

Public & Special Acts Affecting Connecticut Native American Tribes, 1992-2024

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Issue

This report (1) describes the Connecticut public and special acts enacted since 1992 affecting the state's Native American tribes and (2) includes a brief history of how the state recognized the tribes in statute. It also includes information from the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) on (1) various appropriations from 1992-2024 for policies affecting Native American tribes in Connecticut and (2) casino gaming payments by the tribes to the state since FY 93. It updates OLR Report [2024-R-0150](#).

Summary

Since 1992, the General Assembly has enacted more than 60 public acts and nine special acts that explicitly affect Connecticut's Native American tribes. These acts have covered issues such as the development of tribal gaming and casinos, education funding for children placed out of the home (e.g., in a foster home) by tribal agencies, policing on tribal lands, and adult-use cannabis issues, among many others. Below are summaries of the relevant provisions in these acts, presented chronologically. Please note that their references to current or existing law refer to the law when the acts were passed, not as it is currently (in January 2025). Similarly, the various state agencies referenced in the summaries are those that existed when the act passed. Several of these agencies have since been renamed, eliminated, or had their functions transferred to other agencies.

Background — History of State Tribal Recognition

Connecticut law declares that it is the state’s policy to recognize that (1) all resident Indians of qualified Connecticut tribes are considered to be full citizens of the state and they are hereby granted all the rights and privileges afforded by law that all of Connecticut’s citizens enjoy and (2) these Indians have certain special rights to tribal lands as may have been set forth by treaty or other agreements. It also recognizes five specific tribes, the Schaghticoke, the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, the Mashantucket Pequot, the Mohegan, and the Golden Hill Paugussett, as self-governing entities with powers and duties over tribal members and reservations. These powers and duties include the power to (1) determine tribal membership and residency on reservation land, (2) determine the tribal form of government, (3) regulate trade and commerce on the reservation, (4) make contracts, and (5) determine tribal leadership according to tribal practice and usage ([CGS § 47-59a](#)).

This statutory recognition has developed over many years. In 1961, the legislature statutorily defined an “Indian” as a person with at least 1/8 Indian blood of the tribe for whose use any “reservation” was set out. It defined a “reservation” as the:

1. Eastern Pequot reservation in North Stonington, assigned to the use of the Eastern Pequot tribe;
2. Golden Hill reservation in Trumbull, assigned to the Golden Hill tribe;
3. Schaghticoke reservation in Kent, assigned to the Schaghticoke tribe; and
4. Western Pequot reservation in Ledyard, assigned to the Western Pequot tribe (PA 61-304, codified at [CGS § 47-63](#)).

In 1973, the legislature established the policy that all resident Indians of qualified Connecticut tribes are full citizens of the state and that they have certain special rights to tribal lands as set by treaty or other agreements. It also changed the definition of “Indian” in the statutes to a person with at least 1/8 Indian blood of the Eastern Pequot, Western Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill, or Mohegan tribes, or as may be determined by the Indian Affairs Council (PA 73-660, codified at [CGS §§ 47-59a\(a\) & 47-63](#)).

The legislature next amended the statutes in 1981 to (1) update the tribes’ names (Eastern Pequot became the Paucatuck Pequot, Western Pequot became the Mashantucket Pequot, and Golden Hill became the Golden Hill Paugussett) and (2) recognize that the Golden Hill Paugussett tribe also had a reservation in Colchester (on land [purchased](#) and placed in a state trust for the tribe in 1981) (PA 81-375).

In 1989, legislation explicitly recognized that the Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, Mashantucket Pequot, Mohegan, and Golden Hill Paugussett tribes are self-governing entities and specified their powers and duties over tribal members and reservations (PA 89-368, codified at [CGS § 47-59a\(b\)](#)). It also redefined an “Indian” in the statutes as any member of those five tribes (and removed the 1/8 blood requirement), updated the name of the Paucatuck Pequot to the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and removed the Indian Affairs Council’s authority to determine whether someone was an “Indian” under the law.

For additional information on the state’s recognition of the tribes, see OLR Reports [2002-R-0072](#) “Questions about State Recognition of Indian Tribes,” [2002-R-0118](#) “Effect of State Recognition of an Indian Tribe,” and [2007-R-0475](#) “Connecticut Law on Indian Tribes.”

1992

[SA 92-17](#)

Feasibility of Additional Casino Gambling

This special act requires the Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Public Safety committees to study the feasibility of authorizing additional casino gambling in the state. The study must examine casino gambling’s (1) economic and social impact on residents and businesses and (2) revenue impact on the state and municipalities. The committees must also make recommendations on the optimal number and location of casinos and whether they should be freestanding or incorporated in other development projects.

1993

[PA 93-257](#)

Training Certain Foxwoods Casino Personnel in Connecticut

This act permits the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or its agent to train people for employment at the Foxwoods Casino at an off-reservation location in the state. It specifically allows the tribe or its agent to use and possess gambling devices for training purposes at off-reservation locations, so long as the use of the devices (1) is not for monetary gain off of the reservation and (2) is permitted on the reservation by the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). The act also allows those receiving training to use the devices during training.

[PA 93-365](#)

Rights of Employees of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

This act requires the governor to include an employment rights code as specified in the act in any future state proposal in negotiations under the IGRA. It requires him to make his best effort to ensure that any final agreement under the federal act includes the code.

The act generally prohibits the state from providing tribes with any funds or services that assist their commercial enterprises until they adopt the code, with some exceptions (e.g., funds or services provided under a preexisting agreement). The act does not prevent the state from enforcing any civil or criminal law or gaming regulation at a tribe's commercial enterprise and does not require the state to enforce violations of criminal laws that are not violations off tribal lands. It allows the governor to waive its restrictions in a declared emergency, after consulting with legislative leaders.

The proposed employment rights code prohibits employment discrimination by tribes, requires them to allow unions to organize their employees, and, if successful, to recognize and bargain in good faith with the representatives chosen. The act also allows the governor and a tribe, by agreement, to establish rights for employees of a tribe's commercial enterprises that exceed those specified in the code.

The act covers federally recognized tribes subject to the IGRA. It covers only a tribe's commercial operations, which it defines to include any commercial conduct or transaction relating to a profit-making pursuit. The definition specifically includes operating a casino.

State Opposition to Converting Certain Tribe-Owned Land

The act also requires the state to oppose a tribe's application to the U.S. secretary of the interior to convert parcels of land the tribe owns (i.e., fee interest land) into part of its reservation (i.e., federal trust status) and specifies that these conversions are contrary to the state's interests.

[PA 93-389](#)

Attorney General Representation in Indian Land Claims (§ 3)

This act allows the attorney general to represent the state's interests in any lawsuit where the marketability of land titles has been threatened by a claim alleging that the disputed land was originally controlled or owned by an Indian tribe and was unlawfully transferred from that tribe. It includes a legislative finding that the state has a significant interest in the stability and marketability of land titles.

[SA 93-2](#)

Task Force on Indian Affairs

This special act establishes a task force on Indian affairs to study (1) the acquisition of land by the United States in trust status for individual Indians and tribes, (2) the municipal impacts of these acquisitions, (3) how the attorney general can best represent the state's interest in matters pertaining to Indian affairs, and (4) any other matters related to Indian affairs.

The task force's members include the co-chairpersons and ranking members of the Judiciary, Environment, Planning and Development, and Government Administration and Elections committees; the attorney general; the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner; one representative each from the Golden Hill Paugussett, Mashantucket Pequot, Mohegan, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and Schaghticoke tribes; three public members appointed by the governor, one of whom must live in a town affected by a tribe's request to acquire land in trust status; and six members appointed by the six legislative leaders.

1994

[PA 94-244](#)

Compacts Between Connecticut and Other States or Indian Tribes

This act requires both houses of the General Assembly to approve any compact or compact amendment executed between Connecticut and another state or an Indian tribe before it can be implemented. Approval must be by a majority vote of each house, and either house can reject it. The act establishes the timetable for legislative action if the compact or amendment is filed within the last 30 days of a regular session. Otherwise, the legislature has until it adjourns a regular or special session to act on the measure. Failure to take any action constitutes rejection.

1995

[SA 95-25](#)

Fort Shantok State Park Conveyance to Mohegan Tribe (§ 8)

This special act requires the DEP commissioner to convey Fort Shantok State Park in Montville to the United States in trust for the Mohegan Tribe (1) under the 1994 agreement between the state and the tribe that resolved the tribe's land claims against the state and (2) subject to State Properties Review Board's approval.

The act requires that the conveyance be subject to a restriction that it cannot be used for any gaming operations or gaming-related development. It places the land under DEP's care and control

until the conveyance is made, and gives the commissioner sole responsibility for all other incidents of the conveyance.

1996

[PA 96-142](#)

Criminal and Limited Civil Regulatory Jurisdiction on the Reservation of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut and the Administration of Tribal-State Compacts

This act expands the state's criminal and civil regulatory jurisdiction to cover the Mohegan Tribe's reservation, to the extent authorized by Congress in P.L. 103-377 and as provided in the May 17, 1994, Agreement and Gaming Compact signed by the governor and the tribe's chief.

The agreement and compact establish responsibilities of the State Police, courts, comptroller, treasurer, Division of Special Revenue (DSR), Division of Liquor Control, State Traffic Commission, DEP, and state agencies generally responsible for enforcing state building, sanitary, health, and fire safety standards. Default provisions in the compact authorize the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission and the tribe's police force to carry out certain responsibilities if the State Police and DSR decline to exercise jurisdiction.

The act also sets out how the expenses of administering the Mohegan Tribal-State Gaming Compact will be financed. Its requirements are the same as those that, by law, govern the expenses of administering the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal-State Gaming Compact.

Finally, the act requires applicants for casino gaming employee, service, and equipment licenses under the compacts to be fingerprinted before licensure.

[PA 96-212](#)

Connecticut Lottery Corporation (§ 8)

This act creates the Connecticut Lottery Corporation (CLC) to assume responsibilities for administering the lottery. Among other things, it prohibits CLC from introducing or modifying lottery games if they would violate any compact, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or agreement the state has, or makes in the future, with the Mashantucket Pequot or Mohegan tribes, or any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

1997

[PA 97-61](#)

Native American History in Public Schools

This act requires the State Board of Education to encourage and help school boards include Native American history as part of the program of instruction they must offer in the public schools and the in-service training programs they must provide for their educators.

[SA 97-20](#)

Fort Shantok State Park Conveyance (§ 10)

This special act revises SA 95-25 to specify that for the Fort Shantok State Park conveyance, a 2.29-acre portion of the park must be conveyed directly to the Mohegan Tribe, and the rest conveyed to the United States in trust for the tribe.

[PA 97-6, June Special Session](#)

Revolving Door Restrictions (§ 13)

This act temporarily prohibits certain state officials and employees (those who hold or held significant decision making authority over regulating entities engaged in Indian gaming operations in the state) from negotiating for, seeking, or accepting employment with a (1) business entity (a) engaged in Indian gaming operations in the state and (b) in which a federally recognized Indian tribe in the state owns a controlling interest or (2) governmental agency of a federally recognized Indian tribe engaged in Indian gaming operations in the state. The prohibition applies while the officials or employees hold their positions and for two years after they leave them.

1998

None.

1999

[PA 99-107](#)

Uniform Certification of Questions of Law

This act allows the Connecticut Supreme Court to ask the highest court of another state or of a federally recognized Native American tribe for an interpretation of that jurisdiction's law. It also allows the highest court of those jurisdictions to ask the Connecticut Supreme Court for an interpretation of Connecticut law. A court can use this procedure when the answer to the question

could decide an issue in litigation and there is no controlling appellate decision, constitutional provision, or statute.

[PA 99-159](#)

Casino Brew Pub Hours (§ 3)

From October 1, 1999, to October 1, 2000, this act allows a place in which class III gaming is conducted (e.g., a casino) that operates a brew pub to stay open when the brew pub itself must be closed.

[PA 00-67](#)

Free Private Land Deer Permits

This act requires DEP to issue free private land deer permits to Indians to hunt on their tribe's reservation lands. The reservation lands must be at least 250 acres for tribal members to be eligible. The permit allows them to hunt deer from November 1 through December 31 using a long gun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow (the same period and firearms allowed for landowners with private land deer permits). Members are limited to one permit each year.

By law, Indians may hunt on their reservation lands without a license under the same regulations and during the same hunting season as licensed hunters generally.

[PA 00-192](#)

Casino Liquor Permit (§§ 76 & 77)

This act creates a liquor permit for facilities in which class III gaming is conducted, such as a casino. The permit applies to the premises in which gaming is conducted and to related facilities, such as restaurants, hotels, nightclubs, bingo halls, or convention centers.

The permit allows the (1) retail sale of all types of liquor for on-premises consumption; (2) manufacture, storage, and bottling of beer for on-premises consumption if the casino produces at least 5,000 gallons of beer annually on the premises; and (3) retail sale from guest bars located in hotel guest rooms. The guest bars must be accessible only by key, magnetic card, or similar device given to a registered guest at least 21 years old by the hotel and not be restocked between 1:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

The act sets the same permissible sales hours for premises operating under a casino permit as for restaurants, cafes, and similar establishments. However, unlike restaurants and similar establishments, it allows casino permittees to sell on Christmas Day without requiring the permittee

to have food available. It sets the annual casino permit fee at \$2,400 plus \$50 for each hotel room guest bar.

[PA 00-216](#)

Advisory Commission on Multicultural Health (§ 11)

This act establishes a 17-member Advisory Commission on Multicultural Health with a mission to eliminate disparities in health status among the state's cultural and ethnic communities and to improve the health of state residents. Under the act, the advisory commission's members include one member representing a Native American advocacy group.

[PA 00-229](#)

Property Tax Revaluations (§ 3)

This act specifies that the state law on property tax revaluations does not require the revaluation of real estate (1) designated within the 1983 Settlement boundary and taken into trust by the federal government for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation before June 8, 1999, or (2) taken into trust by the federal government for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut.

2001

[PA 01-45](#)

Training Casino Personnel for Employment

This act allows the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, like the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, to train people on gambling devices off the reservation for employment at the casino. It specifically allows the tribe or its agent to have and use the devices to conduct training off the reservation so long as (1) the IGRA permits their use on the reservation and (2) no money is paid to anyone due to operating the device during training. The act also allows people in training to use the devices during training.

The act allows the tribes to test gambling devices off the reservations under the same restrictions that apply to training. It requires them to notify DSR when they intend to have and use the devices for off-reservation testing.

PA 01-137

Entities Eligible to Grant Children Provisional or “Presumptive Eligibility” for HUSKY Part A (§ 2)

This act broadens and updates the state statute on what “qualified entities” may determine “presumptive eligibility” to provisionally enroll children in HUSKY A. It does so by referring to these entities under federal law instead of listing the specific types of entities. The federal law covers the same entities as prior law, but also includes, among other things, (1) tribal child support enforcement agencies and (2) tribal offices administering state welfare reform programs funded by a federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant or that determine eligibility for federally funded public or assisted housing (including Native American housing programs). Under the act, the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner is still responsible for deciding whether these entities are capable of determining eligibility.

PA 01-6, June Special Session

Sales Tax Exemption (§ 30)

The act extends a sales tax exemption that already applied to certain services rendered between affiliated businesses to the same services rendered between federally recognized Indian tribes and their affiliated businesses. The exemption covers transactions between a tribe and a business it controls and between two or more businesses the tribe controls. It applies to such taxable services as computer and data processing, management consulting, business analysis, and telecommunications and cable television services.

PA 01-9, June Special Session

Indian Tribes and the Unemployment Compensation System (§§ 19-21)

This act makes state law conform to federal requirements by changing the way the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Indian tribes, their subdivisions, subsidiaries, and any businesses wholly owned by them are treated for purposes of unemployment compensation. In 2000, federal law was amended to exclude services performed by employees of those tribes from the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. The act requires most tribe employees who are excluded from federal coverage to be covered under the state unemployment compensation system effective December 21, 2000. It also gives the tribes the same option as state and local governments to pay for their unemployment compensation liability by reimbursing the unemployment fund dollar-for-dollar for benefits to their former employees rather than through contributions (taxes).

2002

[PA 02-73](#)

Connecticut Credit Union Authorized Powers (§ 52)

This act allows Connecticut credit unions to buy one or more loans from any other lending institution or federally recognized Native American tribe, if it has a formal written agreement with the tribal government allowing the credit union to service and collect on the loans.

Par Value and Payments (§ 54)

The act also allows Connecticut credit unions to receive payment on shares from a nonmember who is, among other things, a federally recognized Native American tribal government located in Connecticut. Prior law allowed credit unions only to receive payment on shares from nonmembers who were state or federal officers, employees, or agents with official custody of public funds.

2003

[PA 03-1, January Special Session](#)

Repeal of “Las Vegas Nights”

This act makes Las Vegas nights illegal by repealing the statutes that allow (1) charitable, civic, and other organizations to hold such events as fundraisers and (2) high school-sponsored Las Vegas nights. It correspondingly repeals statutes governing these games, including the DSR permit application process, conditions on operation, and reporting requirements. It also makes conforming changes. The act changes the definition of gambling, which applies to the crime of illegal gambling, by (1) eliminating the exemption for Las Vegas night activities and (2) explicitly including casino gambling such as blackjack, poker, craps, roulette, and slot machines.

(The IGRA requires states to negotiate with Indian tribes to allow class III gaming on reservations if, among other conditions, the reservation is in a state that “permits such gaming for any purpose by any person, organization, or entity...” In 1989, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe asked the state to negotiate over allowing casino gambling on its reservation. After the state refused to do so, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the state to negotiate with the tribe, in part because the state already allowed highly regulated games of chance such as Las Vegas nights (*Mashantucket Pequot Tribe v. Connecticut*, 913 F. 2d 1024 (2nd Cir. 1990), 737 F. Supp. 169 (D. Conn. 1990)).)

[PA 03-114](#)

Limitations on Minors in Casinos (§ 2)

This act restricts the access of people under age 21 in Indian casinos that conduct class III gaming and imposes fines, imprisonment, or both for violations. It prohibits people under age 21 from being in rooms where class III gaming is conducted unless they are casino employees over age 18 and licensed by DSR (if their job duties require licensing). These employees cannot serve or handle alcohol or be present in these locations if other laws prohibit it.

The act does not limit access to rooms where only bazaar games are conducted (games of chance involving merchandise rather than cash prizes) or to casino areas where class III gaming is not conducted. It specifies that it should not be interpreted to prohibit minors from receiving gifts of lottery tickets or chances in lawfully operated games.

2004

None.

2005

[PA 05-245](#)

Education Funding for Tribal-Agency-Placed Children (§§ 18-20)

This act requires the state to reimburse school districts for the costs associated with educating a child placed by a tribal government in the same way it reimburses for those placed by state agencies. It does this by amending the definition of an “agency” to include tribal agencies in certain sections of the education statutes.

2006

None.

2007

None.

2008

[PA 08-89](#)

Sports Advisory Board

This act requires the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism's (CCCT) executive director to appoint a Sports Advisory Board within CCCT to advise her on how to promote the state's sports industry. The board's members must include, among others, representatives from the Mohegan Sun Arena and Foxwoods Resort Casino.

[PA 08-171](#)

Commission on Health Equity

This act establishes the Commission on Health Equity in the Office of the Health Care Advocate. The commission must work to (1) eliminate disparities in health status based on race, ethnicity, and linguistic ability and (2) improve the quality of health for all state residents. Under the act, one of the commission's 32 members must be a representative of the Native American Community, appointed by the Senate majority leader with the advice of the Native American Heritage Advisory Council or the Indian Affairs Council's chairperson.

[SA 08-8](#)

Conveyance to Mohegan Tribe (§ 8)

This special act requires the DEP commissioner to convey a 1.65-acre parcel of land in Montville to the Mohegan Tribe at fair market value plus administrative costs. It requires DEP to keep an easement for public fishing access. It keeps the land under DEP's care and control until the conveyance is complete (including review and approval by the State Properties Review Board), and gives the commissioner sole responsibility for all other incidents of the conveyance.

[SA 08-9](#)

MDC Minority Business Enterprise Contracting

This special act generally creates a minority business enterprise contracting preference for the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). Under the act, "minority" includes, among others, American Indians and people who have origins in any of the original peoples of North America and maintain identifiable tribal affiliations through membership and participation or community identification.

2009

[PA 09-3, June Special Session](#)

Casino Liquor Permit Fees (§ 365)

This act increases the casino liquor permit fee from \$2,400 to \$2,650, and the additional fee for each room with a guest bar from \$50 to \$100.

2010

[PA 10-46](#)

Unemployment Compensation Extended Benefits

Under federal and state law, the state, municipalities, and Native American tribes may reimburse the unemployment compensation fund for unemployment benefits paid to their former employees. This act codifies the federal requirement that these employers pay 100% of the cost of any extended benefits. (Extended benefits are benefits granted beyond (1) the standard 26-week period and (2) any additional benefits the federal government grants and pays for.)

2011

[PA 11-48](#)

Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (§§ 78, 79, 98-122, 125-132 & 136-173)

This act eliminates CCCT and transfers its powers, duties, and programs to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). It transfers CCCT's tourism-related powers, duties, and functions to DECD, including those related to issuing archaeological dig permits, developing procedures for inventorying Native American burial sites, and advising other agencies about specified archaeological matters (§ 151).

2012

[PA 12-17](#)

Hours of Alcohol Consumption at Casinos (§ 11)

This act allows alcohol consumption at a casino gaming facility in glasses or other suitable containers, other than liquor or wine bottles, at any time, as long as the alcohol is served to a casino patron during the allowable hours for on-premises alcohol sales.

[PA 12-1, June Special Session](#)

Amendments to Agreements With Tribes (§ 242)

This act deems approved the amendments to the state's settlement agreements with the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes on promotional programs under which they give certain casino customers coupons, credits, or both to play slot machines for free, up to the face value of the coupons or credits.

Under the amendments, each tribe has agreed that whenever the coupons or credits used in any month exceed 11%, instead of 5.5%, of gross operating slot machine revenue, the tribe will contribute 25% of the excess amount to the state. The 25% contribution is based on a MOU each tribe has with the state, giving them the exclusive right to operate video slot machines in Connecticut in exchange for 25% of the gross operating revenue from slot machines.

2013

[PA 13-170](#)

Policing of Indian Tribal Land

This act authorizes the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner, upon the chief state's attorney's approval, to enter into separate memoranda of agreement with the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes to establish the authority of each tribe's police department and police officers to exercise law enforcement powers. It authorizes both officials to jointly revoke an agreement. The officials, in either case, may take the actions regardless of a law requiring the legislature to execute and approve compacts between the tribes and state. However, the commissioner must submit a copy of any agreement to the top six legislative leaders and Government Administration and Elections and Public Safety and Security committees.

The act subjects a tribal department under such an agreement to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council's jurisdiction and gives department officers the authority and duties of peace officers. But the departments must be created and governed by the agreement for these provisions to apply.

[PA 13-184](#)

Keno (§§ 84-86)

This act allows CLC to offer Keno games, in addition to the state lottery, generally subject to the same requirements as other lottery games. In establishing Keno, CLC must comply with any revenue agreement the state, through the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), makes with the

Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes to share Keno revenue. The act authorizes OPM to enter into these agreements requiring the state to pay up to 12.5% of the gross Keno revenues (i.e., the total amount wagered minus prize payouts).

[PA 13-210](#)

Native American Month

This act requires the governor to proclaim November as Native American Month.

2014

[PA 14-47](#)

Repeal of Keno (§§ 52, 53 & 66)

This act repeals the 2013 law allowing the state to operate keno as a lottery game. It does so by eliminating the authority of (1) CLC to introduce keno as a lottery game and (2) the OPM secretary, on the state's behalf, to enter into separate profit-sharing agreements with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes on CLC's operation of keno.

2015

[PA 15-244](#)

Keno (§§ 103-106)

This act allows CLC to offer keno games, generally subject to the same requirements as other state lottery games. It allows the OPM secretary, on the state's behalf, to enter into separate agreements with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes on CLC's operation of keno. CLC may not introduce keno until these agreements are effective.

The act also specifies that CLC has the exclusive right to operate and manage all lottery games sales in Connecticut, except on the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan reservations.

[SA 15-7](#)

Possible Off-Reservation Casino

This special act creates a process for the possible establishment of an off-reservation casino in the state. It allows the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes, through a business entity owned exclusively by them, to issue a request for proposals to possibly establish an off-reservation casino.

The act allows the tribal business entity to enter into a development agreement with a municipality to possibly establish the casino. The agreement, as well as the casino's establishment, is

contingent upon state law being changed to allow the tribes to operate an off-reservation casino. If a final judgment of any court holds any provision of the act invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions are inoperative and have no legal effect.

[PA 15-5, June Special Session](#)

Keno (§ 138)

PA 15-244, §§ 103-106, allows CLC to offer keno games, but not until OPM enters into separate agreements with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes on CLC's keno operation. This act limits the total amount of gross keno revenue the state may give to a tribe under an agreement to 12.5% of that revenue after subtracting prize payments.

2016

[SA 16-12](#)

Study of Certain Employment Transitions in Eastern Connecticut

This special act requires the DECD commissioner to report to the Commerce Committee on the transition of former casino employees to employment in other job sectors. The report must at least include (1) an analysis of the impact of casino job losses on the workforce in eastern Connecticut, (2) an examination of the availability of industry sectors in eastern Connecticut into which former casino employees may gain employment, (3) the type and amount of training needed to transition into these industry sectors, (4) the existing resources in eastern Connecticut for former casino employees to obtain this training, and (5) recommendations for any additional training resources or changes in career coaching necessary to aid the transition.

2017

[PA 17-4](#)

Police Assistance Agreements Between Municipalities and the Tribes

This act authorizes the Mohegan Tribe or Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, through the tribe's chief executive officer, to enter into police mutual aid agreements with municipalities on the same terms and conditions as municipalities can already do with each other under existing law. The authorization is valid as long as the tribal-state memoranda of understanding establishing the authority of the tribal police departments remain in effect.

[PA 17-89](#)

Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility

This act authorizes the operation of an off-reservation commercial casino gaming facility in East Windsor, Connecticut, subject to regulation by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It gives MMCT Venture, LLC, a company jointly owned and operated by the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, the exclusive right to conduct authorized games at the facility.

For the authorization to take effect, the act requires that several conditions be met, including that the (1) current gaming agreements between the tribes and the state be amended to provide that the authorization of an off-reservation casino does not end the existing video facsimile (e.g., slots) moratorium or payments to the state, and (2) amendments be approved by the state legislature and federal Department of the Interior (DOI).

The act requires MMCT to contribute \$300,000 annually to the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling by the date the new casino is operational ([PA 17-2, June Special Session](#), § 131, requires the contribution to go to the chronic gamblers treatment and rehabilitation account instead). It also requires the company to pay the state 25% of the gross gaming revenue from both the video facsimile games and all other authorized casino games. Of the 25% from the video facsimile games, the act requires \$4.5 million to be annually dispersed as grants to certain nearby municipalities. It also requires the facility to annually pay an assessment that covers DCP's regulatory costs.

The act requires DCP to adopt implementing regulations to ensure the proper, safe, and orderly conduct of casino gaming. Among other issues, the regulations must address security at a casino, audits and record keeping, and personnel training. The act also requires each casino gaming facility to develop management and operating standards, subject to DCP approval.

Lastly, the act allows East Windsor to fix the property tax assessment for real property, property improvements, and personal property used in connection with a casino gaming facility.

[PA 17-209](#)

Advisory Council on Large Entertainment Venues (§ 1)

This act establishes an Advisory Council on Large Entertainment Venues to coordinate large entertainment events at certain facilities and address other issues related to operating these facilities. Once a casino gaming facility that is jointly owned and operated by the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes is authorized to conduct any game of chance, the council must include a representative from each tribe. (Because states generally lack jurisdiction over federally

recognized Indian tribes, absent federal authority or an agreed-upon agreement (e.g., gaming compact), the act's requirement for the tribes to provide a council representative may be unenforceable.)

PA 17-2, June Special Session

Fantasy Contests (§§ 649-652)

Once certain conditions are met, this act specifically legalizes fantasy contests in Connecticut (e.g., daily fantasy sports) by exempting the contests and devices used to play them from the definition of gambling and gambling device, respectively. These conditions include amending the tribal-state gaming agreements to include provisions stating that the authorization to conduct fantasy contests does not (1) end the moratorium against operating video facsimile games or (2) relieve the tribes of their obligation to contribute a percentage of the gross operating revenues of video facsimile games to the state.

Any agreement on the amendments between the tribes and the state must be approved by the state legislature under the statutory process for approving tribal-state compacts. They also must be approved or deemed approved by the DOI secretary. If a court overturns DOI's approval in an unappealable final judgment, the act's authorization ceases to be effective.

2018

None.

2019

PA 19-3

Hemp Pilot Program (§ 1)

This act requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner to establish and operate a hemp research pilot program that enables DoAg, and its licensees, to study ways to cultivate, process, and market hemp. It allows the commissioner to enter into an agreement with any state or federally recognized Indian tribe to help the tribe develop a pilot program under federal law or to have applicants from the tribe participate in DoAg's pilot program. (PA 20-2, September Special Session, removed this authorization.)

[PA 19-178](#)

Connecticut Tourism Council

This act establishes a 29-member Connecticut Tourism Council, which includes two representatives of casino gaming facilities appointed by the governor. Among other things, the council must (1) evaluate DECD's biennial strategic marketing plan for culture and tourism and (2) annually report to the Commerce Committee.

2020

[PA 20-2, September Special Session](#)

Hemp Pilot Program

By law, the DoAg commissioner operates a hemp research pilot program until the U.S. Department of Agriculture approves the state plan for hemp. Prior law allowed him to enter into an agreement with a state or federally recognized Indian tribe to help it develop a pilot program or participate in the state's program. This act, among other things, removes this authorization.

2021

[PA 21-23](#)

Online Casino Gaming, Retail and Online Sports Wagering, Fantasy Contests, Keno, and Online Lottery Ticket Sales

This act establishes new frameworks for legalizing and regulating (1) in-person and online sports wagering, (2) online casino gaming, (3) in-person and online keno, (4) online lottery draw games other than keno, and (5) fantasy contests. These frameworks are subject to several conditions, principally that the governor must first enter into specific contractual agreements with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes. These agreements must then be approved by the DOI secretary and published in the Federal Register.

The act generally authorizes the tribes and CLC to operate these games subject to specific requirements, including limiting the authorizations to an initial 10-year period with an option for a five-year renewal.

The act specifically allows the tribes to conduct (1) in-person and online sports wagering, as well as fantasy contests, on their reservations and (2) one skin for online sports wagering, one skin for online casino gaming, and fantasy contests outside their reservations. (Under the act, a "skin" is a branded or cobranded name and logo on a website or mobile application for enabling certain online games.)

Additionally, the act requires monthly payments from the tribes to the General Fund ranging from 13.75% to 20% of gross revenues from sports wagering, online casino gaming, and fantasy contests, and annual payments of \$500,000 from each tribe and \$1 million from CLC towards certain problem gambling accounts or programs. The act also delays the authorization for an off-reservation casino gaming facility in East Windsor for 10 years and makes technical and conforming changes.

[PA 21-114](#)

Exempting Certain Records on Native American Cultural Knowledge From Public Disclosure Under FOIA

This act exempts certain records of traditional cultural knowledge submitted to a public agency by a member, representative, or lineal descendant of a tribal nation from being (1) deemed a public record and (2) subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The exemption applies to any of these records submitted as part of the consultation process to determine cultural affiliation under the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and its implementing regulations.

Under the act, a “tribal nation” is an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, as defined under NAGPRA, or a tribe recognized by one or more state governments. “Records of traditional cultural knowledge” are records with information central to a community’s cultural and social identity, such as religious rites and rituals, locations of sacred sites, kinship membership statistics, and oral histories and traditions.

[PA 21-1, June Special Session](#)

Adult-Use Cannabis Agreements With Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes (§ 150)

This act authorizes the governor to enter into one or more memoranda of understanding or agreements, compacts, or amendments to existing compacts (“agreements”) with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes to coordinate the administration and execution of the adult-use cannabis act’s provisions with the tribes’ laws and regulations on possessing, delivering, producing, processing, or using cannabis. These tribal-state agreements may cover (1) criminal and civil law enforcement and (2) laws and regulations on (a) taxation and (b) possessing, delivering, producing, processing, or using cannabis.

Under the act, any agreement must (1) preserve public health and safety; (2) ensure cannabis production, processing, testing, and retail facilities on tribal land are secure; and (3) regulate any

business involving cannabis passing between the tribal nation’s reservation and other areas in the state.

Under existing law, both houses of the legislature must approve a tribal-state compact. However, the act overrides this law and deems any above-described agreement (or renewal of one) approved once the governor enters into it, without further action by the legislature.

PA 21-2, June Special Session

Grants to Municipalities With School Teams That Have a Native American Mascot, Nickname, Logo, or Team Name (§ 63)

Beginning in FY 23, this act generally makes municipalities ineligible for grants from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund if a school or associated intramural or interscholastic athletic team under its board of education’s jurisdiction uses any of the following in its mascot, nickname, logo, or team name: a name, symbol, or image that depicts, refers to, or is associated with a Native American individual, custom, tradition, or state- or federally-recognized tribe. However, the act allows these municipalities to retain their grant eligibility if the school or team uses a name, symbol, or image that (1) depicts or refers to a state- or federally-recognized tribe with the tribe’s consent or (2) is associated with a Native American individual, custom, or tradition, with the consent of a tribe that is either (a) historically associated with the school or team or (b) located in or associated with the school’s geographic region. It also allows a grace period until FY 24 for municipalities that meet certain conditions.

The act requires that the tribe’s consent be in writing and include a tribal council resolution, an agreement between a tribal government and municipality, or a consent statement endorsed by a tribal government.

Fantasy Contest Provisional Licenses (§ 315)

This act requires the DCP commissioner, by July 1, 2021, to issue provisional licenses to CLC and each tribe, or a tribe’s instrumentality or affiliate wholly owned by a tribe, to operate fantasy contests outside the tribes’ reservations but within the state under certain conditions. It also (1) allows provisional licensees to contract with certain individuals or entities to operate fantasy contests and (2) prohibits anyone from offering or operating fantasy contests unless the person has a provisional license to operate fantasy contests or is operating them through a contract with a provisional licensee.

Model Curriculum for Grades K-8 (§ 374)

This act requires the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the State Education Resource Center, to develop a model curriculum by January 1, 2023, that local and regional boards of education may use for grades kindergarten through eight (K-8). The act requires the model curriculum to include and integrate Native American studies, among other things.

Native American Studies in Public Schools (§§ 376 & 377)

This act adds Native American studies to public schools' required program of instruction as part of their social studies curriculum beginning in the 2023-24 school year. It requires the Native American studies curriculum to include a focus on the Northeastern Woodland Native American Tribes of Connecticut.

PILOT Program (§§ 445 & 446)

This act makes taxing districts (i.e., village, fire, sewer, and combination fire and sewer districts and other municipal organizations authorized to levy and collect taxes) eligible for state, municipal, and tribal property payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs). Under prior law, municipalities and taxing districts were eligible for the college and hospital property PILOTs, but only municipalities (i.e., towns, cities, boroughs, consolidated towns and cities, and consolidated towns and boroughs) were eligible for the state, municipal, and tribal property PILOTs. The act also increases the statutory PILOT reimbursement rate, from 45% to 100%, for (1) Mashantucket Pequot reservation land designated within the 1983 settlement boundary and taken into trust by the federal government before June 8, 1999, and (2) Mohegan reservation land taken into trust by the federal government.

2022

[PA 22-25](#)

CHEAPR Program (§ 7)

The Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR) program generally provides incentives to buy battery electric vehicles, plugin hybrid electric vehicles, and fuel cell electric vehicles, among other things. This act extends eligibility for the incentives to in-state municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, and tribal entities. It generally limits each eligible entity to 10 incentives per year, within available funds, and 20 incentives total. Prior law limited eligibility to individual state residents.

[PA 22-60](#)

Applying the ICWA to Child Custody, Placement, Adoption, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings Involving an Indian Child

This act requires the children and families (DCF) commissioner to make sure that any action or proceeding under the child welfare laws involving an American Indian child's custody or placement in a foster or adoptive home, or the termination of the child's parents' parental rights, is according to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

The act similarly requires the probate court, or the Superior Court in contested cases, to make sure that any action or proceeding under the probate laws for these same matters is also done according to the ICWA.

Under the act and the ICWA, an "Indian child" is an unmarried person under age 18 who is either (1) a member or citizen of an Indian tribe or (2) eligible for membership or citizenship in an Indian tribe and the biological child of an Indian tribe member or citizen.

[PA 22-102](#)

Firearms Permits and Firearms Dealers (§ 2)

This act allows the police chiefs of federally recognized Native American tribes in the state with a "law enforcement unit" to issue temporary state handgun permits under the statutory permit approval process to applicants who are bona fide permanent residents of the tribal reservations. Under the act, if the tribal law enforcement unit accepts these applications, the police chief of any other law enforcement unit with jurisdiction over the tribal reservation may not issue the permits. Prior law required tribal reservation residents to apply for these permits to the local official (police chief, borough warden, or first selectman) of the municipality in which the reservation is located. By law, "law enforcement units" include the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribal police departments, which are governed under a memorandum of agreement.

[PA 22-113](#)

Disclosure of Gaming Voluntary Self-Exclusion Records

Under existing law, the name and personally identifying information of participants in CLC's voluntary self-exclusion process are generally exempt from disclosure under FOIA. This act extends this exemption to participants in the voluntary self-exclusion processes that (1) must be established with the gaming services provided by master wagering licensees (generally CLC and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes) and their associated licensed online gaming operators, online gaming service providers, and sports wagering retailers and (2) must be regulated by DCP.

[PA 22-118](#)

Tribal Grants (§ 59)

This act requires the OPM secretary to distribute a \$3,000 grant to each of the Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and Golden Hill Paugusset tribes in FY 23. He must distribute the grants from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund in addition to any payments made to towns from the fund. The tribes must use the grants to manage their properties, but may not use them in connection with any legal claim against the state or federal government.

2023

[PA 23-54](#)

Revising Various Gaming Statutes

This act creates a new license class (“live game employee”) under which certain people associated with live online casino gaming must be licensed. It also makes several changes for “key employees,” including (1) specifying that the term, for licensure purposes, includes certain chief information and data security officers and (2) waiving other licensing requirements that may apply to their positions.

It also requires DCP to transfer the licensing fees for live game employees of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, and of the tribes’ affiliated online gaming operators and online gaming service providers, to the State Sports Wagering and Online Gaming Regulatory Fund.

When a tribe’s master wagering license expires, existing law requires that all other licenses associated with it expire without any further action by DCP. This includes licenses for an online gaming operator, online service provider, or sports wagering retailer and all corresponding key and occupational employee licenses. The act adds licenses for live game employees to this list.

The act makes conforming changes to the gaming laws that apply to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes and their affiliates and employees by (1) extending to their live game employees the existing law barring certain key and occupational employees from raising the defense of sovereign immunity for actions brought against them in their employee capacities; (2) including the cost of regulating their live game employees in the calculation for DCP’s annual regulatory assessments on the tribes; and (3) allowing the tribes to reduce these assessments by the amounts paid for their live game employee fees, just as existing law allows for their other licensing fees paid.

[PA 23-113](#)

The Connecticut Indian Child Welfare Act

This act generally codifies into state law the federal ICWA, which governs jurisdiction over American Indian children's removal from their families in custody, foster care, and adoption cases. In doing so, the act expands the ICWA's coverage to the state-recognized Golden Hill Paugussett, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and Schaghticoke tribes. (The federal ICWA already applies to federally recognized tribes.)

The act gives exclusive jurisdiction to Indian tribes over child custody proceedings involving Indian children in some cases and preferred jurisdiction in some other cases involving foster care placement or termination of parental rights. For these matters that remain in state court, the act sets standards in numerous areas such as (1) certain evidentiary standards that must be met for involuntary cases, (2) parental consent to terminating parental rights or withdrawing that consent, and (3) certain preferences on adoptive or foster care placements.

Under the act, an "Indian child" is an unmarried person under age 18 who is (1) a member of a federally or Connecticut-recognized Indian tribe or (2) eligible for tribal membership and a biological child of a tribe member.

[PA 23-130](#)

Temporary State Permits to Carry a Pistol or Revolver Issued by Tribal Police Departments

Under PA 22-102, the police chiefs of the federally recognized Native American tribes with law enforcement units in the state may issue temporary state handgun permits under the statutory permit approval process to applicants who are bona fide permanent residents of tribal reservations in the state. This act makes numerous conforming changes throughout the firearm permitting statutes to extend the statutory permit approval process to these police chiefs.

[PA 23-137](#)

Resources and Support Services for Persons With an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (§ 34)

This act requires boards of education to provide special education to a child until the child graduates from high school or until the end of the school year when the child reaches age 22 (rather than until age 21 as under prior law), whichever occurs first. It also explicitly extends this requirement to children who are placed in a school district by the offices of a Native American tribe's government, among others.

[PA 23-157](#)

Funding for Microgrids, Resilience, and State Agency Building Decarbonization Projects

This act expands eligibility to participate in the Microgrid and Resilience Grant and Loan Program to include, among others, state and federally recognized tribes.

[PA 23-188](#)

Juvenile Justice (§ 2)

This act adds two tribal members to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), one each from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, appointed by their respective tribe.

[PA 23-204](#)

Historic Preservation Review Process Working Group (§ 69)

This act establishes a working group to (1) study the State Historic Preservation Officer's role in administering the historic preservation review process under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act and (2) recommend changes to the act and its related regulations. The working group's members include, among others, one member appointed by each of the Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, Mashantucket Pequot, Mohegan, and Golden Hill Paugussett tribes.

Annual Tribal Grants (§ 138)

This act requires the OPM secretary to annually distribute a \$20,000 grant to each of the Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and Golden Hill Paugussett tribes beginning in FY 24. He must distribute the grants from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund in addition to any payments made to towns from the fund. The tribes must use the grants to manage their properties. The act prohibits using the grants in connection with any legal claim against the state or federal government or to support any petition for federal recognition.

Working Group on the Taxation of Real and Personal Property on Tribal Land (§ 359)

This act creates a working group to examine the taxation of reservation land held in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes in Connecticut and tangible personal property located there.

Language Assistance in Voting (§ 413)

This act requires a municipality to provide language-related assistance in voting and elections if the secretary of the state determines a significant and substantial need exists based on certain

information or data. For a municipality with part of a Native American reservation, a significant and substantial need exists if more than 2% of the reservation's Native American voting-age citizens speak a particular shared language and are limited English proficient individuals.

2024

[PA 24-5](#)

Paid Family and Medical Leave (§§ 1 & 6)

This act allows the governor, in consultation with the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) Authority, to enter into a MOU with any federally recognized tribe in the state to authorize employees of both the tribe and any tribally owned business to participate in the state's PFMLI program. Once they enter into the MOU, they would be considered an employer under the PFMLI law. However, the act also requires that their participation be governed solely by the MOU's terms. (Presumably, the MOU would prevail if its provisions conflict with how the law treats an "employer.")

[PA 24-68](#)

Tribal Access to State's Electronic Vital Records System (§ 39)

This act requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), upon the request of the Mashantucket Pequot or Mohegan tribe, to grant the tribe access to the state's birth and death registries in DPH's electronic vital records system. This access must allow the tribe, instead of a municipality, to register births and deaths that occur on tribal land. These tribe-issued birth or death certificates for registration in the state's system must be recognized as valid in the state, as long as they meet specified requirements in state law and regulations for registering, indexing, maintaining, issuing, correcting, and amending them.

The act requires any entity or official responsible for filing birth or death certificates with a municipality to cooperate and fulfill its filing obligations with a requesting tribe in the same way as it would with a municipality. They are subject to the same enforcement terms for failure to do so as they would be with municipalities.

Under the act, if DPH determines that a tribe has failed to comply with any requirements referenced above (e.g., for registering or indexing) or has submitted filings that do not conform with these requirements, it must notify the tribe and give it an opportunity to demonstrate compliance and submit a plan of correction. DPH may terminate the tribe's access to the electronic birth and death registries, or remove their nonconforming filings, if the tribe does not comply or fully implement a DPH-approved correction plan within 30 days after receiving the notice.

The act specifies that it does not give DPH jurisdiction over a requesting tribe or its tribal office responsible for issuing and maintaining birth or death certificates. It also does not limit DPH's authority to (1) grant or restrict a requesting tribe's access to the state's birth or death registries consistent with the act's provisions or (2) remove any nonconforming filings from the registries.

[PA 24-76](#)

Social Equity Cannabis Cultivators on State-Recognized Tribal Land (§ 13)

By law, if a social equity applicant who applied for a cannabis cultivator license without participating in a lottery wants a final cultivator license, the applicant must provide evidence of certain information, including a right to exclusively occupy a location in a disproportionately impacted area where the cultivation facility will be located. This act allows these applicants to instead provide evidence that they will locate a facility on state-recognized tribal land. More specifically, the facility may be located on any (1) reservation of the Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, or Golden Hill Paugussett tribes that includes at least 10 acres of contiguous land that was part of the reservation on July 1, 2024, or (2) land any state-recognized tribe owns in fee simple if the parcel is at least 10 acres of contiguous land and is in a municipality that contained a disproportionately impacted area before July 1, 2024. Under existing law, a "disproportionately impacted area" is a U.S. census tract in the state that the Social Equity Council identifies using a statutory process.

[PA 24-78](#)

State Seal of Biliteracy (§ 5)

This act expands the types of schools that may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy to the high school diplomas of students who achieve a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages. It does this by allowing the governing body of any school that awards diplomas, instead of only local and regional boards of education, to use criteria the State Board of Education sets for awarding this designation. It also expands the definition of "foreign language" to include any language spoken by a Native American tribe, instead of only the federally recognized tribes.

[PA 24-81](#)

Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (§ 52)

By law, the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee must evaluate the availability and efficacy of prevention, early intervention, and behavioral health treatment services and options for children from birth to age 18. This act expands the committee's membership by adding two members jointly appointed by the Appropriations Committee chairpersons, each of whom must be a representative of one of the two federally recognized Indian tribes in the state (i.e., the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes).

[PA 24-97](#)

Notice Under the ICWA

Under prior law, for involuntary proceedings in state court (either probate court or Superior Court), the party seeking the foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights (TPR) to, an Indian child had to notify the parent or Indian custodian and the child's tribe about the pending proceedings and their right to intervene. This act sets different notice requirements for probate court cases (specifically, those in which a party is seeking an adoption or TPR), primarily by requiring the court, rather than the petitioning party, to send required notices, and makes a few changes to the underlying requirements for cases in either court. Principally, the act:

1. specifically requires the probate court to notify the parent, and the notice to include the Indian custodian's or tribe's right to intervene, under existing notice procedures on TPR hearings;
2. requires the probate court to notify the Indian custodian and tribe by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested;
3. for Superior Court cases, allows the notice (to the parent, custodian, or tribe) to be sent by certified mail, in addition to registered mail as under existing law;
4. in probate court cases where the person's and tribe's identity or location cannot be determined, requires the probate court to send the required notices to certain officials; and
5. for both Superior and probate court, where the person's and tribe's identity or location cannot be determined, allows the notice (for children from federally recognized tribes) to be sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director instead of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

[SA 24-2](#)

Working Group for Greater Mystic Area Economic Development and Tourism Plan

This special act creates a working group to develop an economic development and tourism plan for the greater Mystic area, which must include, among other things, (1) proposals for projects to develop and expand tourist destinations in the greater Mystic area and (2) initiatives to promote tourism in this area through marketing campaigns, events, and partnerships with local businesses and tourist attractions. Working group members include a representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and a representative of the Mohegan Tribe.

Appropriations for Policies Affecting Native American Tribes, 1992-2024

Table 1 below, provided by OFA, identifies various appropriations from 1992-2024 for policies affecting Native American tribes in Connecticut. While OFA feels this list represents most sources of funding for Native American issues, it is possible there were appropriations made that did not include a common search term and may have been missed. In addition, there may be examples where funding was provided to a municipality and from there, funds may have been passed-through to a tribe. Unfortunately, OFA is unable to capture those examples.

Table 1: Appropriations for Policies Affecting Native American Tribes, 1992-2024

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
DEP	FY 92 OFA Budget Book	Indian Affairs	\$3,000
DEP	FY 92 OFA Budget Book	Indian Affairs - Indian Council to receive funds for travel costs and other necessary expenses	7,300
DEP	FY 93 OFA Budget Book	Transfer of Indian Affairs coordinator from General Fund to Special Funds (No net impact)	none
Office of Legislative Management (OLM)	SA 92-17	Casino Gambling Study (Feasibility study on authorizing additional casinos)	\$25,000
Mashantucket, Department of Labor (DOL)	PA 93-257	Allows casino personnel training	none
Federally Recognized Tribes, DOL	PA 93-365	Employment rights for employees of federally recognized tribes	none
Attorney General (AG)	PA 93-389	AG can represent the state's interests in land issues with tribes	none
OLM	PA 94-244	General Assembly must approve compacts and compact amendments	none
Attorney General	FY 95 OFA Budget Book	Indian Litigation Positions (The Office of the Attorney General is involved in all state cases to protect the marketability of land titles as relates to Indian land claims. It is recommended that six positions and associated funding be provided for FY 95.)	254,531

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
Department of Revenue Services (DRS), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), DESPP, DCP, DPH, Judicial branch (JUD)	PA 96-142	Regulatory and criminal jurisdiction (FY 02-03 biennial budget reduced the DSR, DPS, and DCP budgets by a combined \$1,011,809 in FY 02 and by \$1,066,445 in FY 03 to reflect the receipt of reimbursements from the casinos for the agency's indirect costs. It should be noted that this also results in a revenue loss to the General Fund totaling \$1,011,809 in FY 02 and \$1,066,445 in FY 03 (the total amount of budget reductions in the three agencies that regulate the casinos).)	none for DRS, DOT, DESPP, DCP, JUD, DPH
DCP	PA 96-212	Connecticut Lottery Corporation	none
State Department of Education (SDE)	PA 97-61	Native American history in public schools	none
Office of Governmental Accountability/ State Ethics	PA 97-61	Revolving door restrictions	none
DEP	FY 98 & FY 99 OFA Budget Book	Indian Affairs Coordinator (Legislatively restored funding for the Indian Affairs Coordinator.)	\$52,000
Judicial	PA 99-107	Uniform certifications of law	none
DCP	PA 99-159	Casino brew pub hours	none
DEEP	PA 00-67	Free private land deer permits for tribal members	none
DCP	PA 00-192	Casino liquor permit	none
Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity; DPH; OLM	PA 00-216	Advisory commission on multicultural health	none
Property tax/municipalities	PA 00-229	Property tax revaluations	none
DSR, DOL	PA 01-45	Training casino personnel for employment	none for DOL or DSR
DSS	PA 01-137	Presumptive eligibility for HUSKY A (does not expand eligibility)	none

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
Sales Tax	PA 01-06, June Special Session (JSS)	Sales tax exemption	none
Unemployment	PA 01-09, JSS	Unemployment compensation for tribe employees	none
DEP	FY 02 OFA Budget Book	State and Tribal Environmental Justice	478,080
Banking	PA 02-73	CT credit unions authorized powers and payments	none
DCP, DRS	PA 03-01, Jan SS	"Las Vegas Nights" repeal	none for DCP or DRS
Judicial, Department of Correction	PA 03-114	Limitations on minors in casinos	none
UConn	FY 04 OFA Budget Book	Capacity Building Grants and Cooperative Agreements for States and Tribes	\$18,060
UConn	FY 05 OFA Budget Book	Capacity Building Grants and Cooperative Agreements for States and Tribes	18,657
UConn	FY 06 OFA Budget Book	Capacity Building Grants and Cooperative Agreements for States and Tribes	11,587
UConn	FY 07 OFA Budget Book	Capacity Building Grants and Cooperative Agreements for States and Tribes	12,831
SDE	PA 05-245	Students placed by tribal governments are treated as state agency placements for special education funding eligibility	none
DECD	PA 08-89	Sports advisory board - to include Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods	none
Healthcare Advocate	PA 08-171	Commission on health equity - representative of the Native American Community	none
OLM	FY 09 OFA Budget Book	Provide Funding for a Commission on Native Americans Study (Study to consider creating a Commission on Native Americans)	25,000
DCP	PA 09-3, JSS	Casino liquor permit	none
Unemployment	PA 10-46	Unemployment compensation for tribe employees	none

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
DECD	PA 11-48	CCCT switch to DECD and Native Americans	none
DCP	PA 12-7	Hours of alcohol consumption at casinos	none
DCP, Attorney General	PA 12-1, JSS	Certain casino promotional programs	none
Treasurer/OPM	FY 13 OFA Budget Book	Indian Gaming Compacts amendments implementation (It should be noted that Section 29 of PA 12-104, the revised FY 13 budget, specifies that \$15 million of funds diverted from the early repayment of Economic Recovery Note debt would be used in FY 13 to implement any amendments to the Indian Gaming Compacts. Thus, there is no net revenue impact in FY 13.)	Up to \$15 million (no net revenue impact in FY 13)
Division of Criminal Justice, Police Officer Standards and Training Council, DESPP	PA 13-170	Policing of tribal land	none
DCP, Lottery, OPM	PA 13-184	Keno	none
DECD, Governor	PA 13-210	Native American month	none
DCP, Lottery, OPM	PA 14-47	Keno	none
DESPP	FY 14 OFA Budget Book	Law Enforcement Reimbursements (PA 13-170 enabled the transition of law enforcement duties at each casino from DESPP to tribal police forces. The state negotiated assessments with each tribe setting law enforcement reimbursements at \$1.2 million (\$600,000 per tribe) for FY 14.) (Tribal reimbursements totaled \$4.2 million in FY 13, \$4.7 million in FY 12, and \$7.2 million in FY 11.)	\$1,200,000

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
DESPP	FY 15 OFA Budget Book	Provide Funding to Replace Casino Reimbursements (PA 13-170 authorized DESPP to negotiate Memoranda of Agreement with each of the state's casino operators concerning law enforcement services. The pending agreements with each tribe will result in a reduction of both state police personnel at each casino and the associated reimbursing funds. Governor provide funding of \$3,615,000 (\$3.5 million in Personal Service and \$115,000 in Other Expenses) and 29 positions to reflect the loss of casino operators' reimbursements for state law enforcement services. The 29 positions formerly in the State Police Casino unit, supported by tribal reimbursements, are transferred to the General Fund.)	\$3,615,000
DCP, Lottery, OPM	PA 15-244	Keno	none
DCP, Lottery, OPM	PA 15-5, JSS	Keno	none
DESPP	PA 17-4	Police assistance agreements between municipalities and the tribes	none
DCP, property tax	PA 17-89	Off reservation casino gaming East Windsor	none
DCP	PA 17-209	Advisory council on large entertainment venues	none
DOI, DCP	PA 17-2, JSS	Fantasy contests - gambling	none
DoAg	PA 19-3	Hemp pilot program	136,000
DECD	PA 19-178	CT tourism council including casino representation	none
DoAg	PA 20-2, September Special Session	Hemp pilot program	see PA 19-3
DCP, Lottery, DOI	PA 21-23	Online gaming, sports wagering, fantasy contests, keno, online lottery	none
FOIC	PA 21-114	Exempting certain Native American records from FOIA	none
DCP, Governor	PA 21-1, JSS	Adult use cannabis with tribes	none

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
SDE	PA 21-2, JSS	Native American mascots and grants to municipalities; model curriculum; Native American studies (Potential revenue loss for municipalities with non-approved Native American mascots. Additionally, SDE received \$360,000 in carryforward funding in FY 22 to complete the model curriculum that included Native American Studies.)	none
DCP	PA 21-2, JSS	Fantasy contests - gambling	none
Energy	PA 22-25	CHEAPR program extended to tribal entities among others	none
Judicial/ Probate	PA 22-60	ICWA and parental right proceedings	none
DESPP	PA 22-102	Firearms permits and firearms dealers	none
DCP	PA 22-113	Disclosure of gaming voluntary self-exclusion records	none
OPM	PA 22-118	Tribal grants	\$9,000
DEEP	FY 22 OFA Budget Book	Carry Forward Funding for Various Environmental Programs (Provide up to \$3 million in FY 22, to provide the following grants: (1) \$1.5 million for the Eastern Pequot Tribe for design and construction of a well, septic system, and access road; (2) \$1 million to the Schaghticoke Tribe for design and construction of a retaining wall related to a cemetery; and (3) \$500,000 for the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe for design and construction of a community building.)	3,000,000
DEEP	FY 23 OFA Budget Book	Provide Funding for the Office of Indian Affairs (Provide funding of \$300,000 and two positions (an attorney and an administrative assistant) to establish the Office of Indian Affairs.) (Of that amount, provide \$160,000 for Personal Services and \$140,000 for Other Expenses.)	300,000
OPM	FY 23 OFA Budget Book	Provide Funding for Certain Native American tribes (Provide \$9,000 for grants of \$3,000 each to three Native American tribes: the Schaghticoke, the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and the Golden Hill Paugussett.)	\$9,000
DCP	PA 23-54	Gaming statutes	none
Judicial / Probate, DCF	PA 23-113	ICWA and parental right proceedings	none

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
DESPP	PA 23-130	Firearms permits and firearms dealers	none
SDE	PA 23-137	Persons with an intellectual or developmental disability	none
General Obligation bonds, DEEP	PA 23-157	Funding for microgrids, resilience, and state agency building decarbonization	none
OLM	PA 23-188	Adds two tribal members to JJPOC	none
DEEP	PA 23-204	Provide Funding for Three State Tribes (Provide funding of \$2 million in FY 24 in the Other Expenses account for grants to the three state recognized tribes (the Golden Hill Paugussett, the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, and the Schaghticoke) for work on their reservations.)	\$2,000,000
OPM	PA 23-204	Working group for taxes on tribal land	none
Municipalities, Elections	PA 23-204	Language assistance in voting	none
OPM	FY 24 & FY 25 OFA Budget Book	Provide Additional Funding for Tribal Grants (Provide additional funding of \$60,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund for funding of \$20,000 to each of the three tribes that received grants from this fund in FY 23, as authorized in Section 138 of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget.)	60,000
CT Paid Leave Authority	PA 24-5	Paid family and medical leave - MOU with tribes	none
DPH	PA 24-68	Tribal access to state's electronic vital records system	none
DCP	PA 24-76	Social equity cannabis cultivators on state-recognized tribal lands	none
SDE	PA 24-78	State seal of biliteracy - Native American tribe language	none
DCF	PA 24-81	Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (While there is no direct appropriation, through the non-profit FAVOR, DCF paid a total of \$27,672 over FY 22 through FY 24 in stipends for families with lived expertise who participated in Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meetings.)	none
Judicial/ Probate	PA 24-97	ICWA and parental right proceedings	none

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Act/Year	Description/Notes	Appropriation
OLM	22-23 Budget	Removal of the John Mason Statue from the Capitol Façade (The FY 22 - FY 23 Biennial Budget required the agency to use existing Other Expenses funds to remove the John Mason statute.)	none
DEEP	SA 21-15	Grant funding for state recognized tribes	\$3,000,000
PILOT, Municipalities	PA 21-2, JSS	PILOT reimbursement for tribal land	1,321,000
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), OLM	PA 22-118	Carry forward John Mason funding, DMHAS gaming study (Carried forward \$100,000 for the removal of the John Mason Statue.)	100,000
DECD	SA 24-2	Working group to include representatives from tribes	none
DEEP	PA 24-81	CHEAPR program rebate increased for certain residents including tribes	None to date
OLM	PA 24-81	John Mason Statue (Carried forward \$100,000 for the removal of the John Mason Statue.)	100,000
DEEP	24-25 Budget	Grants to tribes for work on reservations	2,000,000 combined with PA 21-15
OPM	Multiple FYs OFA Budget Book	Keno Gaming (Authorize the Connecticut Lottery Corporation to operate keno gaming, contingent upon the OPM secretary entering into agreements with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut to distribute to each tribe up to 12.5% of gross operating revenue from keno. Sections 103-106 of PA 15-244, the FY 16 and FY 17 budget, as amended by section 138 of PA 15-5, JSS, a budget implementer, enact this provision.)	Up to 12.5% of the gross state operating revenue from Keno

Casino Gaming Payments Since FY 93

Table 2 below, provided by OFA, provides casino gaming payments from FY 93 – FY 28 (FY 25 – FY 28 are projected figures) by tribe and type of gaming option.

Table 2: Casino Gaming Payments to the State, FY 93 – FY 28

Casino Gaming Payments (\$ - million)									
Foxwoods					Mohegan Sun				Grand Total
	Slots	iGaming	Sports Betting	Total	Slots	iGaming	Sports Betting	Total	
FY 93	30.0	-	-	30.0	-	-	-	-	30.0
FY 94	113.0	-	-	113.0	-	-	-	-	113.0
FY 95	135.7	-	-	135.7	-	-	-	-	135.7
FY 96	148.7	-	-	148.7	-	-	-	-	148.7
FY 97	146.0	-	-	146.0	57.6	-	-	57.6	203.6
FY 98	165.1	-	-	165.1	91.0	-	-	91.0	256.1
FY 99	173.6	-	-	173.6	113.5	-	-	113.5	287.0
FY 00	189.2	-	-	189.2	129.8	-	-	129.8	319.0
FY 01	190.7	-	-	190.7	141.7	-	-	141.7	332.4
FY 02	200.2	-	-	200.2	169.9	-	-	169.9	370.1
FY 03	196.3	-	-	196.3	191.0	-	-	191.0	387.3
FY 04	196.9	-	-	196.9	205.9	-	-	205.9	402.7
FY 05	205.0	-	-	205.0	212.9	-	-	212.9	417.8
FY 06	204.5	-	-	204.5	223.0	-	-	223.0	427.5
FY 07	201.4	-	-	201.4	229.1	-	-	229.1	430.5
FY 08	190.0	-	-	190.0	221.3	-	-	221.3	411.3
FY 09	177.2	-	-	177.2	200.7	-	-	200.7	377.8
FY 10 ⁽¹⁾	188.6	-	-	188.6	195.6	-	-	195.6	384.2
FY 11	174.1	-	-	174.1	185.5	-	-	185.5	359.6
FY 12	165.5	-	-	165.5	179.1	-	-	179.1	344.7

Table 2 (continued)

Casino Gaming Payments (\$ - million)									
Foxwoods					Mohegan Sun				Grand Total
	Slots	iGaming	Sports Betting	Total	Slots	iGaming	Sports Betting	Total	
FY 13	138.5	-	-	138.5	157.9	-	-	157.9	296.4
FY 14	131.5	-	-	131.5	148.3	-	-	148.3	279.9
FY 15	121.3	-	-	121.3	146.7	-	-	146.7	268.0
FY 16	118.5	-	-	118.5	147.4	-	-	147.4	265.9
FY 17	120.1	-	-	120.1	150.6	-	-	150.6	270.7
FY 18	121.3	-	-	121.3	151.7	-	-	151.7	273.0
FY 19	113.0	-	-	113.0	142.2	-	-	142.2	255.2
FY 20	85.5	-	-	85.5	107.2	-	-	107.2	192.7
FY 21	81.7	-	-	81.7	118.5	-	-	118.5	200.3
FY 22	89.4	14.7	3.9	108.0	126.2	11.0	3.5	140.7	248.7
FY 23	90.2	27.8	7.3	125.3	123.4	21.4	8.8	153.6	279.0
FY 24	92.1	40.4	9.2	141.7	121.3	31.5	11.1	163.9	305.7
FY 25 ^[2]									308.6
FY 26 ^[2]									314.4
FY 27 ^[2]									329.4
FY 28 ^[2]									339.7
TOTAL (actual and projected)									10,566.5

^[1] Includes settlement revenues for e-bonus contributions (\$5.7M from Mohegan Sun and \$19.3M from Foxwoods)

^[2] Projected figures represent November 12, 2024, Consensus Revenue estimates, which are reported on an aggregate basis

LH:ms