that the applying renter
357 is entitled to a grant, such assessor or agent shall issue a certificate of
358 grant in such form as the secretary may prescribe and supply showing
359 the amount of the grant due.

360 (b) The assessor or agent shall forward the application to the secretary
361 not later than the last day of the month following the month in which
362 the renter has made application. Any municipality that neglects to
363 transmit to the secretary the application as required by this section shall
364 forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state, provided the secretary may
365 waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards
366 adopted by regulation in accordance with chapter 54. The certificate of
367 grant shall be delivered to the renter and the assessor or agent shall keep
368 the original copy of such certificate and application.

369 (c) After the secretary's review of each claim, pursuant to section 12-
370 120b, and verification of the amount of the grant, the secretary shall
371 make a determination of any per cent reduction to all claims that will be
372 necessary to keep within available appropriations and, not later than
373 [October] November fifteenth of each year, prepare a list of certificates
374 approved for payment, and shall thereafter supplement such list
375 monthly. Such list and any supplements thereto shall be approved for
376 payment by the secretary and shall be forwarded by the secretary to the
377 Comptroller, along with a notice of any per cent reduction in claim

378 amounts, and the Comptroller shall, not later than fifteen days following
379 receipt of such list, draw an order on the Treasurer in favor of each
380 person on such list and on supplements to such list in the amount of
381 such person's claim, minus any per cent reduction noticed by the
382 secretary pursuant to this subsection, and the Treasurer shall pay such
383 amount to such person, not later than fifteen days following receipt of
384 such order.

385 (d) If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
386 determines a renter was overpaid for such grant, the amount of any
387 subsequent grant paid to the renter under section 12-170d, as amended
388 by this act, after such determination shall be reduced by the amount of
389 overpayment until the overpayment has been recouped. Any claimant
390 aggrieved by the results of the secretary's review or determination shall
391 have the rights of appeal as set forth in section 12-120b. Applications
392 filed under this section shall not be open for public inspection. Any
393 person who, for the purpose of obtaining a grant under section 12-170d,
394 as amended by this act, wilfully fails to disclose all matters related
395 thereto or with intent to defraud makes false statement shall be fined
396 not more than five hundred dollars.

397 (e) Any municipality may provide, upon approval by its legislative
398 body, that the duties and responsibilities of the assessor, as required
399 under this section and section 12-170g, shall be transferred to (1) the
400 officer in such municipality having responsibility for the administration
401 of social services, or (2) the coordinator or agent for the elderly in such
402 municipality.

403 Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 19a-200 of the general statutes is
404 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
405 *2024*):

406 (c) In cities, towns or boroughs with a population of forty thousand
407 or more for five consecutive years, according to the [estimated
408 population figures authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of section
409 8-159a] most recent federal decennial census, or, in intervening years

410 between such censuses, the most recent estimate of the Department of
411 Public Health, such director of health shall serve in a full-time capacity,
412 except where a town has designated such director as the chief medical
413 advisor for its public schools under section 10-205.

414 Sec. 11. Sections 8-159a and 12-19f of the general statutes are repealed.
415 (*Effective July 1, 2024*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	12-94a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	12-9
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	7-325(d)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-62c(a)(1)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	8-23(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	4-124s
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	12-170d(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	12-170f
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	19a-200(c)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 7(f)(2), "local" was changed to "municipal" for consistency.

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*