PA 25-175—sSB 1529
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT REVISING THE EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL REFERENDA AND EQUITY JOINT VENTURES AND CONCERNING CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S NETWORK OF SCHOOLS, THE REPORTING OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL INFORMATION, THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS AND THE DEFERRALS OF CERTAIN TOWNS' REAL PROPERTY REVALUATIONS

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Allows Newington and Trumbull, with legislative body approval, to delay a revaluation scheduled for 2025 to the 2026 assessment year

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes related to provisions on certain municipal referenda, cannabis equity joint ventures, contracts with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the commissioner of education's network of schools, school district financial information reporting, failure to file for certain property tax exemptions, and deferrals of certain towns' real property revaluations.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, as noted below.

§ 1 — START DATE OF VETOED ACT

Specifies the start date of a vetoed act, which would have expanded when certain DEEP decisions on facilities in environmental justice communities may be challenged

This act amends a provision in PA 25-169, which the governor vetoed. That act would have expanded when people can petition for a town referendum to reverse a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) decision on whether to grant a permit to a facility in an environmental justice community. This act specifies the vetoed act would have applied on and after September 30, 2025.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 2 — ELIMINATION OF MINIMUM DISTANCE PROHIBITION

Moves up effective date of provision in PA 25-101 by six months

PA 25-101, § 15, allows cannabis retailer or hybrid retailer equity joint ventures to be located within 20 miles of each other even if they share a common cultivator backer or owner. It does so by eliminating prior law's prohibition against this. This act moves up the effective date of PA 25-101, § 15, from January 1, 2026, to July 1, 2025.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 3 — DDS RATE INCREASES

Amends a provision in PA 25-174 on FY 28 rate increases for DDS-contracted providers by requiring specific increases at the beginning and midpoint of that fiscal year

PA 25-174, § 222, requires the DDS commissioner, in FY 28, to increase rates for DDS-contracted providers to support wage increases from an available $105 million pool. This act instead requires the commissioner, from this $105 million pool, to increase the rates for contracted services on July 1, 2027, and again on January 1, 2028, each time by 3.3%, with an additional 3% for residential services providers.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 4, 5 & 17 — SUNSETTING THE COMMISSIONER'S NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

Sunsets the education commissioner's network of schools program by prohibiting the commissioner from adding any schools to the program after July 1, 2025; permits schools already participating to finish their three-year terms plus any extensions; repeals similar provisions in PA 25-93, §§ 41 & 42

The act sunsets the education commissioner's network of schools program by prohibiting the commissioner from adding more schools to the program after July 1, 2025. Under the program, the commissioner can select up to 25 low-achieving schools to participate and receive intensified State Board of Education (SBE) supervision and direction. Prior law limited the number of schools the commissioner could select in the same school district to five in a single school year. The act removes this limit.

The act permits schools already in the program to finish their program participation and allows schools an additional year or two. Under prior law, at the end of three years, a school could opt for an additional year or two, for a maximum of five years. The act allows an additional year or two for all schools in the program as of the act's effective date (July 1, 2025), so any school in year five as of the effective date has up to two additional years for a maximum of seven. The act repeals PA 25-93, §§ 41 & 42, which sunset the network of schools program but did not allow the program's current participants to have an additional year or two in the program.

The program sets steps the commissioner, school district turnaround committees, and local and regional boards of education must take to improve academic achievement. Each school's turnaround committee must create and implement a turnaround plan, based on a turnaround model it chooses. The law requires the commissioner to give participating schools funding and technical and operational support.

Beginning July 1, 2025, the act requires the commissioner to do an evaluation of a school's participation in the program before the end of its third year of participation. Under prior law, the commissioner had to do this evaluation to determine whether a school was prepared to exit the program.

The act requires the board for the participating school to develop, in consultation with the commissioner and subject to SBE approval, a plan to transition the school back to full control by the local or regional board of education. Under prior law, the board developed this plan if the commissioner determined the school would exit the network or after the school's fifth year of program participation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 6 & 7 — EDUCATION RESERVE FUND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Beginning with FY 26, and then annually, requires (1) local BOEs to report to SDE specified information about their nonlapsing accounts for unspent education funds and (2) regional BOEs to make the same information available about their reserve funds for educational expenditures

By law, local boards of education (BOEs) may deposit unspent education funds into a nonlapsing account. The deposit may be up to 2% of the previous fiscal year's total budgeted appropriation for education, and account expenditures must be only for educational purposes. Additionally, regional BOEs may create reserve funds for educational expenditures and the aggregate amount of annual and supplemental appropriations by a district to the fund cannot exceed 2% of the annual district budget for the fiscal year.

Beginning with FY 26, and then annually, the act requires each (1) local BOE to create and submit to the state Department of Education (SDE) a report on its account, including the total balance, the amount deposited during the fiscal year, and an accounting of expenditures and (2) regional BOE to make available and update information about its reserve fund, including the same information local BOEs must put in their annual reports to SDE. (Under existing law, regional BOEs must annually submit a complete and detailed report on the condition of their reserve fund to member towns.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 8-14 — PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FILING DEADLINES

Allows taxpayers in six municipalities to claim a property tax exemption even though they missed the filing deadline

The act allows taxpayers in six municipalities to claim a property tax exemption for eligible machinery and equipment (CGS § 12-81(76)) for the grand lists shown in the table below, even though they missed the filing deadline to claim the exemption. It does so by waiving the deadline if the taxpayer (1) files for the exemption by July 31, 2025, and (2) pays the statutory late filing fee. The tax assessor must confirm that he or she received the fee, verify the property's eligibility for the exemption, and then approve the exemption. The municipality must refund any taxes, interest, or penalties paid on the property as if the claim was timely filed.

Exemption Deadline Waivers

Municipality	*Grand List*
Berlin	2023 and 2024
Canton	2023
Manchester	2023
Milford	2024
New Haven	2022
Newington	2023

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 15 & 16 — REVALUATION DELAY

Allows Newington and Trumbull, with legislative body approval, to delay a revaluation scheduled for 2025 to the 2026 assessment year

The act allows Newington and Trumbull to delay a revaluation scheduled for 2025 until the 2026 assessment year if their legislative bodies approve the delay. If either town opts to do so, it must implement its next revaluation according to the schedule it was following before the delay. The act allows the towns to prepare new tax bills based on the delayed revaluation.

The act allows the municipalities to make these adjustments regardless of any conflicting requirements in municipal charters, special act or home rule ordinances, or the law on municipal property revaluations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage