



Acts Affecting Municipalities

By: Julia Singer Bansal, Senior Legislative Attorney
August 4, 2021 | 2021-R-0135

Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting municipalities enacted during the 2021 regular session and June 2021 special session (JSS). OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Education, Acts Affecting Crime and Public Safety, and Acts Affecting Town Clerks and Elections, are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/actsaffecting.asp>.

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/olrsums.asp>.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library, House Clerk's Office, or General Assembly's website: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>.

Table of Contents

Elections	6
Counting of Prison Populations for Redistricting	6
COVID-19 Absentee Voting Provisions.....	6
Municipal Election Date.....	6
Economic Development.....	6
Community Investment Fund 2030.....	6
CTNext Innovation Place Program	7
Data Centers	7
Opportunity Zones and Distressed Municipalities.....	7
Employees	7
Criminal Record Erasure.....	7
Investment of Municipal Retirement Funds.....	8
Union Access to Public Employees	8
Workers’ Compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries	8
Environment & Energy	8
Dredging Project Report	8
Energy Conservation Management Board	9
Flood and Erosion Control Boards	9
Long Island Sound Blue Plan	9
PFAS in Firefighting Foam	9
Sewage Spill Reporting.....	9
Unit-Based Pricing Incentive Program	10
Grants, Aid, and Municipal Finance.....	10
Local Cannabis Tax.....	10
Motor Vehicle Property Tax Grants	10
Nip Surcharge Directed to Municipalities.....	10
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Grant Funding.....	11
PILOTs for CT Port Authority Property	11
PILOTs for Taxing Districts.....	11
Use of Native American Mascots or Team Names and Grant Eligibility.....	12
Volunteer Fire Department Training Grants	12
Historic Preservation.....	12
Historic Property Working Group.....	12
State Historic Preservation Review Board.....	12
Land Use.....	13
Affordable Housing Planning Requirement.....	13
Application and Technical Consultant Fees	13

As of Right Accessory Apartments	13
Biennial Training for Certain Land Use Officials	14
More Time to Complete Certain Projects Requiring Local Approval.....	14
Outdoor Dining and Retail	14
Regulations Adopted Under the Zoning Enabling Act (CGS § 8-2)	15
Water Pollution Control Plans	15
Zoning Enforcement Officer Certification	15
Police, First Responders, and Public Safety.....	15
Animal Control Officers and Facilities.....	15
ATV Seizure.....	16
Background Checks for Youth Athletic Activity Employees and Volunteers.....	16
Community Response Education Program.....	16
Distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Information	17
Fire Services Consolidation Study	17
Ice Cream Truck Safety.....	17
Local Control of Speed Limits	17
Local Emergency Operations Plans	17
Municipal Fine for Unregistered Vehicles.....	18
Municipal Surcharge.....	18
Out-of-State Motor Vehicle Registrations	18
Project Longevity Initiative Expansion	18
Public Safety Answering Points Consolidation Task Force.....	19
Public Safety Committees in Towns With Correctional Facilities.....	19
Temporary Local Fire Marshal Appointments	19
Property Taxes and Other Assessments.....	19
Aquaculture Property	19
Elderly Tax Freeze Program	20
Exemption for Certain Residential Renewable Energy Sources	20
Lien Assignment.....	20
Minimal Property Tax Bill Waiver	20
Optional Property Tax Exemption for Certain Emergency Volunteers	21
Optional Property Tax Relief Program for FYs 22 & 23	21
Reduced Assessment for Properties With Defective Foundations.....	21
Stormwater Authorities.....	21
Public Health	22
Health Directors – Various Changes.....	22
Itinerant Food Vendor Licensure Reciprocity	22
Notification of Certain Projects in Watersheds or Aquifer Protection Areas.....	22
Regional Entities	23

Regional Councils of Government Funding and Bylaws	23
Regional Economic Development Pilot Program	23
Regional Performance Incentive Program.....	23
Regional Tourism District Boards of Directors	24
Remote Meetings and Electronic Transactions	24
Electronic Meeting Notices to Interested Parties	24
Orderly Conduct at Meetings.....	24
Paying Fees Electronically	25
Remote Meetings and Electronic Transactions	25
Miscellaneous	25
Adoptee Access to Original Birth Certificate	25
Alcohol Sales	26
Commission on Connecticut’s Development and Future.....	26
Creation of a Geographic Information Systems Office	26
Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy.....	26
Multipurpose Senior Centers	26
Port Authority Board of Directors	27
Prevailing Wage Rates for Public Works Projects	27
Regulating Cannabis.....	27
State-Municipal Easements	28
Surplus Property Acquisitions	28
Statewide Senior Center Workgroup	28
Renters’ Rebate Applications.....	28

Elections

Counting of Prison Populations for Redistricting

As the legislature begins the decennial redistricting process, a new law creates a process to adjust U.S. census population data and count most prison inmates at their address before incarceration, instead of at their prison address. The act generally requires that this adjusted data serve as the basis for determining state legislative districts and municipal voting districts. However, it excludes inmates serving a life sentence without the possibility of release from the adjusted data ([PA 21-13](#), effective upon passage).

COVID-19 Absentee Voting Provisions

A new law extends, to November 2, 2021, certain changes affecting absentee voting eligibility and procedures implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19. This includes, for a state or municipal election, primary, or referendum occurring on or before this date, (1) expanding the reasons for which electors may vote by absentee ballot to include the COVID-19 sickness; (2) allowing municipalities to conduct certain absentee ballot precounting procedures; and (3) extending, generally by 48 hours, numerous deadlines and timeframes associated with processing absentee ballots and canvassing and reporting the returns ([PA 21-2](#), June Special Session (JSS), §§ 99-100 & 127-143, effective upon passage).

Municipal Election Date

Starting January 1, 2022, a new law requires each municipality to hold its biennial municipal election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years unless its legislative body votes by a three-fourths majority to hold the election on the first Monday in May of odd-numbered years. A municipality that opts for a May election date using this procedure may subsequently move its election date to November through a majority vote of its legislative body. The new law eliminates provisions in prior law that (1) allowed municipalities to change the date of their biennial municipal election by vote of their legislative body approved at a referendum or by charter and (2) prohibited municipalities from changing an upcoming election's date within six months before its occurrence ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 116-121 & 495, effective January 1, 2022).

Economic Development

Community Investment Fund 2030

The FY 22-23 bond act authorizes up to \$875 million in bonds for a five-year bonding program to fund qualifying projects and grants in eligible municipalities that are designated as public investment communities or alliance districts. It establishes the 21-member Community Investment

Fund 2030 board within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to accept applications for program funding from municipalities, community development corporations, and nonprofits undertaking eligible projects. The act establishes a process by which the board reviews the applications and submits them to the governor for his review. Each eligible project for which the governor recommends a bond allocation must be considered at a Bond Commission meeting within two months after the board's recommendation to the governor ([PA 21-111](#), § 112, as amended by [PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 475, generally effective upon passage).

CTNext Innovation Place Program

The bond act authorizes \$64.2 million in bonds over a five-year period, from FY 22 to FY 26, to recapitalize CTNext's innovation place program. Under the act, the bond proceeds may generally be used for new and existing innovation places, except that (1) \$10 million is for deposit into the CTNext Fund in FY 24 to cover general operating expenses and (2) \$200,000 is for an economic feasibility study of certain lands in Trumbull in FY 22. The act also reestablishes and makes permanent the requirement that the CTNext board report annually to the Commerce and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees on the innovation place program's operation, effectiveness, and grant distribution ([PA 21-111](#), §§ 92-94, effective July 1, 2021).

Data Centers

A new law authorizes DECD to enter into agreements to provide certain tax incentives to data centers that locate within the state and make a minimum investment. The law includes property tax exemptions for certain real property and equipment used by the data center. Developers and owners must enter into a negotiated host municipality fee agreement before beginning construction, renovation, or repair of a data center facility ([PA 21-1](#), effective July 1, 2021).

Opportunity Zones and Distressed Municipalities

A new law requires DECD to study economic development issues affecting distressed municipalities and federal opportunity zones in the state. The department must report the study's results to the Commerce Committee by February 1, 2022 ([SA 21-28](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Employees

Criminal Record Erasure

Starting in 2023, a new law provides for the erasure of certain criminal conviction records (including police records) after a specified period following the person's most recent conviction. Under the new law, eligible convictions are generally subject to erasure seven years (for misdemeanors) or 10 years (for felonies) after the person's most recent conviction.

Among other related provisions, the act also prohibits discrimination in various contexts based on someone's erased criminal history record information, including employment, housing, and public accommodations. The act's employment provisions apply to any employer with at least one employee, including municipal employers ([PA 21-32](#), as amended by [PA 21-33](#), § 10, most provisions are effective January 1, 2023).

Investment of Municipal Retirement Funds

A new law allows municipalities that do not participate in the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) to invest their retirement systems' assets with the state's combined retirement plans and trust funds that are administered, held, or invested by the state treasurer (i.e., the Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds). The act places retirement systems' trust funds that are invested by the state treasurer under the same statutory oversight and requirements as other similarly invested funds ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 292-293, effective upon passage).

Union Access to Public Employees

A new law requires public employers (including municipalities and local or regional boards of education) to provide public employee unions with (1) certain information about their new and current employees (e.g., their contact information) and (2) access to new employee orientations and government buildings to conduct meetings. Among other things, the new law also requires public employers to (1) rely on a union's certification that it has the necessary employee payroll deduction authorizations (e.g., to deduct union dues) and (2) direct employee requests to cancel or change their deductions to the union rather than the employer ([PA 21-25](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Workers' Compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries

A new law expands eligibility for workers' compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress injuries (PTSI) to cover emergency medical services (EMS) personnel and 9-1-1 emergency dispatchers, among others. The PTSI benefits under the new law are subject to the same limitations and procedures that existing law applies to PTSI benefits for firefighters, police, and parole officers ([PA 21-107](#), effective upon passage).

Environment & Energy

Dredging Project Report

A new law requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner, by November 1, 2021, to report to the Environment Committee on the approval process for maintenance marine dredging projects for the last four years. The report must (1) describe each

project application and (2) analyze how long it took DEEP to act on each application and specify whether DEEP approved or denied it ([PA 21-88](#), § 5, effective upon passage).

Energy Conservation Management Board

A new law adds a municipal representative to the Energy Conservation Management Board. By law, the DEEP commissioner appoints members to the board, which, among other things, helps develop and approve the state's conservation and load management plan ([PA 21-139](#), effective July 1, 2021).

Flood and Erosion Control Boards

Provisions in a new law related to climate change adaptation broaden the jurisdiction of municipal flood and erosion control boards to include flood prevention and climate resilience. By law, municipalities may establish these boards, or a separate taxing district, to prevent hazards from flooding, stream bank erosion, or beach erosion. The new law also (1) allows municipalities to enter into agreements to form joint boards and (2) establishes a biannual reporting requirement for the boards ([PA 21-115](#), §§ 4-17, effective July 1, 2021).

Long Island Sound Blue Plan

This session, the legislature adopted the Long Island Sound Blue Plan. The blue plan provides (1) an inventory of the natural resources and uses of Connecticut's Long Island Sound and (2) a spatial plan to guide future uses of the sound. By law, the plan must be considered when reviewing applications to conduct certain coastal activities ([HJR 53](#)).

PFAS in Firefighting Foam

With exceptions, a new law prohibits using class B firefighting foam with intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS), which is used to extinguish flammable liquid fires. The new law requires the DEEP commissioner to develop or identify a take-back program for municipally owned class B firefighting foam with PFAS that applies best management practices for its disposal ([PA 21-191](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Sewage Spill Reporting

A new law expands the (1) reporting requirements for sewage treatment plants or collection systems, DEEP, and local authorities when there is a sewage spill; (2) types of spills and discharges subject to reporting; and (3) list of local authorities who must receive the spill information. It also requires DEEP to (1) implement a real-time public notification system by December 1, 2021, that allows the public to choose to be notified about sewage spills or permitted sewage bypasses and

(2) begin annually publishing and making publicly available on its website by February 1, 2022, certain information about sewage spills in the state ([PA 21-42](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Unit-Based Pricing Incentive Program

A new law requires the DEEP commissioner, by July 1, 2022, to develop an incentive program to help municipalities that want to adopt a unit-based pricing program for solid waste disposal (also known as “pay-as-you-throw”) ([PA 21-58](#), § 6, effective July 1, 2021).

Grants, Aid, and Municipal Finance

Local Cannabis Tax

Under the new recreational cannabis law, retail sales of cannabis are subject to a new 3% municipal cannabis tax that applies in addition to a state cannabis tax and the state’s 6.35% sales and use tax. (Cannabis for palliative use is exempt from all three taxes under the act.) The act establishes a process by which cannabis and hybrid retailers and micro-cultivators file tax returns with the Department of Revenue Services but remit the tax payments to the municipalities in which the sales occurred. Amounts remitted become a part of the municipality’s general revenue and must be used for specified purposes, including streetscape improvements, education programs, and mental health or addiction services ([PA 21-1](#), JSS, §§ 126 & 127, effective July 1, 2021).

Motor Vehicle Property Tax Grants

A new law changes the statutory formula for calculating the municipal grants that reimburse municipalities for a portion of the revenue loss attributed to the motor vehicle property tax cap. By law, municipalities that impose a mill rate on real and personal property, other than motor vehicles, that is greater than 45 mills are eligible for the grants. Under the new law, the grant amount is equal to the difference between the (1) amount of property taxes a municipality, and any tax district in it, levied on motor vehicles for the 2017 assessment year and (2) the levy amount for that year at the same mill rate the municipality imposed on real and personal property other than motor vehicles ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 444, effective July 1, 2021).

Under the budget implementer act, for FYs 22 and 23, these grants must be paid from appropriations for these fiscal years, rather than from the municipal revenue sharing account (MRSA) ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 448, effective July 1, 2021).

Nip Surcharge Directed to Municipalities

A provision in a new law principally on beverage container redemption and recycling establishes a five-cent surcharge on the sale of spirit or liquor beverage containers of 50mL or less (commonly

referred to as “nips”). Wholesalers must remit the surcharges to the municipalities in which the containers were sold and the municipalities must use the remitted funds for environmental measures aimed at reducing solid waste or reducing litter’s impact ([PA 21-58](#), § 10, effective October 1, 2021).

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Grant Funding

A new law establishes a minimum reimbursement rate for PILOT grants and a method for prorating the grants when appropriations are not enough to fund the full grant amounts. This new proration method is based on each municipality’s equalized net grand list per capita, designation as an alliance district, and percentage of state-owned property. It requires that municipalities and districts be divided into three tiers based on these criteria, and ties their PILOT grant percentage (ranging from 30% to 50%) to the tiers ([PA 21-3](#), §§ 5-8, effective July 1, 2021).

Under the budget implementer act, for FYs 22 and 23, PILOT grants must be paid from the funds appropriated in these fiscal years for the grants and the remaining balance due must be paid from MRSA ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 448, effective July 1, 2021).

PILOTs for CT Port Authority Property

The legislature restored a provision that applied prior to FY 19 deeming the property and facilities owned by the Connecticut Port Authority to be state-owned real property for purposes of the PILOT program and requiring the state to provide a PILOT to the municipality in which the property and facilities are located ([PA 21-3](#), § 7, effective July 1, 2021). It also increased its PILOT reimbursement rate to 100%, rather than the 45% reimbursement rate that generally applies to state-owned property ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 445, effective July 1, 2021).

PILOTs for Taxing Districts

The FY 22-23 budget implementer 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 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 ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 445, effective July 1, 2021).

Use of Native American Mascots or Team Names and Grant Eligibility

Beginning in FY 23, under a new law, municipalities are generally ineligible for grants paid from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund if a public school or associated athletic team under its board of education's jurisdiction uses Native American names, symbols, or images for its mascot, nickname, logo, or team name. However, the law allows these municipalities to retain their grant eligibility if the school or athletic team uses a name, symbol, or image that (1) depicts or refers to a tribe, and the specific tribe consents to it or (2) is associated with a Native American individual, custom, or tradition, with the consent of a tribe that is either historically associated with the school or team or with the school's geographic region.

The law additionally provides a grace period until FY 24 for municipalities that provide timely notification to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), that (1) the school or team uses, but intends to change such a mascot, name or logo, or plans to seek tribal consent to use it and (2) includes the reason why the school or team has not changed it or sought such consent already ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 63, effective July 1, 2021).

Volunteer Fire Department Training Grants

A new law requires the state fire administrator, beginning in FY 22, to annually award a grant to distressed municipalities to cover the cost of certification and recruit training for their volunteer fire departments. It also imposes reporting requirements about the grant on the state fire administrator and each distressed municipality's volunteer fire chief ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 9, effective July 1, 2021).

Historic Preservation

Historic Property Working Group

A new law requires the DECD commissioner, or his designee, to convene a working group to develop a plan for supporting and facilitating historic preservation efforts by municipalities and other entities, specifically for buildings on the National Register or locally designated as historically significant ([SA 21-13](#), effective upon passage).

State Historic Preservation Review Board

A new law shortens, from 60 to 30 days, the required notice that the State Historic Preservation Review Board must provide to a municipality before considering whether to act on the nomination of a property in the municipality to the National Register of Historic Places. By law, the board must provide the notice to the municipal preservation board or, if there is no board, the municipality's chief executive officer. The new law allows, rather than requires, the state historic preservation

officer or her designee to attend public hearings held by municipal preservation boards on these nominations ([PA 21-193](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Land Use

Affordable Housing Planning Requirement

By law, at least once every five years, each municipality must prepare or amend and adopt an affordable housing plan specifying how the municipality will increase the number of affordable housing developments in its jurisdiction. A new law specifies that municipalities must prepare and adopt their first plans by June 1, 2022. The new law authorizes municipalities to submit their affordable housing plan as part of their local plans of conservation and development, as long as they comply with the submission deadlines. It also requires them to (1) post their draft plans or updates online and (2) submit their plans to OPM for posting on its website ([PA 21-29](#), § 12, effective upon passage).

Application and Technical Consultant Fees

Municipalities may set reasonable fees for processing applications submitted to the planning, zoning, or planning and zoning commission; the zoning board of appeals; or inland wetlands commission. A new law prohibits them from adopting a fee schedule that imposes higher fees on developments built following an appeal brought under the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Procedure (CGS § 8-30g). It also prohibits using a fee schedule that imposes disproportionality higher fees because a residential building has more than four units, including higher fees per unit, per square footage, or per unit of construction cost.

The new law additionally allows municipalities to adopt regulations establishing reasonable technical consultant fees for applications made to the abovementioned boards and commissions. The fees must be accounted for separately and may only be used for technical review costs. Leftover amounts must be returned to the applicant ([PA 21-29](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2021).

As of Right Accessory Apartments

A new law requires municipalities that exercise zoning authority pursuant to the statutes to adopt or amend regulations to allow accessory apartments (also known as accessory dwelling units, ADUs) as of right on the same lot as single-family homes unless they follow an opt-out process. The new law specifies conditions the regulations can and cannot impose. It specifies that (1) these units will not count toward a municipality's base housing stock calculation for purposes of the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Procedure (CGS § 8-30g) and (2) the addition of an ADU on a lot does

not make the sewerage system a community sewerage system ([PA 21-29](#), §§ 1, 6, 7 & 10, most provisions effective January 1, 2022).

Biennial Training for Certain Land Use Officials

Beginning January 1, 2023, a new law requires each member of a local planning commission, zoning commission, planning and zoning commission, or zoning board of appeals to complete at least four hours of training biennially. Members serving on a board or commission as of January 1, 2023, must complete their initial training by January 1, 2024, while others must do so within one year after being elected or appointed to the board or commission. The OPM secretary must establish training guidelines by January 1, 2022. The initial and subsequent training must include at least one hour on affordable and fair housing ([PA 21-29](#), § 9, effective upon passage).

More Time to Complete Certain Projects Requiring Local Approval

Two new laws give developers more time to complete certain ongoing projects without seeking reapproval from local land use boards, commissions, or agencies (e.g., the planning or zoning commission or inland wetlands agency). Generally, under these laws, these approvals are valid for at least 14 years and up to 19 years. The laws apply to approvals and permits that were approved (1) before July 1, 2011, and were unexpired on July 12, 2021, and (2) on or after July 1, 2011, but before June 10, 2021, and were unexpired on March 10, 2020 ([PA 21-34](#) and [PA 21-163](#), effective upon passage).

Outdoor Dining and Retail

A new law generally incorporates the outdoor dining and retail provisions contained in Executive Order (EO) 7MM, as amended by subsequent EOs, and extends them until March 31, 2022. Under this law, if a business wants to engage in outdoor activities, it must apply to the local zoning or building official, who will conduct an administrative review of the application ([SA 21-3](#), effective upon passage).

Under another new law, beginning April 1, 2022, municipalities must allow outdoor dining as an accessory use to a licensed food establishment (e.g., restaurant or food market). Businesses must seek an administrative site plan review to determine whether the proposed outdoor dining use conforms with zoning requirements not contemplated by the new law (e.g., regulations unrelated to providing pedestrian pathways and parking) ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 182, effective April 1, 2022).

Regulations Adopted Under the Zoning Enabling Act (CGS § 8-2)

A new law makes various changes to the statute under which most municipalities exercise zoning powers, including numerous minor and technical changes. Several provisions address housing opportunities, for example by (1) prohibiting zoning regulations from establishing minimum floor area requirements exceeding those in an applicable safety code and (2) requiring regulations to provide for varied housing opportunities and affirmatively further the federal Fair Housing Act's purposes.

With regard to the environment, the new law requires a municipality that is contiguous to, or on a navigable waterway that drains to, Long Island Sound, to adopt regulations considering a proposed development's impact on the Sound's coastal waters and their natural resources, related marine and wildlife habitat, and adjacent shorelands. The new law also expands the energy conservation tools and renewable energy types a municipality can require or promote (e.g., freestanding wind and combined heat and power).

The new law also prohibits municipalities from (1) banning cottage food operations in a residential zone or (2) denying a land use application based on a district's character, unless the character is expressly articulated in regulations with clear and explicit physical standards for site work and structures ([PA 21-29](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Water Pollution Control Plans

A new law allows municipal water pollution control authorities to delineate in their water pollution control plans the specific capacity allocations to serve developable areas for residential or mixed-use buildings with at least four dwelling units ([PA 21-29](#), § 11, effective October 1, 2021).

Zoning Enforcement Officer Certification

Beginning January 1, 2023, a new law requires zoning enforcement officers (ZEOs) to be annually certified by the Connecticut Association of ZEOs. The requirement applies to existing employees and newly appointed ZEOs working in municipalities that exercise zoning authority under the statutes. The law requires ZEOs to maintain certification for the duration of their employment as ZEOs ([PA 21-29](#), § 8, effective October 1, 2021).

Police, First Responders, and Public Safety

Animal Control Officers and Facilities

Under a new law, when an animal control officer (ACO) seizes an animal that is neglected or cruelly treated and a veterinarian determines the animal is too injured or diseased to be treated, the ACO

must have the animal humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian. The new law also (1) allows municipalities and regional animal control facilities to appoint a temporary ACO from another municipality for up to 90 days and (2) requires regional animal control facilities to meet the same construction, maintenance, and sanitation standards that state law and regulations impose on municipal pounds ([PA 21-90](#), §§ 3-7, effective upon passage).

ATV Seizure

A new law allows all municipalities that regulate all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use by ordinance to also provide for their seizure and forfeiture by ordinance. Under prior law, only municipalities with populations of 20,000 or more could provide for the seizure of ATVs ([PA 21-175](#), § 57, effective October 1, 2021).

Background Checks for Youth Athletic Activity Employees and Volunteers

Starting October 1, 2022, a new law requires certain municipalities and other youth athletic activity operators to require prospective employees or volunteers to submit to comprehensive background checks if they are at least age 18 and applying for a position as coach, instructor, or athletic trainer.

The new law establishes specifications for these background checks, including who may conduct them, what databases must be checked, the frequency of the checks, the exemptions from the requirements, the crimes that are generally disqualifying, the required protocols when a criminal record or certain convictions are found, notification requirements and associated penalties for failure to report, and record retention requirements ([PA 21-82](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Community Response Education Program

A new law expands the scope of the state's Community Response Education Program to include resources for (1) police departments and municipal officials to provide programs on senior citizen sexual assault and abuse safety, prevention, and risk reduction and (2) educating seniors, in addition to families and children, on preventing and avoiding sexual abuse and assault.

This program, within available appropriations, offers certain resources to neighborhoods and municipalities that are notified that a registered sex offender is living there or plans to do so ([PA 21-7](#), § 5, effective July 1, 2021).

Distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Information

Beginning January 1, 2022, a new law requires municipalities (as well as businesses and nonprofit organizations) operating youth athletic activities and youth camps to distribute specified child sexual abuse informational guidelines to (1) the parent or guardian of each activity or camp participant upon enrollment or registration and (2) their youth coaches annually ([PA 21-64](#), effective upon passage).

Fire Services Consolidation Study

A new law requires the OPM secretary, in consultation with municipal officials and a Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association representative, to study the obstacles to merging or consolidating fire districts and departments of multiple municipalities. The OPM secretary must report her findings to the legislature by January 1, 2022 ([SA 21-12](#), effective upon passage).

Ice Cream Truck Safety

A new law enhances children's safety when buying from ice cream trucks by, among other things, establishing operating rules and requiring the trucks to install and use certain safety equipment. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) must publish information on these requirements on its website, and municipalities that require ice cream trucks to get vendor or peddlers permits must include the link to DMV's site on their permit applications and website ([PA 21-20](#), most provisions effective July 1, 2021).

Local Control of Speed Limits

A new law allows local traffic authorities (LTA) to (1) set speed limits on roads under their jurisdictions without Office of the State Traffic Administration approval and (2) establish pedestrian safety zones on those roads in downtown areas and community centers. The law sets conditions for doing so, including that the LTA must (1) receive permission to assume responsibility for local speed limits from the municipality by vote of its legislative body and (2) conduct an engineering study before setting a speed limit ([PA 21-28](#), §§ 6-12, effective October 1, 2021).

Local Emergency Operations Plans

The act requires the administrative head of each nursing home and dementia special care unit in the state to provide its emergency operations plan to the municipality in which the facility is located. The facility must do this by January 1, 2022, to assist the municipality in developing its emergency operations plan required under the Interstate Mutual Aid Compact. This compact, by law, provides a legal framework for municipalities to request and provide mutual aid when a member municipality declares a local civil preparedness emergency ([PA 21-185](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2021).

Municipal Fine for Unregistered Vehicles

A new law allows municipalities to impose, by ordinance, a fine of up to \$250 on owners of motor vehicles that are subject to local property tax in the municipality but are not registered with DMV. Municipalities may only impose this fine on vehicles eligible for registration and required to be registered under the state’s motor vehicle laws. Municipalities imposing a fine must (1) adopt a citation hearing procedure through which the fine must be imposed and (2) suspend fines for first-time violators who provide proof that they registered their vehicle with DMV ([PA 21-106](#), § 32, effective July 1, 2021).

Municipal Surcharge

The legislature increased, from \$20 to \$25, the surcharge paid by people who violate specified motor vehicle laws, regulations, and ordinances, such as speeding and reckless driving. (This surcharge applies in addition to a fine for the violations.) By law, the state must remit this fee to the municipality in which a violation occurs ([PA 21-28](#), § 5, effective October 1, 2021).

Out-of-State Motor Vehicle Registrations

The legislature extended, from 60 to 90 days after establishing residency, the grace period during which a resident may drive a vehicle registered out-of-state without penalty. This act also lowers the fine, from \$1,000 to \$250, for residents who drive a vehicle registered out-of-state after the grace period and requires that the fine be suspended for first-time violators who provide proof that they registered their vehicles. By law, this fine is remitted to municipalities.

The legislature also reconstituted and modified the motor vehicle registration task force, which is charged with studying compliance with motor vehicle registration laws and making recommendations to prevent Connecticut residents from registering motor vehicles out-of-state. Task force members must be appointed by Transportation Committee leadership and must include tax assessors, police chiefs, and police officers ([PA 21-106](#), §§ 30 & 31, effective October 1, 2021, for the penalty and grace period change and upon passage for the task force).

Project Longevity Initiative Expansion

New legislation expands the “Project Longevity Initiative” to Waterbury. Project Longevity is a comprehensive community-based initiative to reduce gun violence in Connecticut’s cities. It does so through a joint effort among community members, law enforcement, and social service providers to focus an anti-violence message on highly active street groups. The project is already in place in New Haven, Hartford, and Bridgeport. Under the act, the OPM secretary must submit a plan to

implement the Project Longevity Initiative statewide to the Public Safety and Security Committee by February 1, 2022 ([PA 21-153](#), effective upon passage).

Public Safety Answering Points Consolidation Task Force

The legislature established a task force to study the current system of public safety answering points and make recommendations for consolidating them while prioritizing the need to ensure public safety. The task force must submit to the Public Safety and Security and Planning and Development committees (1) an interim report by February 1, 2022, and (2) a final report by January 1, 2023 ([SA 21-16](#), effective upon passage).

Public Safety Committees in Towns With Correctional Facilities

A new law repeals the requirement for the Department of Correction (DOC) to establish public safety or advisory committees in municipalities with correctional facilities, and instead allows these municipalities to establish public safety committees. It generally consolidates the former committees' responsibilities into the municipally-created committees.

Under the act, each committee includes the facility warden, or his or her designee, and representatives appointed by the municipal chief elected official. Each committee must (1) meet at least annually to review correctional safety and security issues and offender reentry efforts affecting the municipality and (2) report annually, by November 1, on their concerns and recommendations to the chairpersons and ranking members of the Judiciary and Public Safety committees ([PA 21-85](#), §§ 3 & 8, October 1, 2021).

Temporary Local Fire Marshal Appointments

When a local fire marshal can no longer serve due to death, disability, dismissal, retirement, or revocation of his or her certification and there is no existing deputy fire marshal, prior law authorized municipal officials or entities to appoint a deputy fire marshal as the acting fire marshal. A new law instead allows the officials to appoint a person who holds a fire marshal certification issued by the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee. Existing law limits this position to a maximum of 180 days ([PA 21-165](#), § 12, effective July 1, 2021).

Property Taxes and Other Assessments

Aquaculture Property

A new law extends Connecticut's PA 490 program to underwater farms and certain waterfront property used for commercial aquaculture purposes. PA 490 allows certain farm, forest, open space, and maritime heritage land to be assessed for property tax purposes based on current use

value rather than fair market value ([PA 21-24](#), §§ 4-5, effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to tax assessments on and after that date).

Elderly Tax Freeze Program

A new law expands eligibility for the local option Elderly Tax Freeze Program by decreasing the program's minimum age requirement from 70 to 65 years. But, the act allows a municipality, by vote of its legislative body, to set the program's minimum age requirement at older than 65 years. A municipality that voted to limit program eligibility to individuals ages 70 and older prior to this date is not required to take another vote unless it seeks to lower the program's minimum age requirement ([PA 21-84](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years beginning on and after that date).

Exemption for Certain Residential Renewable Energy Sources

By law, Class I renewable energy sources (e.g., wind and solar) installed on or after October 1, 2007, for private residential use or for use on a farm are exempt from property tax. Under a new law, a facility cannot be disqualified from the exemption because it (1) uses or participates in net metering, a tariff policy, or another state program or (2) is owned by someone other than the property owner (e.g., leased solar panels). Prior law did not limit the size or number of installed facilities that were eligible for the exemption. However, the new law limits eligibility to those whose estimated annual production does not exceed the estimated annual load where the facility is located ([PA 21-180](#), effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years starting on or after that date).

Lien Assignment

The legislature passed a law imposing new restrictions on entities that acquire the right to enforce real property liens securing specified delinquent tax, sewer, and water charges (i.e., lien assignees). These provisions include a requirement that a payoff statement be provided in the same way that one must be provided in a foreclosure situation. The new law also makes a lien assignment executed on or after July 1, 2022, unenforceable unless it is memorialized in a written contract between the assignee and the municipality or water pollution control, water, or sewer authority, as applicable ([PA 21-143](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Minimal Property Tax Bill Waiver

A new law raises the maximum total property tax bill that a municipality's legislative body may waive, from less than \$25 to less than \$100 ([PA 21-73](#), § 3, effective July 1, 2021).

Optional Property Tax Exemption for Certain Emergency Volunteers

A new law increases the maximum property tax exemption that municipalities may provide to certain active and retired volunteer emergency personnel, making it equal to the maximum amount of relief municipalities may give them through abatements (i.e., \$2,000). As under the prior law, the emergency volunteers to whom municipalities may, by ordinance, provide the tax relief include firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and retired volunteers who served at least 25 years in those roles ([PA 21-83](#), effective July 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years starting on or after October 1, 2021).

Optional Property Tax Relief Program for FYs 22 & 23

A new law allows municipalities and taxing districts to provide temporary property tax or municipal utility charge relief to residents, businesses, and nonprofits for FYs 22 and 23. With the approval of their legislative bodies or boards of directors, municipalities and taxing districts may establish a program that (1) defers these payments for 90 days or (2) lowers the interest rate on late payments for 90 days, generally from 1.5% to 0.25% per month. The relief may apply to property tax payments (including those owed on real and personal property and motor vehicles) or municipal water, sewer, or electric rates, charges, or assessments ([PA 21-73](#), §§ 1-2, effective July 1, 2021).

Reduced Assessment for Properties With Defective Foundations

By law, municipal assessors or their staff must inspect and reassess residential properties with foundations made from defective concrete at the property owner's request. Under prior law, the adjusted assessment was valid for five assessment years unless the foundation is repaired or replaced sooner. A new law eliminates the five-year maximum and specifies that the assessment must be updated with each revaluation ([PA 21-120](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Stormwater Authorities

Provisions in a new law on climate change adaptation authorize all municipalities, rather than just the three that participated in DEEP's municipal stormwater pilot program (authorized under PA 07-154), to establish a municipal stormwater authority. The provisions generally do the following:

1. expand the authorities' powers to assess fees and specify a process by which municipal legislative bodies approve the fees; and
2. restrict the fees for certain hospital-owned properties; farm, forest, open space, or state or local government-owned land; and property owners who use certain stormwater best management practices ([PA 21-115](#), §§ 1-3, effective July 1, 2021).

Public Health

Health Directors – Various Changes

A new law makes various changes affecting municipal and district health departments, including making certain requirements consistent for both types of departments. For example, it (1) requires Department of Public Health (DPH) approval for municipal health director appointments (existing law already requires this for health districts); (2) increases the minimum vacancy, from 30 to 60 days, before DPH may appoint someone to fill a municipal health director vacancy; and (3) prohibits all health directors from having a financial interest or outside job that substantially conflicts with their duties (prior law exempted directors in towns of a certain size) ([PA 21-121](#), §§ 23-25, effective July 1, 2021).

Another new law makes certain similar changes and also requires municipalities, with DPH approval, to designate an acting director if the existing director is unable to act during a declared public health emergency ([PA 21-35](#), § 20, effective July 1, 2021).

Itinerant Food Vendor Licensure Reciprocity

By law, the DPH commissioner must collaborate with local health directors to develop a process to allow reciprocal licensing of itinerant food vending establishments that (1) have a valid license or permit from a local health director and (2) seek to operate in a different municipality.

A new law extends the date by which the (1) commissioner must report to the Public Health Committee on the process she develops to December 1, 2021, and (2) commissioner and each local health director must implement the licensure by reciprocity to January 1, 2022 ([PA 21-26](#), § 8, effective upon passage).

Notification of Certain Projects in Watersheds or Aquifer Protection Areas

A new law (1) broadens the circumstances under which applicants must notify water companies and DPH about certain projects in watersheds and aquifer protection areas and (2) requires the applicants to notify DPH by email.

The act eliminates the prior condition requiring this notice only in cases where certain maps have been filed. Instead, it generally requires applicants to (1) notify the water company and DPH and (2) determine if the project is within a water company's watershed by consulting the maps on DPH's website. As under existing law, the company and DPH have the right to be heard at any hearing on the application ([PA 21-121](#), §§ 3 & 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Regional Entities

Regional Councils of Government Funding and Bylaws

This session, the legislature modified the funding calculation for grants to regional councils of governments (COGs). Beginning in FY 22, a new law requires the OPM secretary to annually distribute a grant from the regional planning incentive account to each COG in the amount of \$185,500 plus 68 cents per capita. For each of FYs 20 and 21, an existing law required the OPM secretary to distribute \$4.1 million from this account, as well as an additional amount within available appropriations, to the COGs.

The new law also modifies COG bylaw requirements to (1) allow COG representatives to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position; (2) eliminate a requirement that COG treasurers be bonded; and (3) allow, rather than require, COGs to establish an executive committee ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 176 & 179-180, effective July 1, 2021).

Regional Economic Development Pilot Program

A new law requires DECD to establish, within available resources, a pilot program to provide matching grants to regional economic development corporations implementing economic development programs in distressed municipalities. Corporations must represent at least four municipalities to be eligible for the pilot program, including one distressed municipality. The DECD commissioner may allow a corporation that represents less than four municipalities to participate in the program at his discretion.

The DECD commissioner may award up to \$10 million in total grants to participating corporations, but no more than \$5 million for any single grant ([PA 21-77](#), effective July 1, 2021).

Regional Performance Incentive Program

This session, the legislature modified the entities and projects that are eligible for Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) funding, as well the RPIP application requirements and selection criteria. The new law limits eligibility for RPIP grants to COGs and regional educational service centers (RESCs), or any combination of them, thus making economic development districts, boards of education serving a population of more than 100,000, and municipalities applying through COGs ineligible.

The law also modifies the RPIP application requirements in several ways; principally it requires (1) a resolution from the applying COG or RESC stating that it will fund at least 25% of the proposal's first year costs and all of its costs by the fourth year and (2) an acknowledgment from any employee

organization (e.g., labor union) potentially impacted by the proposal that it was informed of and consulted about the proposal. It additionally modifies the purposes for which the funds may be used and sets criteria on which the OPM secretary must select awardees ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 177, effective upon passage).

Regional Tourism District Boards of Directors

A new law allows two or more municipalities to jointly appoint one representative to a regional tourism district's board of directors. The jointly appointed representative (1) is deemed present for each appointing municipality for purposes of a quorum at a board meeting and (2) may vote for each appointing municipality ([PA 21-94](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2021).

Remote Meetings and Electronic Transactions

Electronic Meeting Notices to Interested Parties

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires public agencies, where practicable, to give notice of each regular and special meeting at least seven days in advance to a person who makes a written request for this notice. A new law gives public agencies the option of providing this notice by electronic transmission, rather than by mail as prior law required.

FOIA allows a person who does not receive proper notice of a meeting to appeal to the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC). Existing law presumes that a political subdivision agency (e.g., a municipal agency) has given proper notice if it timely sends the notice by first-class mail to the address provided by the requestor. A new law additionally presumes proper notice if it is timely sent by electronic transmission to the requestor's information processing system (e.g., email account) ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 148 & 150, effective July 1, 2021).

Orderly Conduct at Meetings

Under existing law, a town meeting moderator may order an officer to take a disorderly person into custody and remove him or her from the meeting if necessary. Additionally, FOIA allows a public agency's members, when order cannot be restored by removing disorderly individuals, to order the room cleared before continuing with the meeting.

A new law expands this authority to include disorderly individuals attending a meeting by electronic equipment. It allows town meeting moderators and public agency members to terminate these individuals' attendance by electronic equipment until they conform to order or, if necessary, until the meeting is over ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 152 & 153, effective upon passage for town meetings and July 1, 2021, for FOIA).

Paying Fees Electronically

A new law allows town clerks to designate a website for paying recording fees (e.g., for recording documents on the land records) and accept payments for these fees through the website in a manner they prescribe. It allows registrars of vital statistics to similarly designate a website for paying vital records fees (e.g., birth certificates). Typically, the town clerk serves as the registrar of vital statistics ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 155 & 156, effective October 1, 2021).

Remote Meetings and Electronic Transactions

A new law explicitly allows public agencies, until April 30, 2022, to hold meetings under FOIA that are accessible to the public through electronic equipment, or through electronic equipment in conjunction with an in-person meeting. (FOIA's existing definition of "meeting" includes those held by electronic equipment, but it does not explicitly authorize, or establish procedures for, telephone or other remotely held meetings.) The new law establishes several requirements for meetings held using electronic equipment, including that agencies provide at least 48 hours' notice and that members of the public have the same participation opportunities as they would for an in-person meeting ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 149, effective July 1, 2021).

Other provisions in the new law make numerous changes allowing municipal entities or programs to permanently conduct certain business or otherwise operate using electronic means (including telephone, video, or other conferencing platforms). Generally, the changes allow specified (1) notices and applications to be sent electronically and (2) hearings or meetings to be held using electronic equipment ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 157-175, most provisions effective October 1, 2021).

Miscellaneous

Adoptee Access to Original Birth Certificate

A new law expands access to birth certificates for adopted persons age 18 and older and their adult children or adult grandchildren. It allows them to obtain an uncertified copy of the adoptee's original birth certificate upon request, regardless of when the adoption occurred. Prior law provided this access only for adoptions finalized on or after October 1, 1983. For adoptions before then, prior law allowed these individual to access the original certificate only through a court order, and if the birth parents are alive, the court generally could issue the order only with their consent.

Among other things, the new law also transfers, from DPH to municipalities, the responsibility to issue the original birth certificates upon an eligible individual's request ([PA 21-21](#), effective July 1, 2021).

Alcohol Sales

A new law allows municipalities to determine whether to allow alcoholic liquor sales or which permit types to allow through a vote of its legislative body or, if a town meeting, by vote of the board of selectmen, rather than a referendum ([PA 21-37](#), §§ 101 & 102, effective upon passage).

Commission on Connecticut's Development and Future

A new law establishes a commission within the Legislative Department to evaluate policies related to land use, conservation, housing affordability, and infrastructure. The commission is made up of legislative and gubernatorial appointees and specified executive branch commissioners. Among other things, the commission must (1) look at existing law's municipal affordable housing planning requirement and the state's sewer and septic system oversight and (2) develop model design guidelines for buildings and streets. By January 1, 2022, and again by January 1, 2023, the commission must submit a report to the OPM secretary and Planning and Development, Environment, Housing, and Transportation committees ([PA 21-29](#), § 13, effective upon passage).

Creation of a Geographic Information Systems Office

A new law establishes a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) office within OPM and a geographic information officer position to oversee the new office and its staff. Under the law, the information officer is generally responsible for coordinating the collection, analysis, and accessibility of GIS data as well as establishing goals for the new office. The law additionally establishes a 14-member GIS Advisory Council to, among other things, consult with the information officer on matters regarding free and public GIS data ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 78-80, effective October 1, 2021).

Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy

This year's budget implementer transfers the financial assets, records, files, and intellectual property and copyright rights of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) from Central Connecticut State University to UConn. It also makes related conforming changes by adding the IMRP's director at UConn to the membership of various committees and boards in place of the IMRP director at CCSU ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 22-27, effective October 1, 2021).

Multipurpose Senior Centers

A new law authorizes any one or more municipalities, or private organizations that serve older adults and are designated to act as agents of one or more municipalities, to establish a "multipurpose senior center," which is a community facility that organizes and provides a broad spectrum of senior services, including recreational activities and health (including mental and

behavioral health), social, nutritional, and educational services ([PA 21-7](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2021).

Port Authority Board of Directors

A new law provides municipal representation on the Connecticut Port Authority board of directors. Specifically, it (1) adds as ex-officio members the chief elected officials of Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London (i.e., the locations of the state's three deep water ports), or their designees, and (2) requires that two board seats be filled by chief elected officials from municipalities with small harbors ([PA 21-179](#), § 2, effective upon passage and applicable to appointments made on or after the date of the act's passage).

Prevailing Wage Rates for Public Works Projects

A new law revises the method the labor commissioner must use to set prevailing wage rates on public works projects. The law establishes one process for building, heavy, and highway projects and another for residential projects. Under the existing prevailing wage law and unchanged by the new law, contractors on public works projects, including any municipal or board of education project, must at least pay the prevailing hourly wage rate and benefits, as determined by law, to all eligible workers on the project. The requirement applies to new construction projects of \$1 million or more and renovation projects of \$100,000 or more ([PA 21-154](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Regulating Cannabis

A new law addresses various issues on municipal authority to regulate cannabis. For example, it:

1. authorizes municipalities to enact certain zoning regulations or ordinances for cannabis establishments, including to prohibit them from opening;
2. temporarily prohibits them from granting zoning approval for more retailers or micro-cultivators than a number that would allow for one of each for every 25,000 residents;
3. requires them, upon petition of 10% of their voters, to hold a local referendum on whether to allow the recreational sale of marijuana;
4. bars them from prohibiting the delivery of cannabis by authorized persons;
5. allows them to charge retailers for certain initial public safety expenses; and
6. allows them to establish fines for cannabis smoking in outdoor sections of restaurants ([PA 21-1](#), JSS, §§ 83, 84 & 148, effective July 1, 2021, except for the smoking-related provisions, which are effective October 1, 2021).

State-Municipal Easements

A new law authorizes the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner to grant easements to, and acquire easements from, the federal government or a political subdivision of the state (e.g., municipality) for public purposes provided he (1) determines that these purposes do not conflict with the public interest and (2) receives approval from the State Properties Review Board. He must also receive approval from OPM and the agency supervising the land's care and control before granting an easement ([PA 21-198](#), § 5, effective July 1, 2021).

Surplus Property Acquisitions

The legislature modified the state surplus property disposition process by reducing the (1) amount of time by which a municipality must notify DAS of its intention to acquire surplus state property from 120 to 60 days and (2) maximum extension that DAS may grant on this deadline from 60 to 30 days ([PA 21-145](#), § 8, effective July 1, 2021).

Statewide Senior Center Workgroup

A new law establishes a 14-member statewide senior center working group to develop a coordinated plan for senior centers and municipal services for older adults. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Aging, Housing, Human Services, Planning and Development, Public Health, and Transportation committees by January 1, 2023 ([PA 21-7](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Renters' Rebate Applications

In practice, some municipalities require applicants for the Renters' Rebate program to provide a notarized landlord verification of property rental on their application. A new law requires these municipalities to exempt a renter from this requirement if a verification for the same property rental by the same renter was previously notarized. It also prohibits these municipalities from delaying an application's submission to the OPM secretary if the renter misses the notarization deadline but is otherwise qualified ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 168, effective October 1, 2021).

JSB:kl