General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 6865**

January Session, 2025

* HB06865APP 042525 *

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

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

Section 1. Section 1-1j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Each state agency, as defined in section 4-166, shall accept payment in cash or by check, draft or money order for any license issued by such agency pursuant to the provisions of the general statutes.

(b) Except as provided by any other provision of the general statutes, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may (1) authorize any state agency to accept payment of any fee, cost or fine payable to such agency by means of a credit card, charge card or debit card or an electronic payment service, **[**provided each**]** and (2) require any state agency that accepts payment by means of a credit card, charge card or debit card **[**shall**]** to charge the payor using such card a service fee. **[**, except that such service fee may be waived by such state agency for a category of fee, cost or fine, if such waiver has been approved by said secretary.**]**

(c) (1) Any service fee **[**imposed**]** required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall (A) be for the purpose of defraying the cost of

service, (B) not exceed any charge by the credit card, charge card or debit card issuer or processor, including any discount rate, and (C) be applied only when allowed by the operating rules and regulations of the credit card, charge card or debit card issuer or processor involved or when authorized in writing by such issuer or processor.

(2) Each state agency that charges a service fee pursuant to this section or any other provision of the general statutes shall disclose such service fee to a payor prior to the imposition of such service fee. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with any requirements for disclosure set forth by the card issuer or processor.

(d) Payments by credit card, charge card, debit card or an electronic payment service shall be made at such times and under such conditions as the secretary may prescribe in regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

(e) Payment of a fee, cost or fine, and any applicable service fee, by credit card, charge card, debit card or an electronic payment service shall constitute full payment of such fee, cost, fine or service fee, regardless of any discount applied by a credit card company.

Sec. 2. Section 12-39r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Commissioner of Revenue Services may allow the payment of taxes, penalties, interest and fees by means of a credit card, charge card or debit card and, if required by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-1j, as amended by this act, may charge the taxpayer a service fee for any such payment made by any such card. **[**The fee shall not exceed any charge by the card issuer, including any discount rate.**]** If a service fee is required to be charged for any such card, the commissioner shall determine the rate or amount of the service fee in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 1-1j, as amended by this act. Payments by any such card shall be made at such times and under such conditions as said commissioner may prescribe. The debt incurred through the payment

of taxes by means of any such card shall not be considered a tax collectible pursuant to the provisions of sections 12-35a and 12-35b.

Sec. 3. Section 14-11i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may allow the payment of any fee specified in this chapter or chapter 247 by means of a credit card and, if required by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-1j, as amended by this act, shall charge each payor a service fee for any payment made by means of a credit card. **[**The fee shall not exceed any charge by the credit card issuer or by its authorized agent, including any discount rate.**]** Payments by credit card shall be made under such conditions as the commissioner may prescribe, except that, if a service fee for any such credit card is required to be charged, the commissioner shall determine the rate or amount of the service fee **[**for any such credit card**]** in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 1-1j, as amended by this act. **[**Such service fee may be waived by the commissioner for a category of fee if such waiver has been approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-1j.**]** If any charge with respect to payment of a fee by means of a credit card is not authorized by such issuer or its authorized agent, the commissioner shall assess the payor the fee specified in subsection (f) of section 14-50.

Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(2) The department shall, if required by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-1j, as amended by this act, charge a service fee for each payment made by means of a credit card. **[**The**]** If a service fee for any such credit card is required to be charged, the Commissioner of Public Health shall determine the rate or amount of **[**the**]** such service fee **[**for any such credit card**]** in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of section

1-1j, as amended by this act. **[**Such service fee may be waived by the commissioner for a category of fee if such waiver has been approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-1j.**]**

Sec. 5. Section 45a-113b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Each Probate Court may allow the payment of any fees charged by such court by means of a credit card, charge card, debit card or an electronic funds transfer. Such court **[**shall**]** may charge the person making such payment a service fee for any such payment made by means of any such card or electronic funds transfer. **[**The fee shall not exceed any charge by the card issuer or processing fee for electronic funds transfer, including any discount rate. The**]** If a service fee for any such card is charged, the Probate Court Administrator shall determine the rate or amount of the service fee **[**for any such card**]** in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 1-1j, as amended by this act.

Sec. 6. Section 51-193b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Payment of any fees, costs, fines or other charges to the Judicial Branch may be made by means of a credit card and the payor **[**shall**]** may be charged a service fee for any such payment made by means of a credit card. **[**The service fee shall not exceed any charge by the credit card issuer, including any discount rate.**]** Payments by credit card shall be made at such time and under such conditions as the Office of the Chief Court Administrator may prescribe, except that, if a service fee for any such card is charged, the Chief Court Administrator shall determine the rate or amount of the service fee **[**for any such card**]** in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 1-1j, as amended by this act.

Sec. 7. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 17b-59f of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof

(*Effective from passage*):

(a) There shall be a State Health Information Technology Advisory Council to advise the Commissioner of Health Strategy and the health information technology officer, designated in accordance with section 19a-754a, as amended by this act, in developing priorities and policy recommendations for advancing the state's health information technology and health information exchange efforts and goals and to advise the commissioner and officer in the development and implementation of the state-wide health information technology plan and standards and the State-wide Health Information Exchange, established pursuant to section 17b-59d. The advisory council shall also advise the commissioner and officer regarding the development of appropriate governance, oversight and accountability measures to ensure success in achieving the state's health information technology and exchange goals.

(b) The council shall consist of the following members:

(1) One member appointed by the Commissioner of Health Strategy, who shall be an expert in state health care reform initiatives;

(2) The health information technology officer, designated in accordance with section 19a-754a, as amended by this act, or the health information technology officer's designee;

(3) The Commissioners of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families, Correction, Public Health and Developmental Services, or the commissioners' designees;

(4) The Chief Information Officer of the state, or the Chief Information Officer's designee;

(5) The chief executive officer of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, or the chief executive officer's designee;

(6) The chief information officer of The University of Connecticut Health Center, or the chief information officer's designee;

(7) The Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee;

(8) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

(9) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

(10) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee;

[(10)**]** (11) Five members appointed by the Governor, one each who shall be (A) a representative of a health system that includes more than one hospital, (B) a representative of the health insurance industry, (C) an expert in health information technology, (D) a health care consumer or consumer advocate, and (E) a current or former employee or trustee of a plan established pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of 29 USC 186;

[(11)**]** (12) Three members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one each who shall be (A) a representative of a federally qualified health center, (B) a provider of behavioral health services, and (C) a physician licensed under chapter 370;

[(12)**]** (13) Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one each who shall be (A) a technology expert who represents a hospital system, as defined in section 19a-486i, (B) a provider of home health care services, and (C) a health care consumer or a health care consumer advocate;

[(13)**]** (14) One member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an independent community hospital;

[(14)**]** (15) One member appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a physician who provides services in a multispecialty group and who is not employed by a hospital;

[(15)**]** (16) One member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a primary care physician who provides services in

a small independent practice;

[(16)**]** (17) One member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be an expert in health care analytics and quality analysis;

[(17)**]** (18) The president pro tempore of the Senate, or the president's designee;

[(18)**]** (19) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or the speaker's designee;

[(19)**]** (20) The minority leader of the Senate, or the minority leader's designee; and

[(20)**]** (21) The minority leader of the House of Representatives, or the minority leader's designee.

(c) Any member appointed or designated under subdivisions **[**(11)**]** (12) to **[**(20)**]** (21), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) On July 1, 2025, the entire balance of the resources of the MIRA Dissolution Authority shall be transferred to and deposited into a nonlapsing account. Moneys in such account shall be allocated in such amounts and at such times as determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of operating, maintaining, remediating or taking any other action associated with the activities and properties formerly conducted by or owned by such authority.

Sec. 9. Section 31-3i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Pursuant to Section 101 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, the members of the Governor's Workforce Council shall be:

(1) The Governor;

(2) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Senate, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(3) **[**Twenty-four**]** Thirty members, appointed by the Governor, who (A) are owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a business, or other business executives or employers with optimum policy-making or hiring authority; (B) represent businesses or organizations representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupation in the state; or (C) have been nominated by state business organizations or business trade associations. At a minimum, at least one such member shall represent small businesses, as defined by the United States Small Business Administration, and at least one such member shall be an expert in residential construction;

(4) The Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the Chief Workforce Officer, or their respective designees;

(5) Four representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by state labor federations and appointed by the Governor;

(6) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is a member of a labor organization or a training director from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or, if no such joint program exists in the state, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the state;

(7) **[**An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is an expert in residential construction**]** A director of a vocational rehabilitation program within the Department of Aging and Disability Services, appointed by the Governor;

(8) Five members, appointed by the Governor, who represent community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing employment, training, or education, including one representative of a community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885, and one representative of a philanthropic organization;

(9) A representative from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, a representative from The University of Connecticut and a representative from a nonprofit institution of higher education in the state, each appointed by the Governor;

(10) A representative from a regional vocational-technical school and a representative from a regional agricultural science and technology school, each appointed by the Governor;

(11) Two superintendents of a local or regional board of education, appointed by the Governor;

(12) A certified teacher employed by a local or regional board of education, appointed by the Governor;

(13) Two chief elected officials of municipalities, appointed by the Governor; and

(14) Two members of the public, who are enrolled in or who have recently completed a nondegree workforce training program, appointed by the Governor.

(b) All appointments shall be made in a manner that reflects the diversity of the state, including, but not limited to, geographic, gender identity, racial and ethnic diversity.

(c) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the Governor's Workforce Council from among the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section. The Chief Workforce Officer shall serve as the vice-chairperson of the council.

(d) The Governor's Workforce Council may establish an executive committee composed of members appointed by the chairperson. The vice-chairperson of the council shall be a member of any such executive committee. The council may delegate to the executive committee any powers of the council except those powers that are required by law to be exercised by the council. The chairperson may also appoint ad hoc committees, workgroups or task forces to assist the council as appropriate, and shall consult with the vice-chairperson and the legislative members of the council in making appointments to such ad hoc committees, workgroups or task forces.

(e) Any appointments made to the council prior to October 1, 2021, shall expire on that date.

(f) The council shall meet not less than once every calendar quarter.

(g) The Governor shall establish bylaws for the council pursuant to 20 CFR 679.110(d), which shall include, but need not be limited to, term limitations for members and how appointments will be made.

(h) The council shall consist of an odd number of members and shall not exceed sixty-one members.

(i) Any modification made to the membership of the council shall conform with the provisions of 29 USC 3111, as amended from time to time.

Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 29-11 of the general statutes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall waive a criminal history record information search or fingerprint search fee for any person (1) whose criminal history record information was required to be deemed erased by operation of law pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of section 54-142a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) who has demonstrated through evidence sufficient to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection that such person submitted

and paid for a prior criminal history record information search or fingerprint search which included records that have been deemed erased. The commissioner may waive fees pursuant to this section not more than two times per person.

Sec. 11. Subsection (g) of section 54-142t of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(g) On and after January 1, 2024, if a person (1) believes any of such person's criminal history record information was required to be deemed erased by operation of law pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of section 54-142a, as amended by this act, and (2) submits **[**a copy of such person's criminal history record information search demonstrating that such criminal history record information has not been marked as erased**]** an application to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in a form and manner determined by the department, the department shall, following a contested hearing if the department determines relief cannot be immediately granted, make a determination on whether such criminal history information should be deemed erased by operation of law. If a hearing is held, the department shall, not later than fifteen days prior to the hearing, provide the applicant with any criminal history record information to be considered by the department in adjudicating the application and issue a written notice of its determination not later than fifteen days following the hearing. Such determination shall constitute a final decision for the purposes of the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 12. Subsection (e) of section 54-142a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) (1) (A) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, whenever any person has been convicted in any court of this state of a classified or unclassified misdemeanor offense or a motor vehicle violation for which a maximum term of imprisonment of not

more than one year could have been imposed, or a class D or E felony or an unclassified felony offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of not more than five years could have been imposed or a motor vehicle violation for which a maximum term of imprisonment greater than one year and not more than five years could have been imposed, any police or court record and record of the state's or prosecuting attorney or the prosecuting grand juror pertaining to such conviction, or any record pertaining to court obligations arising from such conviction held by the Board of Pardons and Paroles shall be erased as follows: (i) For any classified or unclassified misdemeanor offense or a motor vehicle violation for which a maximum term of imprisonment of not more than one year could have been imposed, except for a violation of section 14-227a, such records shall be erased seven years from the date on which the court entered the convicted person's most recent judgment of conviction (I) by operation of law, if such offense occurred on or after January 1, 2000, or (II) upon the filing of a petition on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, if such offense occurred prior to January 1, 2000; and (ii) for any class D or E felony, unclassified felony offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of not more than five years could have been imposed or a motor vehicle violation for which a maximum term of imprisonment in excess of one year and not more than five years could have been imposed, or any violation of section 14-227a, such records shall be erased ten years from the date on which the court entered the convicted person's most recent judgment of conviction (I) by operation of law, if such offense occurred on or after January 1, 2000, or (II) upon the filing of a petition on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, if such offense occurred prior to January 1, 2000.

(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the classification of the offense, and the maximum sentence that could have been imposed for a conviction of such offense, shall be determined based on the law that was in effect at the time the offense was committed.

(2) Convictions for the following offenses shall not be eligible for erasure pursuant to this subsection:

(A) Any conviction, on or after January 1, 2000, designated as a family violence crime, as defined in section 46b-38a;

(B) Any conviction for an offense that is a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense, each as defined in section 54-250;

(C) Any conviction for a violation of section 29-33, 53a-60a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-61a, 53a-64bb, 53a-64cc, 53a-72a, 53a-90a, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191, 53a-196, 53a-196d, 53a-196f, 53a-211, 53a-212, 53a-216, 53a-217, 53a-217a, 53a-217c, 53a-322, 53a-323, 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254 or subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-189a; or

(D) Any conviction for a violation of section 14-227a if the defendant has been convicted for another violation of section 14-227a within the ten years following such conviction.

(3) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any conviction for any offense until the defendant:

(A) Has completed serving any period of incarceration, parole, special parole, medical parole, compassionate parole or transitional supervision associated with any sentence for such offense and any other offense for which the defendant has been convicted on or after January 1, 2000, in this state;

(B) Has completed serving any period of probation for any sentence for any crime or crimes for which the defendant has been convicted on or after January 1, 2000, in this state; and

(C) Is not the subject of any pending state criminal charge in this state.

(4) If a person has been convicted of a violation of subsection (c) of section 21a-279 prior to October 1, 2015, such conviction shall not be considered as a most recent offense when evaluating whether a sufficient period of time has elapsed for an offense to qualify for erasure

pursuant to this subsection.

(5) No violation of probation pursuant to section 53a-32 shall be considered a judgment of conviction or a most recent offense when evaluating whether a sufficient period of time has elapsed for an offense to qualify for erasure pursuant to this subsection.

[(5)**]** (6) Nothing in this subsection shall limit any other procedure for erasure of criminal history record information, as defined in section 54-142g, or prohibit a person from participating in any such procedure, even if such person's criminal history record information has been erased pursuant to this section.

[(6)**]** (7) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the Department of Motor Vehicles to erase criminal history record information on an operator's driving record. When applicable, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall make such criminal history record information available through the Commercial Driver's License Information System.

[(7)**]** (8) Nothing in this subsection shall terminate a defendant's obligation to register as a person convicted of an offense committed with a deadly weapon pursuant to section 54-280a, a felony for a sexual purpose pursuant to section 54-254 or a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor pursuant to section 54-251.

[(8)**]** (9) No erasure under this subsection shall be construed to terminate a defendant's obligation to abide by a standing criminal protective order imposed under section 53a-40e or terminate a defendant's obligation to pay any unremitted fine imposed as part of the court's sentence.

[(9)**]** (10) Notwithstanding any provision of this section and the provisions of section 54-142c, any record required to substantiate any defendant's conviction shall be available to law enforcement, the court and the state's attorney for the purpose of (A) verifying such defendant's obligation to register pursuant to section 54-251, 54-254 or 54-280a and

prosecuting any such defendant for violating any provision of such sections, and (B) verifying such defendant's obligation to abide by any standing criminal protective order imposed under section 53a-40e and prosecuting any such defendant for a violation of section 53a-223a.

Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) There is established a working group to study the civil laws of this state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, a review of provisions set forth in various titles of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, titles 51 and 52 of the general statutes, for the purpose of recommending needed changes to such provisions of the general statutes. The working group shall consist of the following members, who have familiarity with and expertise in the interpretation of the state's civil laws: (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

Sec. 14. Section 51-47 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The judges of the Superior Court, judges of the Appellate Court and judges of the Supreme Court shall receive annually salaries as follows:

[(1) On and after July 1, 2022, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred twenty-six thousand seven hundred eleven dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred seventeen thousand

eight hundred fifty-four dollars; (C) each associate judge of the Supreme Court, two hundred nine thousand seven hundred seventy dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred seven thousand four hundred fifty dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, one hundred ninety-seven thousand forty-six dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, one hundred ninety-three thousand four hundred twenty dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, one hundred eighty-nine thousand four hundred eighty-three dollars.**]**

[(2)**]** (1) On and after July 1, 2023, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred thirty-three thousand five hundred twelve dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred twenty-four thousand three hundred ninety dollars; (C) each associate judge of the Supreme Court, two hundred sixteen thousand sixty-three dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred thirteen thousand six hundred seventy-four dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred two thousand nine hundred fifty-seven dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, one hundred ninety-nine thousand two hundred twenty-three dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, one hundred ninety-five thousand one hundred sixty-seven dollars.

[(3)**]** (2) On and after July 1, 2024, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred forty thousand five hundred eighteen dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred thirty-one thousand one hundred twenty-one dollars; (C) each associate judge of the Supreme Court, two hundred twenty-two thousand five hundred forty-five dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred twenty thousand eighty-four dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred nine thousand forty-six dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, two hundred five thousand one hundred ninety-nine dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, two hundred one thousand twenty-three dollars.

(3) On and after July 1, 2026, (A) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred forty-eight thousand nine hundred thirty-six dollars; (B) the Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court or Superior Court, two hundred thirty-nine thousand two hundred ten dollars; (C) each associate judge of the Supreme Court, two hundred thirty thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars; (D) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred twenty-seven thousand seven hundred eighty-six dollars; (E) each judge of the Appellate Court, two hundred sixteen thousand three hundred thirty-six dollars; (F) the Deputy Chief Court Administrator if a judge of the Superior Court, two hundred twelve thousand three hundred eighty-one dollars; and (G) each judge of the Superior Court, two hundred eight thousand fifty-nine dollars.

[(b) (1) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2022, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars in additional compensation.**]**

[(2)**]** (b) (1) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2023, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial

referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars in additional compensation.

[(3)**]** (2) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2024, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand three hundred seventy-one dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand three hundred seventy-one dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand three hundred seventy-one dollars in additional compensation.

(3) In addition to the salary such judge is entitled to receive under subsection (a) of this section, on and after July 1, 2026, a judge designated as the administrative judge of the appellate system shall receive one thousand four hundred nineteen dollars in additional compensation, each Superior Court judge designated as the administrative judge of a judicial district shall receive one thousand four hundred nineteen dollars in additional compensation and each Superior Court judge designated as the chief administrative judge for facilities, administrative appeals, judicial marshal service or judge trial referees or for the Family, Juvenile, Criminal or Civil Division of the Superior Court shall receive one thousand four hundred nineteen dollars in additional compensation.

(c) Each such judge shall be an elector and a resident of this state, shall be a member of the bar of the state of Connecticut and shall not engage in private practice, nor on or after July 1, 1985, be a member of any board of directors or of any advisory board of any state bank and trust company, state bank or savings and loan association, national banking association or federal savings bank or savings and loan

association. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a senior judge from participating in any alternative dispute resolution program approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc.

(d) Each such judge, excluding any senior judge, who has completed not less than ten years of service as a judge of either the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court, or the Superior Court, or of any combination of such courts, or of the Court of Common Pleas, the Juvenile Court or the Circuit Court, or other state service or service as an elected officer of the state, or any combination of such service, shall receive semiannual longevity payments based on service as a judge of any or all of such six courts, or other state service or service as an elected officer of the state, or any combination of such service, completed as of the first day of July and the first day of January of each year, as follows:

(1) A judge who has completed ten or more years but less than fifteen years of service shall receive one-quarter of three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) A judge who has completed fifteen or more years but less than twenty years of service shall receive one-half of three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

(3) A judge who has completed twenty or more years but less than twenty-five years of service shall receive three-quarters of three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

(4) A judge who has completed twenty-five or more years of service shall receive three per cent of the annual salary payable under subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 15. Subsection (f) of section 52-434 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(f) Each judge trial referee shall receive, for acting as a referee or as a single auditor or committee of any court or for performing duties

assigned by the Chief Court Administrator with the approval of the Chief Justice, for each day the judge trial referee is so engaged, in addition to the retirement salary: (1) (A) **[**on and after July 1, 2022, the sum of two hundred eighty-five dollars, (B) on**]** On and after July 1, 2023, the sum of two hundred ninety-four dollars; **[**, and (C)**]** (B) on and after July 1, 2024, the sum of three hundred two dollars; and (C) on and after July, 1, 2026, the sum of three hundred twelve dollars; and (2) expenses, including mileage. Such amounts shall be taxed by the court making the reference in the same manner as other court expenses.

Sec. 16. Subsection (h) of section 46b-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

[(h) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred sixty-four thousand nine hundred thirty-two dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred fifty-six thousand nine hundred seventy-three dollars.**]**

[(2)**]** (h) (1) On and after July 1, 2023, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred sixty-nine thousand eight hundred eighty dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred sixty-one thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars.

[(3)**]** (2) On and after July 1, 2024, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred seventy-four thousand nine hundred seventy-six dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred sixty-six thousand five hundred thirty-three dollars.

(3) On and after July 1, 2026, the Chief Family Support Magistrate shall receive a salary of one hundred eighty-one thousand one hundred and one dollars, and other family support magistrates shall receive an annual salary of one hundred seventy-two thousand three hundred sixty-one dollars.

Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 46b-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) **[**(1) On and after July 1, 2022, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred forty-five dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

(2)**]** (1) On and after July 1, 2023, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred fifty-two dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

[(3)**]** (2) On and after July 1, 2024, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred sixty dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

(3) On and after July 1, 2024, each family support referee shall receive, for acting as a family support referee, in addition to the retirement salary, the sum of two hundred sixty-nine dollars and expenses, including mileage, for each day a family support referee is so engaged.

Sec. 18. Section 21a-420f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

[(a) (1) There is established an account to be known as the "cannabis regulatory and investment account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Social Equity Council, as defined in section 21a-420, to state agencies for the purpose of paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA, as

defined in section 21a-420.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 21a-420e, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the following shall be deposited in the cannabis regulatory and investment account: (A) All fees received by the state pursuant to section 21a-421b and subdivisions (1) to (11), inclusive, of subsection (c) of section 21a-420e; (B) the tax received by the state under section 12-330*ll*; and (C) the tax received by the state under chapter 219 from a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, as those terms are defined in section 12-330*ll*.

(3) At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, all moneys remaining in the cannabis regulatory and investment account shall be transferred to the General Fund.

(b) (1) There is established an account to be known as the "social equity and innovation account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account.

(A) During the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Social Equity Council, to state agencies for the purpose of (i) paying costs incurred by the Social Equity Council, (ii) administering programs under RERACA to provide (I) access to capital for businesses, (II) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business, (III) funding for workforce education, and (IV) funding for community investments, and (iii) paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA.

(B) During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for purposes that the Social Equity Council determines, in the Social Equity Council's sole discretion, further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420, which purposes may include, but need not be limited to, providing (i) access to capital for businesses in

any industry, (ii) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business in any industry, (iii) funding for workforce education in any industry, (iv) funding for community investments, and (v) funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 21a-420e and 21a-420o, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the following shall be deposited in the social equity and innovation account: All fees received by the state pursuant to sections 21a-420*l*, 21a-420o and 21a-420u and subdivisions (12) and (13) of subsection (c) of section 21a-420e.

(3) At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, five million dollars shall be transferred from the social equity and innovation account to the General Fund, or, if the account contains less than five million dollars, all remaining moneys in the account. At the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, all remaining moneys in the account shall be transferred to the Social Equity and Innovation Fund established under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, there is established a fund to be known as the "Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund". The fund shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Amounts in the fund may be expended only pursuant to appropriation by the General Assembly. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding. Moneys in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes of providing the following: Access to capital for businesses in any industry; technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business in any industry; funding for workforce education in any industry; funding for community investments; and paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA. All such appropriations shall be dedicated to expenditures that further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420.

(2) (A) For the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Social Equity Council shall transmit, for even-numbered years, estimates of expenditure requirements and for odd-numbered years, recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, of such estimates, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in the manner prescribed for a budgeted agency under subsection (a) of section 4-77.

(B) The Office of Policy and Management may not make adjustments to any such estimates or adjustments and revisions of such estimates transmitted by the council. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, the Governor shall not reduce the allotment requisitions or allotments in force pursuant to section 4-85 or make reductions in allotments in order to achieve budget savings in the General Fund, concerning any appropriations made by the General Assembly for the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(C) The estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted by the Social Equity Council to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall, consistent with the requirements established in subsection (a) of section 4-77, include an estimate of the amount of funds required to be distributed among the permissible purposes for appropriations made from the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund as set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.**]**

(a) On and after July 1, 2025, there is established an account to be known as the "social equity and innovation account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for purposes that the Social Equity Council determines, in the Social Equity Council's sole discretion, further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420, which purposes may include, but need not be limited to, providing (1) access to capital for businesses in any industry, (2) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a

business in any industry, (3) funding for workforce education in any industry, (4) funding for community investments, and (5) funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

[(d)**]** (b) On and after July 1, 2022, there is established a fund to be known as the "Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund". The fund shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Amounts in the fund may be expended only pursuant to appropriation by the General Assembly. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding. Moneys in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes of (1) substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services, which may include, but need not be limited to, the (A) provision of youth cannabis use prevention services by the local advisory councils on drug use and prevention established by municipalities pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 4126 of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1986, as amended from time to time, regional behavioral health action organizations described in section 17a-484f, or youth service bureaus established pursuant to section 10-19m, and (B) development of a public awareness campaign to raise awareness of the mental and physical health risks of youth cannabis use and cannabis use by pregnant persons, and (2) collection and analysis of data regarding substance use. The Social Equity Council may make recommendations to any relevant state agency regarding expenditures to be made for the purposes set forth in this subsection.

[(e)**]** (c) On and after July 1, 2023, there is established a fund to be known as the "Cannabis Regulatory Fund" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing fund. The fund shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Moneys in the fund shall be appropriated to state agencies for the purposes of paying costs incurred to implement the activities authorized under RERACA, as defined in section 21a-420.

Sec. 19. Section 12-330*ll* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section and sections 12-330mm and 12-330nn:

(1) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(2) "Cannabis concentrate" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(3) "Cannabis edible product" means a product containing cannabis or cannabis concentrate, combined with other ingredients, that is intended for use or consumption through ingestion, including sublingual or oral absorption;

(4) "Cannabis plant material" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-279a;

(5) "Cannabis retailer" means "retailer", as defined in section 21a-420;

(6) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(7) "Cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(8) "Delivery service" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(9) "Dispensary facility" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(10) "Food and beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(11) "Hybrid retailer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(12) "Micro-cultivator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(13) "Municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-

420;

(14) "Palliative use" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-408;

(15) "Producer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(16) "Product manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(17) "Product packager" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(18) "Social Equity Council" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420;

(19) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240; and

(20) "Transporter" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-420.

(b) (1) For the privilege of making any sales of cannabis in this state, a tax is hereby imposed on each cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator at the following rates:

(A) Cannabis plant material, at the rate of six hundred twenty-five-thousandths of one cent per milligram of total THC, as reflected on the product label;

(B) Cannabis edible products, at the rate of two and seventy-five-hundredths cents per milligram of total THC, as reflected on the product label; and

(C) Cannabis, other than cannabis plant material or cannabis edible products, at the rate of nine-tenths of one cent per milligram of total THC, as reflected on the product label.

(2) The tax under this section:

(A) Shall be collected from the consumer, except as provided under subparagraphs (B) and (D) of this subdivision, by the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator at the time of sale and such tax reimbursement, termed "tax" in this section, shall be paid by the consumer to the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator. Each cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator shall collect from the consumer the full amount of the tax imposed by this section or an amount equal to the average equivalent thereof to the nearest amount practicable. Such tax shall be a debt from the consumer to the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, when so added to the original sales price, and shall be recoverable at law in the same manner as other debts except as provided in section 12-432a.

(B) Shall not apply to the sale of cannabis for palliative use;

(C) Shall not apply to the transfer of cannabis to a transporter for transport to any other cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, dispensary facility, cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or producer;

(D) Shall not apply to the sale of cannabis by a delivery service to a consumer;

(E) Shall be in addition to the taxes imposed under section 12-330mm and chapter 219; and

(F) When so collected, shall be deemed to be a special fund in trust for the state until remitted to the state.

(c) On or before the last day of each month in which a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator may legally sell cannabis other than cannabis for palliative use, each such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator shall file a return with the Department of Revenue Services. Such return shall be in such form and contain such information as the Commissioner of Revenue Services prescribes as necessary for administration of the tax under this section and shall be accompanied by a payment of the amount of the tax shown

to be due thereon. Each cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer and micro-cultivator shall file such return electronically with the department and make such payment by electronic funds transfer in the manner provided by chapter 228g, to the extent possible.

(d) If any cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator fails to pay the amount of tax reported due on its return within the time specified under this section, there shall be imposed a penalty equal to twenty-five per cent of such amount due and unpaid, or two hundred fifty dollars, whichever is greater. Such amount shall bear interest at the rate of one per cent per month or fraction thereof, from the due date of such tax until the date of payment. Subject to the provisions of section 12-3a, the commissioner may waive all or part of the penalties provided under this section when it is proven to the commissioner's satisfaction that the failure to pay any tax was due to reasonable cause and was not intentional or due to neglect. Any penalty that is waived shall be applied as a credit against tax liabilities owed by the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator.

(e) Each person, other than a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, who is required, on behalf of such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator, to collect, truthfully account for and pay over a tax imposed on such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator under this section and who wilfully fails to collect, truthfully account for and pay over such tax or who wilfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the tax or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, be liable for a penalty equal to the total amount of the tax evaded, or not collected, or not accounted for and paid over, including any penalty or interest attributable to such wilful failure to collect or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or such wilful attempt to evade or defeat such tax, provided such penalty shall only be imposed against such person in the event that such tax, penalty or interest cannot otherwise be collected from such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator. The amount of such penalty with respect to which a person may be personally liable under this section shall be collected in accordance with the provisions of section

12-555a and any amount so collected shall be allowed as a credit against the amount of such tax, penalty or interest due and owing from the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator. The dissolution of the cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator shall not discharge any person in relation to any personal liability under this section for wilful failure to collect or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or for a wilful attempt to evade or defeat such tax prior to dissolution, except as otherwise provided in this section. For purposes of this section, "person" includes any individual, corporation, limited liability company or partnership and any officer or employee of any corporation, including a dissolved corporation, and a member of or employee of any partnership or limited liability company who, as such officer, employee or member, is under a duty to file a tax return under this section on behalf of a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator or to collect or truthfully account for and pay over a tax imposed under this section on behalf of such cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator.

(f) The provisions of sections 12-548, 12-551 to 12-554, inclusive, and 12-555a shall apply to the provisions of this section in the same manner and with the same force and effect as if the language of said sections had been incorporated in full into this section and had expressly referred to the tax under this section, except to the extent that any provision is inconsistent with a provision in this section.

(g) The commissioner shall not issue a refund of any tax paid by a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator under this section.

(h) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section and sections 12-330mm and 12-330nn. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, prior to adopting any such regulations, the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures, which shall have the force and effect of law, to implement the taxes imposed under this section and sections 12-330mm and 12-330nn. At least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure issued pursuant to this

subsection, the commissioner shall post such policy or procedure on the department's Internet web site and submit such policy or procedure to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 or forty-eight months of the effective date of this section, whichever is earlier.

(i) The tax received by the state under this section shall be deposited as follows:

(1) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, in the cannabis regulatory and investment account established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025;

(2) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, **[**and June 30, 2026,**]** sixty per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, and fifteen per cent in the General Fund;

(3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, sixty per cent of such tax received in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act, twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act, and fifteen per cent in the General Fund;

[(3)**]** (4) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2027, and June 30, 2028, sixty-five per cent of such tax received in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act, twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services

Fund established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act, and ten per cent in the General Fund; and

[(4)**]** (5) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, and each fiscal year thereafter, seventy-five per cent of such tax received in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act, and twenty-five per cent of such tax received in the Cannabis Prevention and Recovery Services Fund established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act.

[(j) At the close of each fiscal year in which the tax imposed under the provisions of this section are received by the commissioner, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for such fiscal year the amounts of such tax that are received by the commissioner not later than five business days from the July thirty-first immediately following the end of such fiscal year.**]**

Sec. 20. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) After the accounts for the Social Equity and Innovation Fund, established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, have been closed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall transfer the balance remaining in said fund to the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) At the close of each fiscal year in which the tax imposed under the provisions of section 12-330*ll* of the general statutes, as amended by this act, are received by the commissioner, the Comptroller is authorized to record as revenue for such fiscal year the amounts of such tax that are received by the Commissioner of Revenue Services not later than five business days from the July thirty-first immediately following the end of such fiscal year.

Sec. 22. Subsection (c) of section 21a-420d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

2025):

(c) (1) In making the appointments in subsection (b) of this section, the appointing authority shall use best efforts to make appointments that reflect the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the population of the state.

(2) Members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years from the time of appointment and members appointed by any other appointing authority shall serve a term of three years from the time of appointment. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired term.

(3) (A) The Governor shall appoint an interim executive director to operationalize and support the Social Equity Council until, notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council appoints an executive director. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within available appropriations, the council may thereafter appoint an executive director and such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties of the council.

(B) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall adopt bylaws specifying which duties are retained by the members of the council and which duties are delegated to the executive director.

(C) The council may, by a simple majority vote of the members of the council, take any formal personnel action concerning the executive director for any reason.

(D) In addition to the council's authority under subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, if a final review board consisting of the chairperson and the members of the council appointed under subdivisions (1), (2), (5) and (6) of subsection (b) of this section determines, by a simple majority vote of the members of the final review board, that removing the executive director is in the best interest of serving the council's mission, such final review board shall issue a letter to the council recommending that the council remove the executive director.

(4) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the council from among the members of the council. The chairperson shall directly supervise, establish annual goals for and conduct an annual performance review of the executive director.

(5) The chairperson and executive director shall jointly develop, and the council shall review and approve, (A) **[**the budgetary information that the council is required to annually submit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 21a-420f, (B)**]** allocations of moneys in the social equity and innovation account **[**,**]** established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act, for the purposes that the council determines **[**,**]** under **[**subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b)**]** subsection (a) of section 21a-420f, as amended by this act, further the principles of equity, as defined in section 21a-420, and **[**(C)**]** (B) any plans for expenditures to provide (i) access to capital for businesses, (ii) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business, (iii) funding for workforce education, (iv) funding for community investments, and (v) funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

Sec. 23. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and thereafter, fees collected by the department under this section shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund, except that the fees collected under subdivisions (12) and (13) of subsection (c) of this section shall be deposited in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, as amended by this act.

Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 21a-420o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Thirty days after the Social Equity Council posts the criteria for

social equity applicants on its Internet web site, the department shall open up a three-month application period for cultivators during which a social equity applicant may apply to the department for a provisional cultivator license and final license for a cultivation facility located in a disproportionately impacted area without participating in a lottery or request for proposals. Such application for a provisional license shall be granted upon: (1) Verification by the Social Equity Council that the applicant meets the criteria for a social equity applicant; (2) the applicant submitting to and passing a criminal background check; and (3) payment of a three-million-dollar fee to be deposited in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established in section 21a-420f, as amended by this act. Upon granting such provisional license, the department shall notify the applicant of the project labor agreement requirements of section 21a-421e. The department shall not grant an application for a provisional cultivator license under this subsection after December 31, 2025.

Sec. 25. Subsection (e) of section 21a-420aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) No social equity applicant that receives a micro-cultivator license under this section shall be eligible to apply for a provisional license and a final license to create more than one equity joint venture to be approved by the Social Equity Council under section 21a-420d, as amended by this act, and no such social equity applicant shall operate any such equity joint venture unless such social equity applicant has received a micro-cultivator license under this section, commenced cultivation activities under such micro-cultivator license and submitted to the department both the application fee required under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and a conversion fee in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars. The conversion fee collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the **[**Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund**]** social equity and innovation account established in section 21a-420f, as amended by this act.

Sec. 26. Subsection (e) of section 46a-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(e) The commission shall be within the **[**Labor Department**]** Department of Administrative Services for administrative purposes only.

Sec. 27. Subdivision (9) of subsection (b) of section 19a-754a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(9) Assist local and regional boards of education in enrolling paraeducators for coverage under (A) **[**the qualified health plans for which such paraeducator may be eligible under section 3-123*l*, (B)**]** the Covered Connecticut program, established pursuant to section 19a-754c, or **[**(C)**]** (B) Medicaid.

Sec. 28. Sections 3-123*l*, 16-331bb and 16-331hh of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2025*	1-1j
Sec. 2	*July 1, 2025*	12-39r
Sec. 3	*July 1, 2025*	14-11i
Sec. 4	*July 1, 2025*	19a-88(g)(2)
Sec. 5	*July 1, 2025*	45a-113b
Sec. 6	*July 1, 2025*	51-193b
Sec. 7	*from passage*	17b-59f(a) to (c)
Sec. 8	*July 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 9	*from passage*	31-3i
Sec. 10	*July 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 11	*July 1, 2025*	54-142t(g)
Sec. 12	*July 1, 2025*	54-142a(e)
Sec. 13	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 14	*July 1, 2025*	51-47
Sec. 15	*July 1, 2025*	52-434(f)

Sec. 16	*July 1, 2025*	46b-231(h)
Sec. 17	*July 1, 2025*	46b-236(b)
Sec. 18	*July 1, 2025*	21a-420f
Sec. 19	*July 1, 2025*	12-330*ll*
Sec. 20	*July 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 21	*July 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 22	*July 1, 2025*	21a-420d(c)
Sec. 23	*July 1, 2025*	21a-420e(e)
Sec. 24	*July 1, 2025*	21a-420o(a)
Sec. 25	*July 1, 2025*	21a-420aa(e)
Sec. 26	*July 1, 2026*	46a-52(e)
Sec. 27	*July 1, 2025*	19a-754a(b)(9)
Sec. 28	*July 1, 2025*	Repealer section

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*