Whereas, the Regular Session 2024 General Assembly adjourned on May 8, 2024 in accordance with the Constitution of Connecticut, and

Whereas, the Governor has disapproved certain bills passed by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly and has transmitted same to the Secretary of the State with his objections: and

Whereas, said bills were not reconsidered by the General Assembly or were so disapproved by the Governor after said adjournment.

Now Therefore, as required by Article Third of the Amendments to the Constitution of Connecticut, I hereby call the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly to reconvene in session at Hartford on Monday, June 24, 2024, at ten o'clock in the morning, for a period not to exceed three days following such reconvening, for the sole purpose of reconsidering and, if the General Assembly so desires, repassing said bill.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the State at the City of Hartford, this 18th day of June 2024.

Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE:

May 29, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT

Dear Madame Secretary:


While I understand the intention behind this Act to increase efficiency in municipal contracting processes, I have serious concerns that I believe necessitate this veto.

First and foremost, the proposed amendment to section 7-148v of the general statutes raises the threshold for sealed bidding on certain municipal contracts from twenty-five thousand dollars to fifty thousand dollars. The threshold of twenty-five thousand dollars was established in 2013, an inflation adjustment would increase the threshold to approximately thirty-five thousand dollars. This bill has a significant increase above that number. While the goal may be to streamline administrative procedures and reduce bureaucratic hurdles, I cannot overlook the potential risks associated with reducing transparency and accountability in the awarding of public contracts.

Competitive bidding processes are essential to ensure fairness, quality, and cost-effectiveness in public procurement. By increasing the threshold for sealed bidding, we run the risk of limiting competition, potentially leading to inflated costs, reduced quality of services or goods, and even unethical practices such as favoritism or collusion.

In an era where transparency, accountability, and efficiency are paramount, it is crucial that our laws and regulations keep pace with best practices to ensure the highest level of integrity and value for taxpayers' dollars and that adequate safeguards to prevent abuse or misuse are in place.

I urge the General Assembly to reconsider the implications of this legislation and work towards crafting a more balanced and comprehensive approach to improving municipal contracting processes. I stand ready to collaborate with all stakeholders to develop solutions that promote efficiency, integrity, and fairness in public procurement while upholding the principles of good governance and fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Ned Lamont  
Governor

June 11, 2024

Dear Madam Secretary:

I hereby return, without my signature, House Bill 5431, *An Act Establishing the Stabilization Support and ARPA Replacement Fund.*

While the intention to provide assistance to low-income workers is commendable, there are significant concerns with the language as drafted. The allocation of up to $3,000,000 of unexpended funds into a new, separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund lacks clarity in terms of impact, financial accountability, and oversight. Without a clear mechanism for monitoring the transfer and utilization of the funds, there is risk of inefficiency, mismanagement, and lack of transparency in their intended allocation. It is unclear how the Comptroller will ensure that the funds are used appropriately and effectively to assist low-income workers.

In addition, the absence of detailed guidelines on how the funds will be utilized or the specific criteria for assisting low-income workers presents challenges in ensuring the effective and equitable distribution of resources. The bill does not provide specific details about how the “Connecticut families and workers account” will assist low-income workers. It does not outline the criteria for eligibility or the specific types of assistance that will be provided. Without clear goals or metrics for success, it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of this initiative in addressing the needs of low-income workers.

I remain committed to working with legislature to develop sound policies that ensures the effective use of public funds, maintains transparency and accountability in government operations, and continues to prioritize the needs of our low-income workers and families.

Sincerely,

Ned Lamont
Governor