

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

We are back with our 'End of Summer' edition of our Legislative Newsletter! We hope you have had a wonderful summer. This newsletter will provide an overview of the 2025 Legislative Session which will include bills that had final passage, as well as items contained in the budget, that are of interest to DMHAS staff and stakeholders. The legislative team tracked hundreds of bills this session that culminated at midnight on June 4th.

We hope you find this breakdown informative and helpful. A list of bills that passed at least one chamber this session can be found [here](#).

What's Been Happening This Summer?

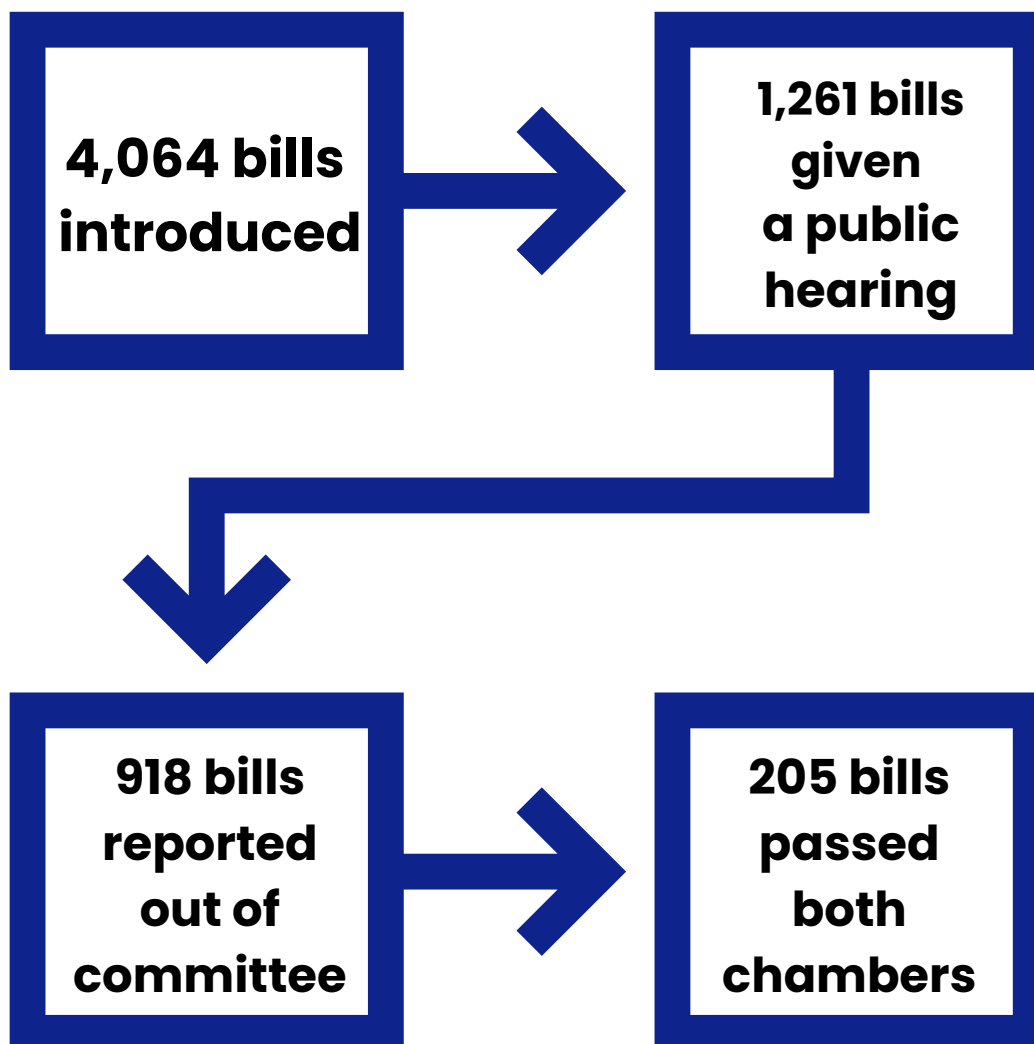
Although the legislative session has ended, things are still happening at the Capitol and Legislative Office Building. Below are some highlights of what has taken place thus far during the off-session related to DMHAS:

- **Block Grants**
 - Each year DMHAS, along with other health and human service agencies, are required to have certain federal fund expenditure plans (referred to as "block grants") approved by legislative committees of cognizance. Testimony on our [Substance Use, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant](#) and [Community Mental Health Services Block Grant](#) allocation plans was presented by Commissioner Navarretta. Both were approved unanimously!
- **Federal Executive Orders**
 - In July, President Trump issued an Executive Order regarding homelessness and harm reduction.
 - Commissioner Navarretta and Governor Lamont, along with other state agencies and advocates, took part in events with policy makers and advocates to bring attention to the impact of the Executive Order and has pledged the agency's support to those affected. To watch the press conference, click [here](#).
- **Bonding Commission**
 - On August 1st, the State Bond Commission unanimously approved more than \$6 million to replace the roofs at Capitol Region Mental Health Center.

Legislative Session Stats

During the legislative session, we provided a breakdown on the committee process. We wanted to provide some stats to illustrate how the legislative process works and how the numbers of bills at the process is underway. This session was the highest number of bills introduced in recent years.

Additionally, as the clock winds down, bills often get folded into one another and become “mega bills” or omnibus bills in order to ensure that a bill can pass both chambers in time. One example of this is our DMHAS agency bill! Our major provisions were ultimately added into the budget implementer.



See You Next Session!
In partnership, Chandra & Kelly

2025 Legislative Session

SUMMARY



CONNECTICUT
Mental Health & Addiction Services

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DMHAS- STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DMHAS has put this report together to summarize legislation that passed. It consists of items that directly require DMHAS to act, produce a deliverable, sit on a work group/task force, change operations or processes in some way, or have subject matter relevant to our work.

For ease, the document is broken down into four sections:

- [Section I](#) – includes large bills that were major legislative priorities,
- [Section II](#) – lists other bills passed that directly impact DMHAS,
- [Section III](#) – lists bills passed that are of interest to DMHAS, and
- [Section IV](#) – lists out new work groups/task forces where DMHAS has one or more appointment as well as new reporting requirements.

We hope you find this report informative and helpful. A list of bills that passed at least one chamber this session can be found [here](#). As always, should you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you!

Chandra & Kelly

SECTION I – BUDGET BILLS

Appropriations Act, Bond Bill, Deficiency Bill, & Related Implementer Provisions

[PA 25-168](#) (HB 7287) – AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget

Background: This bill reflects the adoption of a two-year budget from FY 2026 through FY 2027, as well as contains various other provisions that implement the budget. Draft budget sheets from the General Assembly's Office of Fiscal Analysis can be found [here](#), with DMHAS beginning on page 160. The table below highlights provisions in this bill that impact or are of interest to DMHAS, apart from the appropriated funding levels. Of note, almost all major provisions of the DMHAS agency bill were included in this implementer.

Relevant Provision
§§113-114 AGENCY BILL PROVISION – Pre-Trial Intervention Program (PTIP) Sustainability. This section specifies that DMHAS will not pay waived costs for PTIP when an individual has private or public insurance that will pay for such treatment (makes DMHAS the payor of last resort). It also clarifies that DMHAS will wrap-around any out-of-pocket costs to ensure no cost to the individual found indigent. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
§115 AGENCY BILL PROVISION – OSAC Membership. This section updates the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) membership statute to ensure the number of municipal seats is expanded by the same number of state appointed seats added under Public Act 24-150, as required per the Opioid Settlement Agreements. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
§§116-120 AGENCY BILL PROVISION – Definition of Opioid Drug. These sections correct an outdated federal statutory reference with an updated citation to define “opioid drug”. Of note, §116 makes clarifying changes to the telehealth provider prescribing authority language for controlled substances. It maintains the intent of the current law that schedule II or III controlled substances used for medication-assisted treatment or certain behavioral health treatment can be prescribed through telehealth, subject to federal law. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
§96 Executive Branch Data Governance. This provision eliminates a requirement for the state Chief Data Officer to annually report on ways to share executive branch high value data, which originally included consultation with all state agency data officers. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
§137 Social Work and Law Enforcement Project. This section requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), to establish a social work and law enforcement project to advance the ethical and effective integration of social work services into law enforcement units. The budget includes funding for this provision in the DESPP budget. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
§166 Community Ombudsman Program. This provision broadens the scope of the Community Ombudsman program to specifically include home and community-based long-term services and supports. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
§§171-172 – Codification of Federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. These sections codify into state statute various requirements and restrictions for hospital emergency departments related to emergency care and the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), including: (1) prohibiting emergency departments, or their providers, from discriminating on various bases; (2) requiring DPH to adopt certain EMTALA-related provisions into state regulations if the federal law is revoked; and (3) allowing DPH to take disciplinary action against hospitals or providers who violate these provisions. <i>Effective from passage.</i>

Relevant Provision
§§174-175 Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Declaration as Public Health Crisis. These sections declare opioid use disorder to be a public health crisis in the state and require the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC) to convene a working group to set goals to combat this disorder's prevalence (see Sec. IV for more details on report). <i>Effective from passage.</i>
§§184-186 Updates to Home Health Safety Provisions. These sections make various changes to laws on home health and hospice agency staff safety, such as (1) requiring health care providers to give these agencies certain information when referring or transferring a patient to them, (2) extending to hospice agencies certain requirements that already apply to home health agencies, and (3) requiring these agencies to create a system for staff to report violent incidents or threats in conjunction with monthly safety assessments conducted by direct care staff. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
§187 Correction Ombuds Duties. This section requires the state's correction ombuds to evaluate the provision of health care services to people who are incarcerated by the Department of Correction (DOC), including medical, dental, and mental health care and substance use disorder treatment services. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
§188-190 Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Challenges. These provisions intend to make policy changes to address ED overcrowding. Specifically, §188 requires the probate court administrator and Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to evaluate the feasibility of establishing an expedited process to appoint a conservator for hospital ED patients who lack the capacity to consent to services to help reduce emergency department crowding and boarding. A report must be jointly submitted on the evaluation and any recommendations to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2026. §190 creates a 22-member working group to evaluate hospital discharge challenges, including discharge practices, and propose strategies to reduce discharge delays, improve care transitions, and alleviate emergency department boarding. By January 15, 2026, the group must report its findings and recommendations to the Human Services and Public Health committees. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
§§198-219 State Contracting Spending Allocation Goals. These provisions generally make changes to the state laws on non-discrimination contract compliance, the Small and Minority Owned Business Set-Aside Program, and affirmative action plans for certain state contractors. Specifically for state agencies, the bill requires setting certain annual and contract-specific spending allocation goals and establishes quarterly reporting requirements on the progress of these goals to DAS and CHRO. <i>Effective October 1, 2025</i>
§249 Statewide Uniform Youth Diversion Policy. This section requires, by February 1, 2026, that the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) chairpersons, and representatives of JJPOC's community expertise subcommittee to develop a proposed (1) statewide uniform youth diversion policy for JJPOC's adoption and (2) youth diversion training curriculum for inclusion in minimum basic training programs that lead to police certification. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
§264 Department of Correction (DOC) Health Services. This section specifically requires DOC's plan for health care services to ensure that various requirements are met, rather than to include guidelines for implementing them. It also adds certain components to the plan, including (1) interviewing incarcerated people at intake about their mental health history and (2) providing evidence-based mental health services by a mental health provider or therapist, as needed, within two business days of a determination of need upon intake. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
§266 Medical Records Access. These provisions require the DOC commissioner to ensure that everyone in the department's custody is given a form allowing them to authorize someone else to access their medical records that would otherwise be subject to nondisclosure under HIPAA. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>

Relevant Provision

<p>§394 & §396 Tobacco Product and Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) Regulation. §394 modifies the definition of “cigarette” under the cigarette tax law to generally align it with the definition in the tobacco master settlement agreement (MSA) law (the 1998 agreement between Connecticut and leading tobacco companies). §396 specifically requires ENDS sellers to ask prospective buyers to present a driver’s license, passport, or ID card to verify that they are at least 21 years old and allows them to use electronic scanners to check a passport’s validity, just as current law allows them to for driver’s licenses and ID cards. This section also increases the maximum fines that may be imposed on anyone who sells, gives, or delivers ENDS to a minor and authorizes the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to suspend or revoke a certification for violating age verification. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i></p>
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PA 25-174 (HB 7288) – AA Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State and Concerning Grant Programs, State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects, Revisions to the School Building Projects Statutes and Various Provisions Revising and Implementing the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027.

Background: In general, the bond bill authorizes or adjusts state general obligation or other types of bonds for various capital improvements, grant programs, and other initiatives. This bill also includes other provisions that further implement the budget. The table below includes the new bonding authorizations for DMHAS, as well as one other relevant provision of note.

Relevant Provision

<p>DMHAS Bonding Dollars. The bill includes, over the biennium, \$60 million for improvements to our various facilities for client care and staffing needs; \$25 million for design and installation of new sprinkler, fire suppression, and fire alarm systems at our facilities; and \$50 million for the planning and design of a replacement for Whiting Forensic Hospital.</p>
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<p>§199 Police Mental Health. This section (originally §1 of SB 365) requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with DMHAS and other entities, to investigate ways to develop and enhance programs addressing police officer mental health.</p>
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SECTION II – LIST OF BILLS IMPACTING DMHAS

The list of bills below directly impacts DMHAS by requiring us to act, produce a deliverable, or change operations or processes in some way.

TOPICS:

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Bill	Summary
<i>Special Education Legislative Priority Bills</i>	
PA 25-93 SB 1	<p>SB 1, An Act Concerning the Quality and Delivery of Special Education in Connecticut and HB 5001, An Act Increasing Resources for Students, Schools, and Special Education make various numerous revisions to the funding, quality, and delivery of special education in state. Links to a plain language summary are included here: SB 1; HB 5001</p> <p><i>Other provisions of note include:</i></p> <p>§14 of HB 5001 requires the Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee to submit a report to the Education Committee and Committee on Children on behavioral health issues affecting special education students.</p> <p>§33 of SB 1 requires any state agency that contributes data for the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network’s (P20 WIN) disconnected youth report to post the report on its website</p> <p>§17 of SB 1529 subsequently repealed §§36, 37, 41, and 42 of SB 1.</p>
PA 25-67 HB 5001	
PA 25-175 SB 1529	

Bill	Summary
Criminal Justice/Legal Provisions	
PA 25-29 HB 7259	<p>An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning Criminal Justice. §§4 and 6 expand who is considered a “law enforcement officer” under the civil immigration detainer law to include, among others, juvenile probation officers, prosecutors, and BOPP employees; broadens the circumstances under which a federal immigration authority can interview a person in state or local law enforcement custody or a person may be arrested or detained under a civil immigration detainer to apply to people convicted of 1 of 13 specified crimes; and creates a civil cause of action for an aggrieved person against a municipality for violating this detainer law. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§§7-8 exclude an electronic defense weapon used by a peace officer from being considered deadly force. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§9 expands the circumstances under which law enforcement may use a chokehold or similar restraint methods to include the defense of a third person from the use or imminent use of deadly physical force. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§11 makes it a class C misdemeanor to knowingly allow an underage person to (1) open or use an account with an online gaming operator or (2) wager or try to wager on Internet games or with a sports wagering retailer. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p>
PA 25-109 SB 1402	<p>An Act Modifying the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis of Regulations Affecting Small Businesses. This bill requires information in the regulatory flexibility analysis that agencies must prepare before adopting regulations that directly affect small businesses to include: whether small businesses, to comply with the proposed regulation, may be required to (1) keep records for a period of time, (2) change or provide an additional employee benefit, or (3) change a product the small business manufactures or its packaging. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i></p>
Prevention & Health Promotion/Alcohol & Drug Regulation	
PA 25-166 HB 7181	<p>An Act Concerning the Regulation of Tobacco, Cannabis, Hemp and Related Products, Conduct and Establishments.</p> <p>§§1-2 require the local police chief to send written comments for a cigarette dealer license renewal and DRS to send a written response back, under certain circumstances and allows certain remonstrance objections on suitability to be on issues controlled by local zoning. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§§3 and 33 require DCP to establish a Cannabis Control Division and annually report certain compliance initiative statistics to the governor and certain legislative committees. <i>Effective July 1, 2025 and effective from passage.</i></p> <p>§4 establishes a Statewide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board (see Sec. IV for more details on report). <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§5 makes various changes to e-cigarette dealer requirements, such as requiring certain signs, prohibiting underaged individuals on the business premises under certain circumstances, requiring additional application, increasing the application fee, generally increasing the penalty for businesses operating without a registration, and giving DCP additional enforcement powers for “sufficient cause”. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§§5-6 and 45 establishes substantially similar restrictions on and requirements for shipping, transporting, and selling e-cigarettes as under existing law for cigarettes. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p>

Bill	Summary
PA 25-166 HB 7181 (continued)	<p>§10 requires DCP to develop signage with a quick response code that verifies whether the person displaying the signage holds an active DCP cannabis establishment license. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§§11, 22, 23 and 25 subject cannabis products to the same distribution prohibitions as “cannabis”. <i>Effective October 1, 2025 and effective from passage.</i></p> <p>§11 broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating by adding additional items to what is considered an “immediate threat to public health and safety” and allows municipalities to keep all of the civil fines for certain violations. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§30 specifies that the prohibition on products that appeal to children includes facsimiles of foods, beverages, and other items that appeal to children. It also increases the allowable THC levels from on a dry-weight basis from (1) 30% to 35% for the cannabis flower or plant material and (2) 60% to 70% for any other cannabis product except for prefilled cartridges (e.g., vapes) and requires DCP to adopt regulations requiring cannabis establishments that sell these higher-THC products to have a separate area for them and provide certain warnings.</p> <p>§32 creates a suspected cannabis theft reporting exemption allowing cannabis establishments to conduct an internal investigation before reporting to DCF under certain conditions. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§34 expands who can advertise cannabis or cannabis-related services in CT to include a person who displays advertising or promotional materials that are solely visible within the interior of a cannabis establishment. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§35 generally limits the hours a cannabis retailer, hybrid retailer, or certain micro-cultivators may sell cannabis to 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays and 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. any other day. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§§36-38 require a DCP-issued high-THC beverage endorsement for persons that manufacture these beverages for sale outside of Connecticut and requires these manufacturers to include clear and conspicuous labeling that the beverage is not for sale in Connecticut and report to DCP. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§§36-37 and 39 establish licensure requirements for infused beverage wholesalers and generally require anyone who acts or represents themselves as such to be licensed; require the wholesalers to assess a \$1 fee on each infused beverage sold; provide for compliance verifications and audits; and allow DCP to take certain enforcement actions for violations. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§40 specifies that ingestible manufacturer hemp sold in the state must be from a federally licensed hemp produce and eliminates the requirement that the manufacturer hemp product statement disclosure includes warnings directed at children. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§§41-42 modify the penalties for a cannabis establishment licensee selling or delivering cannabis or cannabis paraphernalia to someone under age 21 and makes it a class E felony for them to sell or deliver synthetic cannabinoids to anyone. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>§44 requires e-cigarette sellers to ask all prospective buyers to present identification to prove that they are age 21 or older and allows them to verify the age by using an electronic scanner and increases the maximum fines that may be imposed on anyone who sells, gives, or delivers an e-</p>

Bill	Summary
	cigarette to a minor. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-171 HB 7179	An Act Concerning Pharmaceutical Marketing and Pharmaceuticals. §§3-5 remove several alarm and temperature control requirements for “secure boxes” for distribution of nonlegend naloxone and exempts the distribution of nonlegend naloxone to the public through a secure box from the nonlegend permitting process. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
Women’s Services	
PA 25-38 HB 7102	An Act Concerning Maternal and Infant Health Care. §2 expands the Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative’s objectives to include expanding fathers’ roles in supporting maternal health and adds programs that support fathers’ roles in supporting maternal health to the types of programs this funding may support. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-97 HB 7157	An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes. §§43-44 allow DPH to disclose Infant Mortality Review Program data to the Child Advocate and, in turn, allows the Child Advocate to disclose to DPH information on infant deaths necessary for each to perform their statutory duties. This shared information and data is deemed confidential and not subject to further disclosure. <i>Effective October 2, 2025.</i>
PA 25-96 HB 6978	An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes. §§2-4 allow DPH to use the data it obtains for the Maternal Mortality Review Program, along with findings of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee, to improve the accuracy of vital statistics data. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
Young Adult Services	
PA 25-89 HB 7108	An Act Concerning Autism and Intellectual Disability Services and Abuse and Neglect Investigations. §5 requires the OPM Secretary, in consultation with the Governor’s Kids Cabinet, to establish a working group to look into the feasibility of an interagency complex case team for young adults with IDD, including ASD. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
Fiscal/Auditing	
PA 25-151 SB 1358	An Act Concerning Inflationary Rate Increases for State-Contracted Nonprofit Human Services Providers. This bill establishes annual inflationary increases beginning in FY 2028 for rates paid to nonprofit human services providers, including Medicaid providers, that contract with the state and requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to report every three years on appropriations needed to make these increases. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
PA 25-147 HB 7090	An Act Concerning the Timing and Scope of Audits by the Auditors of Public Accounts. This bill allows the Government Oversight Committee (GOS) to have the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA) perform limited performance “engagements” within available appropriations. It also requires the APA to submit a proposed schedule for audits they place to conduct the following fiscal year to GOS annually on July 1st, beginning in 2026. State agencies that are subject of an audit that contains violations of state statute or regulation, other than only minor or technical recommendations, must also report on corrective actions within 6 months of the audit issuance to the auditors, the Governor, and the General Assembly; GOS then may request the auditors to verify the corrective action report within 60 days. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>

Bill	Summary
PA 25-156 SB 1468	An Act Concerning Government Accountability Regarding Agency Purchase Card Use. This bill requires any new procedures on state agency purchasing card (P-card) use to include certain provisions, such as specifying the types of transactions allowed, limits on certain types of purchases, and deadline requirements for submitting receipts; requires each state agency to appoint an employee as its P-card coordinator, with certain responsibilities, such as issuing P-cards to authorized employees and reviewing receipts and other documentation related to their use; and establishes new reporting requirements to the Comptroller on P-card use. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-167 HB 7192	An Act Implementing Recommendations of The Bipartisan Drug Task Force. §§19-20 require the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to negotiate bulk prescription drug purchases on behalf of drug purchasing agencies, including DMHAS; allows agencies to join interstate prescription drug purchasing compacts; and allows drug purchasing agencies to incorporate maximum fair prices negotiated by the federal government as a guiding price in state drug negotiations. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i> §21 establishes an Advisory Council on Pharmaceutical Procurement made up of five gubernatorial appointments to advise the Commissioner of Administrative Services and drug purchasing agencies on prescription drug negotiations. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
Data	
PA 25-27 SB 1506	An Act Concerning Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements. This bill prescribes a new procedure to set the process for legislators to request a racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) on certain bills and amendments beginning with the 2027 legislative session, including allowing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health to ask public agencies for records and information to prepare REIS and set deadlines in which agencies must comply. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-97 HB 7157	An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes. §§47-48 require the Office of Health Strategy to study the exclusion of certain patient health information from CONNIE; exempts certain providers from having to connect with CONNIE; sets patient notification requirements in the case of a data breach, ransomware, or hacking; and prohibits disclosure of protected health information in response to a subpoena, with limited exceptions. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
Facilities/Operations	
PA 25-25 SB 1367	An Act Prohibiting a Bail Bondsman or Agent from Apprehending a Principal on a Bond on the Premises, Grounds or Campus of Any Health Care Facility, School, Institution of Higher Education or House of Worship. This bill prohibits a bondsman or agent from apprehending a principal on a bond on the premises, grounds or campus of any health care facility, school, institution of higher education or house of worship. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-96 HB 6978	An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes. §15 requires Chief Medical Officers and Chief Nursing Officers employed by hospitals, including Whiting Forensic Hospital, to be licensed in Connecticut under the respective medical or nursing practice acts. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
SA 25-14 HB 7284	An Act Conveying a Parcel of State Land to The Town of Preston. This bill conveys the former Norwich State Hospital property from DAS, on behalf of DMHAS, to the town of Preston. <i>Effective from passage.</i>

Bill	Summary
PA 25-154 SB 1380	An Act Prohibiting Discrimination by Health Care Providers in the Provision of Health Care Services in the State. This bill specifically prohibits health care providers from knowingly discriminating in providing health care services due to someone's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, intellectual disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical disability (including blindness), veteran status, or status as a domestic violence victim. It also classifies discrimination by health care providers as a discriminatory practice under CHRO laws. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-97 HB 7157	An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes. §4 prohibits health systems and health care providers from requiring patients to provide electronic payment methods on file as a prerequisite to providing them with services and makes a violation of this prohibition an unfair trade practice. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i> §§5-17 & 52 update patient confidentiality requirements for psychologists by repealing current statutory provisions and instead subjecting them to existing requirements for psychiatric behavioral health providers. <i>Effective October 1, 2025, except the provision on patients' consent to disclosure is effective July 1, 2025 (§ 6).</i> §19 extends, from January 1 to February 1, the date by which health care employers must annually report to DPH on workplace violence incidents. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i> §21 changes the dates by which hospitals must biannually report to DPH on their compliance in the past six months with at least 80% of nurse staffing assignments in their nurse staff plans. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-33 SB 9	An Act Concerning the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Municipal and State Planning, and the Use of Neonicotinoids and Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides. §§31-32 require the DEEP Commissioner to classify all second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides for restricted use by January 1, 2026, and prohibits the use of a pesticide that has any neonicotinoid beginning on October 1, 2027. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
Police	
PA 25-100 HB 7073	An Act Concerning Police Officer Review of Certain Recordings. This bill changes when a police officer may review recordings from body or dashboard cameras and when these recordings must be disclosed to the public. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-157 HB 6859	An Act Concerning the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Recommendations Regarding Firearm Information, Security Officers, Firearm Transfers and School Security Grants and The Fire Marshal Training Council, The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and The Codes and Standards Committee. §1 requires law enforcement agencies to opt in to share information through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (ATF's) National Tracing Center's (NTC's) electronic tracking system (eTrace) for the purposes of seizing or recovering firearms. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-163 SB 1524	An Act Concerning the Use of Handcuffs on Young Children. Prohibits the use of handcuffs to restrain a child who has not been adjudicated and is known by the police officer to be under age 14, with certain exceptions. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>

SECTION III: LIST OF BILLS OF INTEREST

The list of bills below, while not directly impacting DMHAS operations, are highlighted due to their relevance to the initiatives and programs overseen by staff.

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Bill	Summary
<i>Insurance</i>	
PA 25-96 SB 10	An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Patient Protection. §§1-3 require health carriers, beginning March 1, 2026, to annually file a mental health parity compliance certification with the insurance commissioner; makes public a carrier's compliance with mental health parity requirements; and authorizes the insurance commissioner to (1) impose civil penalties and late fees on carriers who fail to comply with mental health parity requirements and (2) engage certain independent experts to help with compliance reviews. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i> §§4-5 remove the sunset date for the prohibition on the use of step therapy for prescription drugs used to treat schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, or bipolar disorder. <i>Effective January 1, 2026.</i>
<i>Criminal Justice/Legal Provisions</i>	
PA 25-19 HB 7132	An Act Concerning Non-Safety-Related Traffic Stops, Driving While Consuming Cannabis and Excessive Reckless Driving. §§7-8 change the current general prohibition for police to stop a vehicle solely for cannabis use by allowing vehicles to be stopped if the officer both sees the driver actively consuming cannabis and smells burnt cannabis odor. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-32 SB 1328	An Act Prohibiting the Private Ownership, Operation or Management of State Correctional Facilities. This bill generally prohibits private ownership, operation, or management of a state correctional facility, community correctional center, or community reintegration center, with exemptions for federally-owned facilities or community-based service programs that offer housing, transportation, employment, and counseling services. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>

Bill	Summary
PA 25-35 HB 6971	An Act Adopting the Connecticut Uniform Mediation Act. This bill adopts the Connecticut Uniform Mediation Act, which sets mediation-related rules, principally on the confidentiality of mediation communications and generally applies to both voluntary mediations and those required by law or a court. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-48 SB 1501	An Act Concerning Probate Court Operations. §7 requires the probate court administrator to convene a working group including Probate Court judges, the DSS Commissioner, nursing home representatives, and attorneys with expertise serving as conservators to study and make recommendations on issues facing conservators in the probate court system, including payment delays, fee waiver requirements, and compensation levels. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-98 HB 7220	An Act Concerning the Costs to Obtain Transcripts for Proceedings Conducted Before Agencies. This bill requires (1) that a recording or stenographic record of proceedings before an agency be transcribed if a party to the proceeding requests it and (2) assigns the cost of any copy or transcript of the recording or record against the requesting party. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-159 HB 7160	An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Department Of Motor Vehicles And Concerning Penalties For Operating A Motor Vehicle And Vessel While Under The Influence Of Intoxicating Liquor Or Any Drug, Technical Corrections To The Motor Vehicle Statutes, Video Presentation Upon License Renewal, The Highway Work Zone And Roadside Vehicle Safety Awareness Program, Yellow And Blue Envelopes, Electric Scooters, Electric Bicycles, Motor-Driven Cycles, Installment Payment Plans, Low-Speed Vehicle Dealers And Fines For Violations Of "Move Over" Law And Aggravated Endangerment Of A Highway Worker. §§12-21 impose reciprocal driver's license, boating certificate, and personal watercraft certificate suspension penalties for convictions of DUI and boating under the influence (BUI) and related administrative per se violations. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
Alcohol & Drug Regulation	
PA 25-51 HB 6854	An Act Concerning the Department of Consumer Protection's Recommendations Regarding Alcoholic Liquor Regulation. §13 requires new permittees and backers to complete a liquor education program beginning January 1, 2026. The program must address preventing alcohol sales to individuals under age 21 and overservice, restrictions on alcoholic beverage promotions, and any other topics DCP chooses. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i> §15 allows DCP to impose permit penalties and fine applicants, backers, or permittees for THC-infused beverage violations. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i> §17 allows DCP to conduct sting operations involving minors purchasing alcohol and allows both DCP and law enforcement agencies to authorize these operations. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
PA 25-101 HB 6855	An Act Concerning the Department of Consumer Protection's Recommendations Regarding Drug Control and Cannabis and Hemp Regulation. This bill makes several changes to DCP programs relating to cannabis regulation. Of note: §4 requires DCP to (1) redesignate marijuana's controlled substance classification if there is a change in its federal classification and (2) designate additional items as controlled substances, including kratom. <i>Effective from passage.</i> §6 and §9 require DCP to develop standardized signage to allow anyone to determine if a cannabis establishment is licensed; require establishments to display this signage; and prohibit certain actions related to the signs and makes violations a CUTPA violation. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>

Bill	Summary
<i>Women's Services</i>	
PA 25-68 HB 6183	An Act Concerning the Appointment of The Child Advocate. This bill makes various changes related to the appointment of the Child Advocate, including extending the term and expanding the role of the Advisory Committee to include performance evaluation and more transparency regarding recommendation of reappointment. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
<i>Specialty Populations (Long-Term Services and Supports; Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing; Veterans)</i>	
PA 25-16 HB 6771	An Act Establishing an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force, Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing and Concerning Transfers and Discharges in Residential Care Homes, Tuition Waivers for Nursing Home Residents Who Take Courses at Regional Community-Technical Colleges and Closures and Evacuations of Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes. §1 requires all prospective employees of long-term care facilities, not just those with direct access, to undergo, or have had, within three years, a criminal history and patient abuse background check. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i> §3 adds to the information that residential care homes must include in the notice to residents before an involuntary transfer or discharge; requires these facilities to consider a resident's closeness to family and known support networks when helping residents find an alternative residence. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i> §7 requires all Medicaid certified nursing facilities, Medicare certified skilled nursing facilities, and nursing homes to consider a resident's proximity to family and known support networks when a resident is being transferred from a facility. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
PA 25-17 HB 6913	An Act Prohibiting Long-Term Care Facilities from Discriminating Against Long-Term Care Facility Residents. This bill prohibits long-term care facilities, and their staff, from discriminating against residents based on certain characteristics and status, including mental disability. It requires the facilities to (1) post a printed nondiscrimination notice meeting certain specifications; (2) ensure their staff members who work directly with residents receive cultural competency training the Department of Public Health (DPH) must develop; and (3) respect residents' physical privacy in the context of certain care, examinations, or treatments. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-144 HB 6932	An Act Concerning the Establishment of a State Interpreting Standards Board. This bill establishes a nine-member Interpreting Standards Board to set education, training, and certification requirements for interpreters for people who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, including making recommendations by January 1, 2027 to Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) on new interpreter qualification standards, regulations, and legislation. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i> The bill also specifies that the Bureau of Services for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing (within ADS) is responsible for certain tasks related to interpreter credentialing and registration, rather than ADS. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-20 SB 721	An Act Designating National Women Veterans Recognition Day. Designates June 12 th of each year to be National Women Veterans Recognition Day. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
<i>Housing</i>	
PA 25-44 SB 3	An Act Concerning Consumer Protection and Safety. §§8-10 generally require a landlord advertising, displaying, or offering a dwelling unit for rent to include any fee, charge, or cost that the tenant is required to pay on a periodic basis. These sections also require DOH to publish a standardized rental terms summary form and landlords must include this form in any rental agreement starting on April 1, 2026. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>

Bill	Summary
PA 25-70 HB 6883	An Act Protecting the Location of Housing for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims. This bill expands confidentiality protections for the locations of shelters or transitional housing for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault by prohibiting public agencies from disclosing any information indicating these locations, and includes those for sexual assault victims, regardless of FOIA. It also allows portions of public agency meetings to be held in executive session if they would reveal the location of a shelter or transitional housing for domestic violence or sexual assault victims. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-146 HB 7027	An Act Concerning the Use of Condominium Deposits for Construction and Development, Accounting of Rental Charges and a Working Group to Develop a Uniform Statutory Definition of Affordable Housing. §3 requires landlords to provide tenants a ledger upon request that shows charges assessed, payment made, and any balance owed/surplus paid by tenant. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i> §4 creates a working group to develop a statutory definition of 'affordable housing' for purposes of having consistency in the CT General Statutes. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
Young Adult Services	
PA 25-116 SB 1311	An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Department of Children and Families. §2 authorizes the Department of Children and Families to allow post-majority care (over 18) youth to voluntarily re-enter DCF care under certain conditions and with juvenile court approval. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i> §4 allows an individual placed at a DCF-licensed facility who requires special education to remain in placement at the facility until that person turns twenty-two, in conformity with state education statutes. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-139 HB 7236	An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Victims. This bill makes various changes in laws related to sexual assault and human trafficking victims, including changing the composition of the Trafficking in Persons Council. <i>Effective from passage.</i> It also makes sexual assault victim status and trafficking in persons victim status protected classes under the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) antidiscrimination laws. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
Fiscal	
PA 25-110 SB 1527	An Act Implementing a Recommendation of The Auditors of Public Accounts Regarding Nonlapsing Accounts. This bill makes a technical change to separate, nonlapsing accounts by removing "within the General Fund" from their description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> §59 - Mental health services grants accounts §60 - Mental health community investment account §61 - 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline Fund, §62 - Opioid Antagonist Bulk Purchase Fund §121- Pre-trial account <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>

Bill	Summary
<i>Data</i>	
PA 25-119 SB 1250	An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Higher Education. This bill generally revises the statute concerning the g the Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network (P20 WIN) to align statute with current practice and require the workforce development boards (WDBs) to submit data to P20 WIN, including data for workforce training and development programs that receive federal and state funding. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
<i>Facilities</i>	
PA 25-125 HB 5004	An Act Concerning the Protection of The Environment and The Development of Renewable Energy Sources and Associated Job Sectors. §1 establishes greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals for all state agencies and sets separate goals for agencies to use only zero-carbon generating electricity by 2030. It requires DEEP to publish on its website by January 1, 2026 guidelines for state agencies on social costs of GHG emissions, and allows agencies to consider the social costs of GHG emissions (e.g., net agricultural productivity, harms to human health, property damage, and the value of ecosystem services) when evaluating the costs and benefits of their activities and facility improvements to meet these GHG reduction goal. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
<i>Human Resources/Workforce Development</i>	
PA 25-76 HB 7081	An Act Concerning Licensure Portability for Marriage and Family Therapists. This bill allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) to grant a license, without examination, to marital and family therapists (MFTs) licensed or certified in other U.S. states, territories, or commonwealths. <i>Effective October 1, 2025.</i>
PA 25-162 SB 1450	An Act Concerning Recruitment and Retention of The Health Care Workforce. §1 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to create, within available appropriations, a loan reimbursement program for health care providers, with some of the awards targeted to primary care providers and those employed in rural communities or at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>
SA 25-24 HB 7053	An Act Establishing a Working Group to Develop Uniform Statutory Definitions Of "First Responder" And "Essential Worker". This bill establishes a 9-person working group including five legislative appointments; the Commissioners of Labor, Emergency Services and Public Protection, Public Health; and the Secretary of OPM to develop a statutory definition of 'first responder' and 'essential worker'. <i>Effective from passage.</i>
<i>Police</i>	
PA 25-160 HB 7200	An Act Concerning Bleeding Control Training and Kits. §2 creates a credit towards basic or review training if a police officer or probationary candidate receives training in bleeding control from an individual who is qualified as a bleeding control trainer. <i>Effective July 1, 2025.</i>

SECTION IV – NEW STUDIES & WORK GROUP/TASK FORCE APPOINTMENTS

Citation/ Group Name	Purpose	Details
§1 of PA 25-52 (HB 6894) Work Group Interagency Council on Homelessness	Establishes an interagency council on homelessness to advise and assist DOH to improve homelessness prevention and response efforts; membership includes the DMHAS commissioner	<u>Co-chairs:</u> DOH Commissioner <u>Members:</u> 25 regular members (13 ex officio and 12 appointed), including DMHAS , and up to 8 more ad hoc members <u>Timeline:</u> Ongoing, with annual report due July 1, 2026
§1 of SA 25-7 (HB 7214) Work Group Perinatal Mental Health Task Force	Requires DPH, within available appropriations, to convene an advisory committee on perinatal mental health services and doula-friendly hospitals.	<u>Members:</u> The advisory committee includes 15 appointed members by DPH, and includes 3 state agencies (DMHAS , DPH, DCF) <u>Timeline:</u> Initial report on 2/1/2026 and a final report on 1/1/2027 to the Public Health Committee.
§§174-175 of PA 25-168 (HB 7287) Work Group & Report OUD Public Health Crisis - ADPC	Requires the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC) to convene a working group to establish one or more goals for the state to achieve in its efforts to combat the prevalence of opioid use disorder (OUD)	<u>Chair:</u> DMHAS/DCF appointed <u>Members:</u> DMHAS/DCF appointed <u>Staffed by:</u> DMHAS/DCF <u>Timeline:</u> Report due by 7/1/2026 on each goal established by working group to Public Health Committee
§4 of PA 25-166 (HB 7181) Work Group State-Wide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy Board	The board shall convene quarterly to (1) identify areas of need and enforcement opportunities concerning illegal cannabis sales and intoxicating hemp product sales, (2) examine scientific developments and public health studies concerning cannabis and hemp, (3) examine developments in national trends and best practices concerning cannabis and hemp regulation and enforcement, and (4) examine developments in the cannabis and hemp industries.	<u>Members:</u> AG's Office, Chief State's Attorney, DCP, DESPP, DPH, DRS, DMHAS , and Social Equity Council <u>Timeline:</u> Board shall convene quarterly