



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services  
Office of Chief Public Defender

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**Connecticut**  
**Division of Public Defender Services**  
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*2025 Public Acts*  
*Adopted During the 2025 Legislative Session*

The following is a summary of all Public Acts adopted during the 2025 *Legislative Regular Session* pertaining to criminal and post-conviction proceedings, juvenile delinquency and child protection. Thank you to John DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel; Dominica Zdonek, Administrative Assistant; Trevor Vroom, UCONN Legal Intern; John Day, Acting Chief Public Defender; Renee Cimino, Director of Juvenile Delinquency and Child Protection; the *Public Defender Legislative Committee*<sup>1</sup>; and everyone who proposed or testified on legislation this year.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Public Defender Legislative Committee*, established in 2001, is comprised of the Public Defender and Supervisory Assistant Public Defender Office Heads of the JD, GA, Juvenile, Post-Conviction, Child Protection, and Specialty Units of the Office of Chief Public Defender.

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## **AUDITORS**

- **P.A. 25-147    An Act Concerning the Timing and Scope of Audits By The Auditors Of Public Accounts**

### **Section 1      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 2-90, Duties. Powers. Applicability of Freedom of Information Act to certain information*, pertaining to the Auditors of Public Accounts. It requires agencies and quasi-public agencies to report to the State Auditors, the Governor and the General Assembly the status of any corrective action taken in regard to violations noted within the Auditor's Report within 6 months of the Auditor's Report. The General Assembly may ask the auditors to verify matters within the submitted corrective action report. Any response from the auditors must be provided within 60 days thereafter.

## **BAIL**

- **P.A. 25-25      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**

### **Section 1      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 29-152k, Notice to law enforcement agency prior to apprehension of principal*, to prohibit a "professional bondsman, surety bail bond agent or bail enforcement agent" from taking anyone into custody on the grounds or campus of certain licensed health care facilities or institutions, public or private schools or colleges or houses of worship

### **Section 2      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 54-65c, Vacating Forfeiture of Bond*, and requires the court to vacate any order which forfeits bail and the release of the bondsman if the bondsman violated *C.G.S. § 29-152k, Notice to law enforcement agency prior to apprehension of principal*, as amended in Section 1 of this act.

## **BUDGET/MISCELLANEOUS**

- **P.A. 25-168    An Act Concerning 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**

**NOTE:**        In addition to the appropriations made to state agencies, this act amended several statutes pertaining to: AI and synthetically created images; compensation for Connecticut judges; Expansion of the Office of the Attorney General's defense; Project Longevity DESPP and POST Training; JJPOC; DOC; Corrections Ombudsman; E-Cigarettes; and, Fees for Occupational licenses and certifications.

### **Section 49-52            Effective July 1, 2025**

**Judge Compensation** - This section amends *C.G.S. § 51-47, Salaries of judges. Practice of law prohibited. Membership on board of directors of bank prohibited. Longevity payments*, and increases the salary and other compensation for judges and certain other judicial officials by approximately 3.5% starting in FY 26; Sections 50-52 correspondingly increases the salary of certain other state officials whose salary, by law, is tied to that of judges.

### **Section 60                Effective July 1, 2025**

**Defense by the AG** - This section amends *C.G.S. § 5-141d, Indemnification of state officers and employees. Duties of Attorney General. Legal fees and costs. Enforcement action. Exceptions*, and allows the AG, under certain conditions, to defend state employees as witnesses in criminal investigations, or in federal criminal investigations or prosecutions, related to performing their job duties.

### **Section 70                Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 51-9c, Project Longevity Initiative. Definitions. Implementation*, regarding the **"Project Longevity Initiative."** Projective Longevity Initiative is a comprehensive, community-based initiative to reduce gun violence in the state's municipalities. Current law requires its implementation in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Norwich, and Waterbury. The public act removes Norwich from the initiative. For the initiative, existing law, unchanged by the act, requires the chief court administrator to:

- (1) consult with various state officials (e.g., chief state's attorney) and local stakeholders (e.g., clergy members, nonprofits, and community leaders) in implementing the initiative;
- (2) help municipal officials with planning and management; and
- (3) do anything necessary to apply for and accept federal funds allotted or available to the state under any federal act or program.

**Section 113                      Effective July 1, 2025**

Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of *C.G.S. § 54-56q, Pretrial drug intervention and community service program*, is amended and under certain conditions, the law generally requires a person's public or private insurance, rather than DMHAS, to cover the cost of substance use treatment under specified pretrial programs. This change would apply as long as these costs are a covered benefit under the person's insurance.

**Section 137-138              Effective July 1, 2025**

**DESPP and POST** - This is new legislation and these sections require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection ("DESPP"), in consultation with Police Officer Standards and Training Council ("POST"), to establish a (1) social work and law enforcement project at SCSU and (2) crime scene processing, forensic evidence, and criminal investigations police training center at CCSU.

**Section 246                      Effective from passage**

**JJPOC** - This section amends *C.G.S. § 46b-121n, Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee. Reports*, and "expands JJPOC's membership to include the Department of Housing ("DOH") and DESPP commissioners; establishes an advisory council to help develop the state's juvenile justice plan.

**Section 249                      Effective from passage**

This is new legislation and this section requires POST, the JJPOC chairpersons, and representatives of the JJPOC community expertise subcommittee to develop a youth diversion policy and youth diversion training curriculum.



## **Section 251                      Effective from Passage**

This section is new and requires OPM to (1) annually report to JJPOC on the reentry success plan for juveniles released from DOC and judicial branch facilities and programs and (2) coordinate policy development between OPM and CSSD.

## **Section 261                      Effective October 1, 2025**

**Unlawful dissemination of an intimate “synthetically created” image** - This section establishes a **new** crime of unlawful dissemination of an intimate “synthetically created” image. Note that while multiple legislatures and Senate lawyers may have intended to address AI deepfake revenge porn with this act, the law could apply to other images, potential new AI techniques, and at least child porn.

Under the act, a “synthetically created image” can be a photograph, film, videotape, or another type of image of someone. It must (1) not be wholly recorded by a camera or (2) be generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It must depict an identifiable person and be virtually indistinguishable from what a reasonable person would believe to be an actual depiction of that person.

The act’s penalties vary based on (1) how the person distributed the image (including the number of recipients and how it was sent) and (2) whether the person intended to harm the victim (the person whose image is depicted) when acquiring or creating the image or having it created. It does not apply in certain circumstances, such as if the image resulted from voluntary exposure in public.

Under the act, a person is guilty of this new offense when the:

1. Person intentionally disseminates, by electronic or other means, an image of (a) certain body parts of another person (genitals, pubic area, or buttocks; or female breasts below the top of the nipple) without a fully opaque covering or (b) another person engaged in sexual intercourse;
2. Person disseminates the image without the other person’s consent;
3. Person knows that the image is synthetically created but disseminates it intending for the viewer to be deceived into believing that it actually shows the other person; and
4. Other person suffers harm because of the dissemination.

“Harm” includes subjecting the other person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, physical or financial injury, psychological harm, or serious emotional distress.

### Exemptions:

The act does not apply if the person depicted in the image:

1. Voluntarily exposed himself or herself, or engaged in sexual intercourse, in a public place or commercial setting, or
2. Is not clearly identifiable, unless there is other personally identifying information associated or included with the image.

### Penalties<sup>2</sup>

The act includes enhanced penalties if the person, in taking these actions, acquired or created the image, or had it created, intending to harm the other person. As shown in the table below, the act’s penalties vary based on the offender’s method of distribution and intent to harm the victim:

**Table: Penalties Under the Bill**

<b><i>Method of Distribution</i></b>	<b><i>Penalty (Based on Intent of Harm)</i></b>
The person gave or otherwise disseminated the image to someone by any means	The person intended to harm the victim when acquiring or creating the image or having it created: class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both  Otherwise: class D misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in prison, a fine of up to \$250, or both
The person gave or otherwise disseminated the image to multiple people using an interactive computer service (e.g., an internet access service), an information service (e.g., electronic publishing), or a telecommunications device	The person intended to harm the victim when acquiring or creating the image or having it created: class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both  Otherwise: class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both

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<sup>2</sup> Table used with permission of OLR.

**Section 265                      Effective October 1, 2025**

**DOC** – This section is new and requires the DOC commissioner to provide palatable and nutritious meals to people in department custody; bans nutraloaf or other diets as a form of discipline.

**Section 266                      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section is new and requires 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.

**Section 267                      Effective from passage**

This section is new and requires the DAS and DOC commissioners to study the feasibility of relocating correctional centers in Bridgeport and New Haven.

**Section 268                      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section is new and requires the DOC commissioner to (1) ensure that the department's correctional facilities are sufficiently staffed to protect the safety of everyone at or visiting the facility and (2) develop and implement a program to recruit and retain correctional officers.

**Section 269                      Effective from passage**

This section is new and requires the DOC commissioner to develop a protocol to fully document assaults by incarcerated people against correctional staff.

**Section 271                      Effective from passage**

This section is new and requires DOC to annually report on strip and cavity searches in correctional institutions and report on an evaluation of related directives and procedures.

**Section 272                      Effective from passage**

**DOC Ombudsman** - This section is new and requires the correction ombuds, before accessing an incarcerated person's medical record, to give the person prior notice of the reasons for doing so.

## Section 290

Effective July 1, 2026

**Inmate Voting** – This legislation amends Subsection (g) of C.G.S. § 9-140, *Application for and issuance of absentee ballots; online system. Distribution of absentee ballot applications. Mailing of unsolicited applications. Downloading of applications. Summary of absentee voting laws. Definitions*, and creates specific procedures for incarcerated individuals to apply for, receive, and cast absentee ballots.

## Sections 395-396

Effective July 1, 2025

**E-Cigarettes** – These sections amend C.G.S. § 21a-418, *Sale or shipment of electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products directly to a consumer. Requirements*, and impose restrictions and penalties on e-cigarettes similar to those that apply to cigarettes under existing law; specifically requires e-cigarette 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; increases the maximum fines that may be imposed on anyone who sells, gives, or delivers an e-cigarette to a minor.

## Sections 428-433

All Effective October 1, 2025

**Occupational licenses or certification fees** – Subsection (a) of C.G.S. § 20-74f, *Licensing fee. Use of title or designation*, is amended and the following sections eliminate numerous occupational license or certification fees for certain health care professionals and educators:

*Section 429 – Amended C.G.S. § 20-195c, Qualification for licensure. Fees. Temporary authorization to practice*

*Section 430 – Amended C.G.S. § 20-195o, Application for and renewal of license. Fees. Licensure without examination*

*Section 431 – Amended C.G.S. § 20-195t, Issuance of temporary permit to practice as a master social worker*

*Section 432 – Amended Subsections (a) and (b) of C.G.S. § 20-195cc, License application. Renewal. Fees. Continuing education. Temporary authorization to practice*

*Section 433 – Amended Subsection (1) of C.G.S. § 10-145b, Teaching certificates*

## **CANNIBIS**

### **➤ P.A. 25-166 An Act Concerning the Regulation of Tobacco, Cannabis, Hemp and Related Products, Conduct and Establishments**

The act pertains to the *Social Equity Council* and the licensing of persons seeking a dealer registration for cannabis, electronic nicotine delivery systems, vaping, cultivating and infused beverage wholesalers.

#### **Section 4 Effective July 1, 2025**

This is new legislation which creates a State-Wide Cannabis and Hemp Enforcement Policy board with members from several state agencies including the Chief State's Attorney. One of its charges is to "identify areas of need and enforcement opportunities cornering illegal cannabis sales and intoxicating hemp product sales".

#### **Section 35 Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 21a-422f, Municipal authority reestablishing cannabis establishments. Restrictions. Zoning. Special permits.*, and prohibits the sale of cannabis by a retailer, hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator "(1) on Sunday before ten o'clock a.m. or after six o'clock p.m., or (2) on any day other than Sunday before eight o'clock a.m. or after ten o'clock p.m."

#### **Section 40 Effective from passage**

This amends subsection (x) of *C.G.S. § 22-61m, Manufacture of hemp for consumables. License. Fees. Testing. Records. Regulations. Advertising, labeling, packaging and marketing. Report. Penalties.*, to prohibit the distribution of sale of manufacturer hemp products unless "derived from hemp grown by a United States Department of Agriculture hemp producer licensee under an approved state or tribal hemp production plan".

#### **Section 41 Effective October 1, 2025**

This is new legislation which creates a class E felony for the sale or delivery of any synthetic cannabinoid. The section is applicable to any cannabis establishment licensee or any servant or agent of a cannabis establishment licensee.

## **Section 42    Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 21a-421aaa, Sale or delivery of cannabis or cannabis paraphernalia to person under twenty-one*, pertaining to the sale or delivery of cannabis by a cannabis establishment licensee or agent of a cannabis establishment licensee to a person under 21 years of age. Current law provides that a person who violates this statute is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This legislation increases the penalty to a class E felony for this conduct.

In addition, the legislation creates a class C misdemeanor for the sale or delivery of cannabis paraphernalia by a cannabis establishment licensee or agent of a cannabis establishment licensee to a person under 21 years of age

## **Section 44    Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S § 53-344b, Sale or delivery of electronic nicotine delivery systems or vape products to persons under twenty-one years of age. Misrepresentation of age by persons under twenty-one years of age. Transaction scans. Affirmative defense.*, to add passports, in addition to licenses and identity cards, as proof of identity for purchases of electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapes.

The legislation increases the fines for sale of electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapes to a person under 21 years of age.

## **CHILDREN**

### **➤ P.A. 25-68    An Act Concerning the Appointment of the Child Advocate**

## **Section 1    Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S § 46a-13k, Office of the Child Advocate established.*, to establish a process for an advisory committee to submit a report, including an evaluation of the work of the current Child Advocate and a recommendation for the appointment of a Child Advocate, to various legislative committees prior to the expiration of the term of the Child Advocate. It makes various changes related to the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), including extending the child advocate's term length from four to five years and establishing a specified reappointment process.

➤ **P.A. 25-116    An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Department of Children and Families**

**Section 1      Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 17a-114, Licensing or approval of persons for child placement required. Criminal history records and child abuse and neglect registry checks. Placement of children with relatives or fictive kin caregivers. Standard.*, regarding the process for emergency placement of children who are in the custody of the Department of Children and Families. (DCF).

**Section 2      Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends subdivision (6) of subsection (j) of *C.G.S. § 46b-129, Commitment of child or youth. Petition for neglected, uncared for or abused child or youth. Hearing re temporary custody, order to appear or petition. Review of permanency plan. Cost of care and maintenance of child or youth; reimbursement. Revocation of commitment. Legal guardianships and permanent legal guardianships. Applicability of provisions re placement of child from another state and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. Confirmation by court. Filing of information and identification of sources of information by Department of Children and Families.*, to establish a process for young adults who decline to remain in the Department of Children and Families (DCF) care or who have left DCF care after 18 years of age, to request reentry (not later than 60 days before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday). This process is already allowed in existing DCF policy; however, this statutory language will enable DCF to claim IV-E reimbursement.

**Section 3      Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (g) of *C.G.S. § 17a-28, Definitions. Confidentiality and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons.*, to allow DCF to disclose records to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for abuse or neglect investigations of individuals with intellectual disabilities without a release.

**Sections 5      Effective July 1, 2025**

This new law requires DCF to create a *Foster Parent Act of Rights*, including a statement of the rights and obligations of caregivers, children in foster care and DCF.

**Section 6      Effective upon enactment of the revised Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children by thirty-five jurisdictions**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 17a-175, Compact.*, to revise and align the existing *Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children* (ICPC) with current child welfare practices. The new compact will take effect when 35 states adopt the new language.

➤ **P.A. 25-163    An Act Concerning the Use of Handcuffs on Young Children**

**Section 1      Effective October 1, 2025**

This public act generally 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. The act's prohibition begins at the point of the child's initial contact with the police officer. The act makes exceptions when handcuffing is:

1. Necessary for public safety,
2. Necessary because the child is using or threatening to use physical force on a police officer who is engaging with the child; or,
3. Ordered by the court under its existing policy on using mechanical restraints in court.

The act also makes a change in the law that replaces the term "juvenile" with the term "child."

**CORRECTIONS, OMBUDS**

➤ **P.A. 25-161    An Act Concerning the Office of the Correction Ombuds, Disclosure of Disciplinary Matters or Alleged Misconduct by a Department of Correction Employee, Use of Force and Body Cameras in Correctional Facilities and Criminal History Record**

**Section 1      Effective from passage**

This amends Subsection (m) of *C.G.S. § 18-81jj, Correction Advisory Committee*, and outlines that the correction ombuds is an independent resource for incarcerated individuals who generally investigates complaints, monitors conditions in correctional facilities, and recommends changes in the Department of Correction (DOC). Among other things, the act:

1. Increases, from two to four years, the duration of the ombuds' term and aligns it with the governor's term, beginning January 6, 2027;



2. Grants the office certain protections against changes to its budget request and reductions in its allotments;
3. Expands the ombuds' duties by (a) requiring him, after an investigation, to issue public decisions on the complaint's merits and (b) authorizing him to issue subpoenas to compel testimony and document production in investigations and administer oaths;
4. Allows the ombuds to conduct surveys of incarcerated individuals or DOC employees about confinement or working conditions; and,
5. Requires the ombuds, in consultation with the attorney general, to publish a list of cases filed against DOC for excessive use of force or medical neglect.

## **Section 2      Effective from passage**

### **Subpoenas**

This amends several sections of *C.G.S. § 18-81qq, Office of the Correction Ombuds*, and the act allows the ombuds to issue subpoenas to compel (1) witness attendance for providing testimony or (2) document production (e.g., books or papers).

## **Section 3      Effective from passage**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 1-24, Who May Administer Oaths*, to authorize the Ombuds to administer oaths.

## **Section 4      Effective from passage**

### **FOIA & Collective Bargaining Agreements**

This new section requires the disclosure of documents on disciplinary matters or alleged misconduct by a DOC employee if required by FOIA, even if the state employee collective bargaining agreements or arbitration awards prevent disclosure.

## **Section 5      Effective October 1, 2025**

The act amends *C.G.S. § 18-81m, Intervention in or reporting of use of unreasonable, excessive or illegal force by a witnessing officer. Whistle blower protections*, and requires DOC to develop a plan to implement using body-worn recording equipment in correctional facilities, which must have recommendations for any needed legislation, the budgetary resources necessary to implement the plan, and the implementation timeline if those resources are made available. DOC must do this by January 1, 2026, and report the plan to the Government Oversight, Judiciary, and Public Safety and Security committees by February 1, 2026.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REVISIONS

### ➤ **P.A. 25-29    An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning Criminal Justice**

**Note:** This act amends several statutes pertaining to the DNA Databank, Sexual assault evidence collection kits, failure to appear in the second degree, the Trust Act (Immigration), jail credit, electronic defense weapons, chokeholds, deadly force, and online gaming.

#### **Section 1      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (a) of *C.G.S. § 54-102j, Dissemination of Information in DNA Data Bank*, to provide that information from a nonqualifying sample that has been entered into the DNA data bank be disclosed to the conviction integrity unit at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney prior to it being expunged. If the information is determined to be exculpatory, it must be provided to the person charged or convicted of a crime. It cannot be used for investigative or to prosecute once disclosed.

#### **Section 2      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (d) of *C.G.S. § 19a-112a, Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations. Protocol. Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit. Electronic Tracking, Transfer, Analysis and Preservation of Evidence. Costs. Training and Sexual Assault Examiner Programs. Victim Access to Information RE Evidence*, to provide for a process to obtain a designation label for the sexual assault evidence collection kit. The victim may choose to have the kit labeled "anonymous", with the victim's name and that it was not disclosed to law enforcement, or with the victim's name and that it was disclosed to law enforcement. Once analyzed, the legislation leaves to the discretion of the Division of Scientific Services within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection as to whether to return the evidence to the submitting law enforcement agency.

#### **Section 3      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 53a-173, Failure to appear in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor*, the Failure to Appear statutes pertaining to misdemeanor court appearances. Under current law, Failure to Appear in the Second Degree, is a class A misdemeanor. This change decreases the penalty for a failure to appear in a case in which a person is charged with a misdemeanor for the first time would constitute a class D misdemeanor and subject to a penalty of up to 30 days incarceration. Thereafter, any

subsequent Failure to Appear would constitute a class A misdemeanor and be subject to the higher penalty of up to 1 year incarceration.

#### **Section 4      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsections (a) and (b) of *C.G.S. § 54-192h, Civil immigration detainees*, also referred to as the “**Trust Act**”.

#### **Law Enforcement Defined**

Under the “*Trust Act*”, **current law** defines “law enforcement” as employees or any “*other person otherwise paid by or acting as an agent*” of the following:

- Municipal police departments;
- State police;
- Department of Correction;
- Judicial Marshals;
- State marshals;
- Adult Probation officers;
- Bail Commissioners, intake assessment or referral specialists employed by Judicial; and,
- School police or security departments of higher education, public schools or local or regional school districts.

**Effective October 1, 2025**, the act expands the definition of law enforcement officer to include any employee, officer or other person who is “*paid by or acting as an agent*” of the following:

- Juvenile probations officers;
- State prosecutors employed by the Division of Criminal Justice; and,
- The Board of Pardon and Parole.

#### **Ability To Arrest Or Detain**

**Current law** prohibits the arrest or detention of a person pursuant to a “civil immigration detainer” by law enforcement, bail or employees of “school police or security department” as defined, of a person **UNLESS** the person has been **CONVICTED** of an **A or B felony**.

*Effective October 1, 2025, the Act expands the ability for “law enforcement” to **arrest or detain** a person pursuant to a “civil immigration detainer” if the person has been **CONVICTED** of any of the following felonies:*

*C.G.S. § 53-21, Injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of, children. Sale of children*

*C.G.S. § 53a-56a, Manslaughter in the second degree with a firearm: Class C felony: One year not suspendable.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-64aa, Strangulation or suffocation in the first degree: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-71, Sexual assault in the second degree: Class C or B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-72a, Sexual assault in the third degree: Class D or C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-72b, Sexual assault in the third degree with a firearm: Class C or B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-90a, Enticing a minor. Penalties.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-102a, Burglary in the second degree: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-196e, Possessing child pornography in the second degree: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-196f, Possessing child pornography in the third degree: Class D felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-196i, Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-222, Violation of conditions of release in the first degree: Class D or Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-223, Criminal violation of a protective order: Class D or class C felony.*

*Note: Law enforcement continues to have the ability to arrest or detain anyone who has been “identified as a possible match in the federal Terrorist Screening Database or similar database”.*

## **Access To Interview**

**Current law** also authorizes federal immigration authorities **ACCESS TO INTERVIEW** anyone in the **custody** of law enforcement that has been **CONVICTED** of a Class A or B felony. The Act expands this access to interview if the person is in the custody of law enforcement and has been **CONVICTED** of any of the following offenses:

*C.G.S. § 53-21, Injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of, children. Sale of children*

*C.G.S. § 53a-56a, Manslaughter in the second degree with a firearm: Class C felony: One year not suspendable.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-64aa, Strangulation or suffocation in the first degree: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-71, Sexual assault in the second degree: Class C or B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-72a, Sexual assault in the third degree: Class D or C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-72b, Sexual assault in the third degree with a firearm: Class C or B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-90a, Enticing a minor. Penalties.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-102a, Burglary in the second degree with a firearm: Class C felony: One year not suspendable.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-196e, Possessing child pornography in the second degree: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-196f, Possessing child pornography in the third degree: Class D felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-196i, Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-222, Violation of conditions of release in the first degree: Class D or Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-223, Criminal violation of a protective order: Class D or class C felony.*

#### **Section 5      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (a) of *C.G.S. § 18-98d, Credit for presentence confinement*, to provide jail credit to any person who was confined and charged with any offense, including *C.G.S. § 53a-32, Violation of probation or conditional discharge. Notice to victim or victim advocate. Arrest. Pretrial release conditions and supervision. Hearing. Disposition.*, filed on or after October 1, 2021, for each offense charged. In addition, the section provides jail credit to anyone confined in another state awaiting extradition to Connecticut, equal to the number of days confined in the other state.

#### **Section 7      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of *C.G.S. § 51-277a, Investigation and prosecution of the use of physical force by a peace officer, the death of a person in custody, failure of a peace officer to notify next of kin of a death or failure of a peace officer to intervene in or report an incident. Reporting upon conclusion of investigation*. Under this section, any use of an electronic defense weapon by a peace officer is not considered deadly force. An electronic defense weapon is defined in *C.G.S. § 53a-3, Definitions*.

#### **Section 8      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subdivision (6) of *C.G.S. § 53a-3, Definitions*, to specifically exclude electronic defense weapons from the definition of a deadly weapon.

## **Section 9      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subdivision (d) of *C.G.S. § 53a-22, Use of physical force in making arrest or preventing escape.*, which currently justifies the use of a “chokehold or other method of restraint” by peace officers or authorized officials of the Department of Correction or Board of Pardons and Paroles, when the person “reasonably believes” necessary to defend themselves. The amendment expands the use when the person “reasonably believes” it is necessary to defend a third person.

## **Section 10      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 30-113, Penalties.*, and enhances the penalty for a violation. Any violation of this section is now a Class C misdemeanor. And any subsequent violation is now a Class B misdemeanor.

## **Section 11      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section is new legislation and creates a Class C misdemeanor for anyone who “knowingly” permits an underaged person for participation in online gaming and retail sports wagering to open accounts or wager on such.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **➤ P.A. 25-70      An Act Protecting The Location Of Housing For Domestic Violence And Sexual Assault Victims**

## **Section 1      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 8-360, Nondisclosure of location of housing for domestic violence victims*, to prohibit any public agency from disclosing the location of housing for victims of sexual assault. It also requires that any discussion by an agency of the locations of such housing be in executive session.

## FIREARMS

- **P.A. 25-43      An Act Concerning Implementation of the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act, Firearms Permits and Eligibility Certificates and Self-Defense**

**Section 3      Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to any civil action filed on or after said date**

This section creates a civil action against the firearm industry. The act allows a person who has suffered harm due to a violation of this Act to bring a civil action against the firearm industry for compensatory damages, punitive damages, or costs and attorney's fees.

**Sections 4-6              Effective October 1, 2025**

Generally, the act shortens the **look-back period, from 20 to eight years**, for certain in-state misdemeanor convictions to disqualify someone from being issued a (1) handgun permit, (2) handgun eligibility certificate, or (3) long gun eligibility certificate.

The act also adds certain misdemeanor convictions that occur in other jurisdictions to the list of offenses that disqualify a person from being issued these firearm credentials. These other jurisdictions are (1) **other states**; (2) a federal, tribal, or military court; or (3) any foreign jurisdiction. More specifically, the act prohibits issuing these firearm credentials to those who had a **misdemeanor conviction** in these jurisdictions in the **preceding eight years** that a reasonable reviewer would believe constituted:

1. Violence against another person causing physical injury;
2. Extreme indifference to human life that created a risk of serious physical injury, or criminal negligence that caused the death of another person (other than by a motor vehicle);
3. Physical threats or conduct made toward a specific person that would cause them to reasonably fear for their safety;
4. Engaging in or inciting a riot; and
5. Possession of controlled substances or hallucinogenic substances, excluding up to four ounces of cannabis, up to one-half ounce of psilocybin, or **nicotine**.

Under existing law, if individuals have convictions for certain in-state misdemeanors, they are prohibited from obtaining a handgun permit, handgun eligibility certificate, or long gun eligibility certificate. As already discussed, the act limits the

ineligibility to convictions during the **prior eight years**, rather than the **prior 20 years** as under current law.

For a review, these disqualifying misdemeanors are as follows:

1. Criminally negligent homicide (excluding deaths caused by motor vehicles) (*C.G.S. § 53a-58, Criminally negligent homicide: Class A misdemeanor*);
2. Third-degree assault (*C.G.S. § 53a-61, Assault in the third degree: Class A misdemeanor*);
3. Third-degree assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or person with intellectual disability (*C.G.S. § 53a-61a, Assault of an elderly, blind, disabled or pregnant person or a person with intellectual disability in the third degree: Class A misdemeanor: One year not suspendable*);
4. Second-degree threatening (*C.G.S. § 53a-62, Threatening in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor or class D felony*) (in some cases, this crime is a felony, also barring eligibility for these credentials);
5. First-degree reckless endangerment (*C.G.S. § 53a-63, Reckless endangerment in the first degree: Class A misdemeanor*);
6. Second-degree unlawful restraint (*C.G.S. § 53a-96, Unlawful restraint in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor*);
7. First-degree riot (*C.G.S. § 53a-175, Riot in the first degree: Class A misdemeanor*);
8. Second-degree riot (*C.G.S. § 53a-176, Riot in the second degree: Class B misdemeanor*);
9. Inciting to riot (*C.G.S. § 53a-178, Inciting to riot: Class A misdemeanor*); and
10. Second-degree stalking (*C.G.S. § 53a-181d, Stalking in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor*).

Under existing law, convictions for the following misdemeanors are also disqualifying: (1) illegal drug possession (*C.G.S. § 21a-279*) on or after October 1, 2015, or (2) any law that has been designated a family violence crime (**no matter when the conviction occurred**).

## **Section 7                      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section specifies that **unlawfully discharging a firearm** does not include intentionally discharging a firearm for lawful self-defense or defending another person.

**NOTE:** By law, a person is generally justified in using reasonable physical force to defend himself, herself, or a third person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of force, and may use the degree of force reasonably believed necessary. Generally, a person can instead use deadly force if he or she reasonably



believes that someone is using or about to use deadly physical force or inflict great bodily harm on them or someone else.

But despite these provisions, a person cannot use deadly force if he or she can avoid doing so with complete safety by (1) retreating, with certain exceptions (such as not having to do so at the person's home); (2) surrendering possession to property the other person claims to own; or (3) obeying a demand to not take an action he or she is not otherwise required to take.

Current law provides certain other exceptions to the justified use of physical force, such as if the person provoked the attack with intent to cause injury or death to someone else *C.G.S. § 53a-19, Use of physical force in defense of person.*

## **FORFEITURE**

### **➤ P.A. 25-41     An Act Concerning the Seizure and Forfeiture of Virtual Currency and Virtual Currency Wallets**

#### **Section 1     Effective July 1, 2025**

This section is new and provides a process for the forfeiture of virtual currency and virtual currency wallets which are "possessed, controlled, designed or used as a way to commit a larceny." If a virtual currency wallet is seized, all of the contents, even if comingled with other property, is now subject to the forfeiture. The state is required to begin the forfeiture proceeding 90 days after the seizure and conduct a hearing at least two weeks after notice is provided to the owner of such.

#### **Section 2     Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (a) of *C.G.S § 54-36a, Definitions. Inventory. Return of stolen property. Disposition of other seized property. Return of compliance.*, and adds the following definitions:

(3) "property" includes, but is not limited to, virtual currency and virtual currency wallets;

(4) "stolen property" includes, but is not limited to, cash, virtual currency, virtual currency wallets or the proceeds from the sale of such property obtained by theft or other illegal means;

(5) "virtual currency" has the same meaning as provided in *C.G.S § 36a-596, Definitions.*;

(6) "virtual currency wallet" has the same meaning as provided in C.G.S. § 36a-596, *Definitions*.

### **Sections 3 -5 Effective July 1, 2025**

These amend C.G.S. § 54-36h, *Forfeiture of moneys and property related to illegal sale or exchange of controlled substances or money laundering. In rem proceeding. Disposition*; C.G.S. 54-36o, *Property derived from identity theft subject to forfeiture to state. Exceptions. Proceeds.*; and C.G.S. § 54-36p, *Forfeiture of moneys and property related to sexual exploitation, prostitution and human trafficking. In rem proceeding. Disposition.*, to add definitions of property, virtual currency and currency wallet as defined in Section 2 of the Public Act. It also provides that if virtual currency or a virtual currency wallet has been seized, notice to the owner may be provided other than certified or registered mail, such as by electronic means if the state demonstrates such notice is sufficient and appropriate.

### **Section 6 Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (a) of C.G.S. § 54-33a, *Issuance of search warrant, warrant for tracking device or warrant for foreign corporation records or data. No-knock warrants prohibited.*, to include within the definition of property, virtual currency and virtual currency wallets, both as defined in C.G.S. § 36a-596, *Definitions*.

### **Section 7 Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends C.G.S. § 53a-275, *Money laundering. Definitions.*, for purposes of C.G.S. § 53a-275, *Money laundering. Definitions.*, through C.G.S. § 53a-282, *Money laundering. Presumptions.*, to include virtual currency or virtual currency wallets or the contents of such in the definition of "equivalent property". Equivalent property is defined as any property that can be readily converted or exchanged for among other things, gold, silver, currency, precious stones or airline tickets. Again, virtual currency and virtual currency wallets are both defined in C.G.S. § 36a-596, *Definitions*.

## IMMIGRATION

- **P.A. 25-1      An Act Concerning Interactions Between School Personnel and Immigration Authorities, the Purchase and Operation of Certain Drones, Grants to Certain Nonprofit Organizations, and Student Athlete Compensation Through Endorsement Contracts and Revenue Sharing Agreements.**

### **Section 1      Effective upon passage**

The act requires school superintendents to appoint a person to interact with federal immigration authorities.

### **Section 2      Effective from passage**

This amends *C.G.S § 10-222m, School security and safety plans. School security and safety committees.*, to develop and implement the *Guidance to K-12 Public Schools Pertaining to Immigration Activities* which was developed in January of 2025. It authorizes the person so designated to interact with federal immigration authorities to ask them for certain information including their identification, badge number, and telephone. In addition, the designated person can ask the federal immigration authority whether they have a judicial warrant or administrative warrant and to produce whatever documents they have. Lastly, the designated person can ask to review it and thereafter consult with school district's legal counsel on how to handle it. The act prohibits any person acting within this authority from being disciplined.

### **Section 5      Effective July 1, 2025**

This is new legislation that defines covered foreign entity, exigent circumstances, person, small, unmanned aircraft system, municipality and state agency. It prohibits the Connecticut state police, municipalities and state agencies and others that contract with them from purchasing, beginning October 1, 2026, and operating drones, beginning October 1, 2028, that are assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity as defined or to contract for such.

There are exceptions and a procedure for when state police can waive this prohibition which include, if necessary, due to exigent circumstances, to counter another unmanned aircraft system or for criminal investigations. After October 1, 2028, through December 31, 2034, such waiver authority is granted to state agencies and municipalities through its law enforcement and fire departments.

## **Section 6      Effective October 1, 2025**

This is new legislation that includes definitions for purposes of Sections 7 and 8 in the Act. It defines aircraft, unmanned aircraft, ammunition, armed forces of the state and of the United States, critical infrastructure facility, dangerous instrument, deadly weapon, explosive or incendiary device, fireman, firefighter, person, police officer and public service company.

## **Section 7      Effective October 1, 2025**

This is new legislation that creates a class A misdemeanor for any person who operates, or programs to operate, an unmanned aircraft at a certain height or to use such to obtain information regarding a critical infrastructure facility unless prior approval has been obtained by the owner of such facility. This prohibition does not apply to certain federal, state and local authorities in the performance of their official duties.

## **Section 8      Effective October 1, 2025**

This is new legislation that creates a class A misdemeanor and prohibits anyone from equipping an aircraft or an unmanned aircraft with a deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, firearm, ammunition or explosive or incendiary device. This is not applicable to members of the armed forces or police, firefighters or emergency management directors who are engaged in a rescue operation.

## **IMPACT STATEMENTS**

### **➤ P.A. 25-27      An Act Concerning Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements**

**Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 2-24b, Racial and ethnic impact statement required for certain acts and amendments*, to authorize the publishing of racial and ethnic impact statements on the General Assembly website beginning January 6, 2027. In addition, it requires the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health to develop the procedures for a member of the General Assembly to request a statement and the procedures a state agency should follow if it receives a request for certain records or information.

## **JUDICIAL BRANCH**

### **➤ P.A. 25-91    An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Operations And Procedures And The Duties Of Judicial Branch Personnel**

#### **Section 1    Effective from passage**

This is new legislation which creates an Office of Information Privacy within the Judicial Branch. This Office is authorized to direct other state agencies not to publish specific personal information or remove such if already published which pertains to a protected individual as defined in this section. A protected individual is defined as:

- (A) A justice or judge of a court established under article XX of the State Constitution;
- (B) a senior judge appointed pursuant to *C.G.S. § 51-50i, Senior judges, reappointment, successors*, of the general statutes;
- (C) a state referee appointed pursuant to *C.G.S. § 52-434, State referees*, of the general statutes, as amended by this act;
- (D) a family support magistrate appointed pursuant to *C.G.S. § 46b-231, Definitions. Family Support Magistrate Division. Family support magistrates; appointment, salaries, powers and duties. Orders. Appeal. Attorney General; duties re actions for support. Department of Social Services; powers*, of the general statutes;
- (E) a family support referee appointed pursuant to *C.G.S. § 46b-236, Family support referees*, of the general statutes; and
- (F) a spouse, a child or a dependent who resides in the same household as an individual described in subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision.

#### **Section 2    Effective from passage**

This section amends subsection (g) of *C.G.S. 17a-28, Definitions. Confidentiality and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons*, to allow DCF to disclose records, without the consent of the person who is subject of the records, to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to track the recidivism of juvenile offenders or determine supervision and treatment needs of the child or youth or any other person.

#### **Section 6    Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (d) of *C.G.S. § 46b-124, Confidentiality of records of juvenile matters. Exceptions.*, to allow for the release of certain juvenile delinquency records to DCF, when the child is receiving services from DCF (eliminates the need for

DCF commitment). This section also expands the disclosures of juvenile delinquency records to Department of Corrections, and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles for subjects who have not just been convicted of, but have been charged with, a crime in the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court and “such records are relevant to the performance of risk assessments” to determine “suitability for release” or to determine “supervision and treatment needs”.

#### **Section 7      Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (f) of *C.G.S. § 46b-124, Confidentiality of records of juvenile matters. Exceptions*, to allow the Judicial Branch (CSSD) to disclose certain records to DCF when a child is receiving services from DCF and the subject to an order to take into custody or been entered into a central computer system.

#### **Section 10      Effective from passage**

This section amends subsection (b) of *C.G.S. § 51-5c, Automated registry of protective orders*. Policies and procedures for operation of registry, to allow Judicial to grant DCF access to the registry of protective orders.

#### **Section 14      Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 51-197f, Further review by certification only*. It adds that upon a denial of a motion to file a late appeal, there is no right to review except that the Supreme Court may grant certification to review such.

#### **Section 15      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 51-344, Judicial districts established*. and changes the venues for the Superior Court. Effective October 1, 2025, the towns of Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, Simsbury have been removed from the Judicial District of Hartford and added to the Judicial District of Litchfield.

In addition, the town of Burlington has been removed from the Judicial District of New Britain and also added to the Judicial District of Litchfield.

#### **Section 16      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 51-345, Venue in civil actions and housing matters. Return of civil process.*, to make changes for the return of actions in accordance with the venue changes in Section 15 of this Act.

## **Section 18    Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 54-1k, Issuance of protective orders in cases of stalking, harassment, sexual assault, risk of injury to or impairing morals of a child*, and adds *C.G.S. § 53a-181f, Electronic stalking: Class B misdemeanor*, to the offenses for which a protective order may be issued.

## **Section 19    Effective from passage**

This section amends subsection (f) of *C.G.S. § 54-63d, Release by bail commissioner or intake, assessment and referral specialist. Information, files and reports held by Court Support Services Division*, to allow CSSD to release information to DCF concerning any person only when the person's conditions of release require cooperation with DCF.

## **Section 20    Effective from passage**

This section amends subsection (b) of *C.G.S. § 54-76l, Records or other information of youth to be confidential. Exceptions., to allow youthful offender records to be disclosed to DCF when the youth is receiving services from DCF*.

## **Section 24    Effective from passage**

This section is new and establishes a Task Force to review habeas corpus procedures in this state and others and at the federal level and make recommendations to the General Assembly for legislative changes "that include, but are not limited to, best practices that could be implemented in this state to:

- 1) Ensure a timely review and adjudication of habeas corpus claims;
- 2) establish standards for the presentation of repeated habeas corpus claims associated with the same incident;
- 3) prioritize credible habeas corpus claims and limit the filing of repetitive or meritless habeas corpus claims; and
- 4) provide balance between providing public counsel in habeas corpus claims and the cost of litigating repetitive or meritless claims."

The Chief Public Defender or his designee is a member of this Task Force. A report is to be made to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2027 upon which date the Task Force shall terminate.

**Section 27      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (f) of *C.G.S. § 53a-29, Probation and conditional discharge: Criteria; periods; continuation or termination.*, regarding probation period for certain convictions. It adds to this statute that a period of 5 years probation for a violation of *C.G.S. § 53-247, Cruelty to animals. Animals engaged in exhibition of fighting. Intentional injury or killing of police animals or dogs in volunteer canine search and rescue teams.*

**MOTOR VEHICLE/BOATING**

➤ **P.A. 25-19      An Act Concerning Non-Safety-Related Traffic Stops, Driving While Consuming Cannabis and Excessive Reckless Driving**

**Section 1      Effective October 1, 2025      Non-Safety Related Traffic Stops**

This section amends subsections (a) to (c) inclusive, of *C.G.S. § 14-18, Display of number plates and stickers. Issuance of sample number plates. Return of number plates to commissioner*, and makes several changes to motor vehicle violation laws. It amends subsection (a) (2) of *C.G.S. § 14-18, Display of number plates and stickers. Issuance of sample number plates. Return of number plates to commissioner*, and addresses vehicles issued with two number plates. Such plates must be displayed in a conspicuous place at (A) the front, and (B) the rear of such vehicle, “which may include against a vehicle's rear window, provided the numerals and letters on any such number plate are plainly legible.”

This section also amends subsection (c) of *C.G.S. § 14-18, Display of number plates and stickers. Issuance of sample number plates. Return of number plates to commissioner*, and addresses primarily the definition of a “substantially obscured” plate. As used in this subsection, “substantially unobscured” means “that the number plate is not significantly blocked or concealed by an obstacle or obstruction, to an extent that allows for a reasonable person or an electronic device capable of recording data on, or taking a photograph of, a motor vehicle or such motor vehicle's number plate to read the numerals and letters of such plate.”

**Sections 2-5 Standard Decreased For Violations Regarding License Plates, Headlights, Or Windshield Equipment**

**Sec. 2 - Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 14-96a, Lighted lamps and illuminating devices required, when*, Subsection (d) provides for the penalty of failure to illuminate lamps and



illuminating devices at such time as required by this section shall be an infraction. See subsection (a) for definition of “time” which has only removed *C.G.S. § 14-96a, Lighted lamps and illuminating devices required, when*, and replaced it with *C.G.S. § 14-96b, Head lamps*:

“Every vehicle upon a highway within this state shall display such lighted lamps and illuminating devices as may be required under the provisions of this section and C.G.S. 14-96b to 14-96aa, inclusive, (1) at any time from a half-hour after sunset to a half-hour before sunrise, (2) at any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of five hundred feet ahead, and (3) at any time during periods of precipitation, including, but not limited to, periods of snow, rain or fog.”

Subsection (e) is new and adds the following language:

“To the extent that a violation concerning the number, placement or intensity of a lamp or illuminating device, or any other technical specification provided in sections 14-96b to 14-96aa, inclusive, concerning a lamp or illuminating device would constitute a violation under this section, such violation shall be enforced under section 14-96b, 14-96c, as amended by this act, 14-96d, 14-96e, 14-96f, 14-96g, 14-96i, 14-96j, 14-96k, 14-96l, 14-96m, 14-96n, 14-96o, 14-96p, 14-96q, 14-96r, 14-96s, 14-96t, 14-96u, 14-96x, 14-96y, as amended by this act, 14-96z or 14-96aa, and not under this section.”

### **Section 3      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (d) of *C.G.S. § 14-96c, Tail lamps. Illumination of rear registration plate*, and establishes the penalty of an infraction for failure to have tail lamps as required in this section.

### **Section 4      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (c) of *C.G.S. § 14-96y, Number of head lamps. Number in combination with other lamps*, and provides for the penalty of an infraction for any operator of a motor vehicle that does not have at least two lamps as required by this section. There is an exception that “if such motor vehicle has at least one such lamp, such operator shall be issued a warning for defective equipment under the provisions of subsection (c) of *C.G.S. § 14-103, Inspection of motor vehicles*, for a first offense, and for any subsequent violation of this section, such operator shall be deemed to have committed an infraction.”

## Section 5      Effective October 1, 2025

This section amends *C.G.S. § 14-99f, Windshield. Obstruction of view*, and addresses windshields. Subsections (b) (windshield) and (c) of this statute, (things attached, affixed to or hung on in any location), clarify what an unobstructed view is and defines it as “significantly blocks or conceals by use of an obstacle or obstruction to an extent that would prevent a reasonable person from viewing the highway.” Subsection (d) provides that a violation is an infraction.

## Sections 7 & 8      Cannabis Use In Vehicles

### Section 7      Effective October 1, 2025

This section amends *C.G.S. § 53a-213a, Smoking, otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis while operating a motor vehicle: Class C misdemeanor*, to permit law enforcement to stop a motor vehicle if the officer sees the **driver actively consuming cannabis AND smells burnt cannabis odor**. By law, it is still a class C misdemeanor to smoke, otherwise inhale, or ingest cannabis while driving a motor vehicle on certain roads or properties.

### Section 8      Effective October 1, 2025   Cannabis Use In Vehicles

This section amends *C.G.S. § 53a-213b Smoking, otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis as a passenger in a motor vehicle: Class D misdemeanor*, of the general statutes to address motor vehicle passengers consuming cannabis and remains a class D misdemeanor. It is amended so that no peace officer shall stop a motor vehicle for a violation of this section if such violation is the sole reason for such stop, unless such officer (1) observes active cannabis consumption by the **operator of the motor vehicle**, and (2) detects the odor of burnt cannabis.

**Note:** Current law prohibits peace officers from stopping a vehicle solely for these violations. This act changes this.

### Section 9      Effective October 1, 2025   Enhanced Reckless Driving Penalties<sup>3</sup>

Under current law, *C.G.S. § 14-222, Reckless driving*, driving faster than 85 mph is considered a reckless driving violation. The new act sets enhanced penalties under Section 14-222 for violators who drive faster than 100 mph (see table below).

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<sup>3</sup> Table used with permission of OLR.

**Table: Reckless Driving Penalties Under Bill**

<b><i>Driving Faster Than 85 mph and up to 100 mph (Existing Law)</i></b>	
First offense	\$100-\$300 fine, up to 30 days imprisonment, or both
Subsequent offense	Up to \$600 fine, up to 364 days imprisonment, or both
<b><i>Driving Faster Than 100 mph</i></b>	
First offense	\$200-\$600 fine, up to 30 days imprisonment, or both
Subsequent offense	Up to \$1,000 fine, up to 364 days imprisonment, or both

Under the act, if a police officer arrests someone for a reckless driving violation of driving faster than 100 mph who was previously convicted of this violation, the officer must impound the driver's vehicle for a 48- hour period. After this period, the vehicle owner may reclaim it upon paying all related towing and storage costs. The act also specifies that a person cannot be prosecuted for both speeding and reckless driving for the same offense.

- **P.A. 25-159 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**

**Sections 12 and 13**

**Effective October 1, 2025 DUI/BUI**

Section 12 amends C.G.S. § 15-133 and imposes reciprocal suspension penalties for convictions of DUI and BUI and related administrative per se violations. This section imposes 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.

Section 12 further amends C.G.S. § 15-133, *Rules for safe operation. Operation of vessel while under the influence of liquor or drugs. Penalties. Records of conviction*, and Section 13 amends Subsections (g) and (h) of C.G.S. § 14-227a, *Operation while under the influence of liquor or drug or while having an elevated blood alcohol content*, in order for the act to deem equivalent boating and driving offenses regarding prior convictions, as shown in the tables below:

<b>Offense (§)</b>		<b>Driver's License</b>	<b>Boating or Personal Watercraft Certificate</b>
<b>DUI (§ 17)</b>		<u>Under age 21: 45 days, plus 1 year IID use</u> <u>Test/DIE Refusal: 45 days, plus 1 year IID use</u>	120 days <u>Test/DIE Refusal: 6 months</u>
	Second	<u>Age 21 and over: 45 days, plus 1 year IID use</u> <u>Under age 21: 45 days, plus 2 year IID use</u> <u>Test/DIE Refusal: 45 days, plus 2 year IID use</u>	<u>General: 9 months</u> <u>BAC of 0.16 or more: 10 months</u> <u>Test Refusal/DIE: 1 year</u>
	Third and subsequent	<u>Age 21 and over: 45 days, plus 2 years IID use</u> <u>Under age 21: 45 days, plus 3 years IID use</u> <u>Test/DIE Refusal: 45 days, plus 3 years IID use</u>	<u>General: 2 years</u> <u>BAC of 0.16 or more: 2 years, 6 months</u> <u>Test/DIE Refusal: 3 years</u>
<b>DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children (§ 21)</b>	All	45 day suspension plus 3 years IID use, with operation in the first year limited to certain travel (e.g., to work or school)	1 year suspension

\*The offender is eligible for reinstatement after two years. If reinstated, he or she must drive with an IID unless the DMV commissioner lifts this requirement after 15 years.

**Table: Offenses Considered Prior Convictions, Current Law vs. Bill**

<b>Offense (§)</b>	<b>Considered a Prior Conviction of the Offense Under Current Law</b>	<b>Considered a Prior Conviction of the Offense Under the Bill</b>
<b>BUI (§ 14)</b>	BUI	BUI and DUI
<b>DUI (§ 15)</b>	DUI, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses	DUI, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, BUI, reckless operation of a vessel while under the influence, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses
<b>Administrative Per Se, BUI (§ 16)</b>	BUI administrative per se	BUI and DUI administrative per se

**Table: Certificate and License Suspension Penalties Under the Bill**

<b>Offense (§)</b>		<b>Driver's License</b>	<b>Boating or Personal Watercraft Certificate</b>
<b>BUI (§ 14), DUI (§ 15), or DUI with a child passenger (§ 20)</b>	First	45 day suspension, plus one year IID use	One year suspension
	Second	45 day suspension plus three years IID use, with operation in the first year limited to certain travel (e.g., to work or school)	Three year suspension (or until age 21, whichever is longer)
	Third and subsequent	Permanent revocation*	Permanent revocation
<b>Administrative Per Se for BUI (§ 16) or</b>	First	<u>Age 21 and over:</u> 45 days, plus 6 months IID use	<u>General:</u> 90 days <u>BAC of 0.16 or more:</u>

<b>Offense (§)</b>	<b>Considered a Prior Conviction of the Offense Under Current Law</b>	<b>Considered a Prior Conviction of the Offense Under the Bill</b>
<b>Administrative Per Se, DUI (§ 17)</b>	DUI administrative per se	BUI and DUI administrative per se
<b>DUI with a child passenger (§ 20)</b>	DUI, DUI under age 21, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses	DUI, DUI under age 21, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, BUI, reckless operation of a vessel while under the influence, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses

So this is clear, and unchanged by this Act, *C.G.S. § 15-133(d), Rules for safe operation. Operation of vessel while under the influence of liquor or drugs. Penalties. Records of conviction*, remains the same:

“(d) No person shall operate a vessel: (1) While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, or (2) while such person has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section and sections 15-140l and 15-140n, "elevated blood alcohol content" means: (A) A ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, or (B) if such person is under twenty-one years of age, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight. For the purposes of this section and sections 15-132a, 15-140l, 15-140n, 15-140o and 15-140q, "operate" means that the vessel is underway or aground and not moored, anchored or docked.”

#### **Section 31-34                      Effective January 1, 2026**

This act requires DMV, in consultation with Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (“CWCSEO”) and other specified entities, to **develop yellow envelopes** and related public awareness materials for people with cognitive impairments or physical disabilities. As required under existing law, **DMV similarly offers blue envelopes** by request to people with autism spectrum disorder, which (1) include information about improving communication between these individuals and police officers and (2) hold their driver’s license, registration, and insurance card (*C.G.S. § 14- 11j, Blue envelopes for person with autism spectrum disorder*).

\*These envelopes are meant to be handed out by officers during a traffic stop.

**E-Bikes modification, labeling, e-bike sales, e-bike violation penalties, and the definitions and categories of e-bikes in general and motor-driven cycles (e.g., mopeds) and electric scooters. It is a wholesale update to e-bike laws.**

**E-bike Modification & Out-Of-Class Vehicles E-Bike Classification**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 14-289l, Duties of electric bicycle manufacturers*. Under existing law and unchanged by the act, an e-bike is a bicycle that (1) has operable foot pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts and (2) qualifies as a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 bicycle (see table below).

**Table: E-bike Classes**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Motor Engagement</b>	<b>Motor Disengagement</b>	<b>Top Speed</b>
Class 1	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	20 mph
Class 2	While the rider pedals or with a throttle (i.e. they may be powered exclusively by the motor)	When the brakes are applied or when it hits the top speed	20 mph
Class 3	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	28 mph

**Note:** Unlike bicycles, all e-bike riders are required to wear helmets.

**Section 36 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2025****Vehicles That Are Not E-bikes Under the Law**

This act goes to great lengths to address modifications of an e-bike – mainly in changing its motor-powered speed capability. The act specifies that a vehicle with an electric motor for propulsion is not considered an e-bike under the law if it (1) does not meet the definition of an e-bike as sold or offered for sale or (2) has one or multiple operating modes, a throttle, and the capability to exceed 20 mph on motor power alone in any mode when the throttle is engaged. It also specifies that these vehicles are not e-bikes under the law if they have been configured or modified by someone (or are designed, manufactured, or intended by the manufacturer, importer, or seller to be configured or modified) to not meet existing law’s e-bike definition due to:

1. The inclusion of a mechanical switch or button;
2. A change in the software controlling the electric drive system;
3. The use of a mobile application; or

4. Any other means intended by a person, manufacturer, importer, or seller to modify the vehicle, or allow it to be modified, to no longer meet the definition.

Again - this Act is primarily focused on any modification of an electric bicycle that is modified to change the motor-powered speed capability or motor engagement in such a way that the electric bicycle no longer meets the definition of an electric bicycle and the correct labeling and sale of such.

## **Section 38    Effective October 1, 2025**

### **Modification of Electric Foot Scooter Definition**

This section amends subdivision (32) of *C.G.S. § 14-1, Definitions*. The act replaces the definition of “electric foot scooter” with one for “electric scooter” and broadens the definition to also include certain electric scooters designed to be ridden while sitting down. In doing so, it treats certain low-powered, seated electric scooters in the same way that electric foot scooters are treated under the law.

Under current law, an electric foot scooter is a device that (1) weighs up to 75 pounds; (2) has two or three wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that a rider can stand on; (3) is powered by an electric motor and human power; and (4) has a maximum speed of 20 mph on a paved level surface, with or without human propulsion.

The act renames these devices “electric scooters” and (1) increases their maximum weight to 100 pounds, (2) eliminates the floorboard requirement and instead requires they be designed to be ridden in either an upright or seated position, and (3) excludes e-bikes and one-wheeled vehicles from the definition.

### **IMPORTANT**

- When the law changes in October, e-bikes without pedals and with batteries over 750 watts will be classified as **motor-driven cycles, requiring a driver’s license**.
- Once an e-bike reaches 3,500 watts, it will legally be considered a **motor-driven vehicle**.
- Anything above 3,700 watts is then considered a motorcycle, and you do need a motorcycle endorsement, proper insurance, license, etc.



## Section 39    Effective October 1, 2025

### Motor-Driven Cycles

This section amends subdivision (59) of *C.G.S. § 14-1, Definitions*, of the general statutes. Under current law, a “**motor-driven cycle**” is any of the following with a seat at least 26 inches high and a motor displacing less than 50cc:

- (1) motorcycle;
- (2) motor scooter; or
- (3) bicycle with attached motor, except electric bicycles.

Because cc is a measurement of cylinder volume in an internal combustion engine, this definition only explicitly captures gas-powered vehicles. So, it is unclear under current law whether a similar electric-powered vehicle would be considered a motor-driven cycle or a motorcycle.

This act expands this definition of “**motor driven cycle**” to include vehicles with gasoline, electric, or hybrid motors that have a capacity of less than 50cc, have a wattage of 3,700 watts or less, or produce five brake horsepower or less, as applicable. It also (1) excludes electric scooters from the motor-driven cycle definition and (2) incorporates into this definition one-wheeled vehicles “with a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding or with foot rests for the operator” (i.e. motorized unicycles). (These vehicles are not subject to the motor-related or minimum seat height requirements.)

It replaces the definition of "Electric foot scooter" with "Electric scooter" and now broadens the definition to mean a device (A) that weighs not more than 100 pounds (versus 75 pounds), (B) that has two or three wheels, and handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, (C) that is designed to be ridden on in an upright or seated position, (D) that is powered by an electric motor and human power, and (E) whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion on a paved level surface, is not more than twenty miles per hour. "Electric scooter" does not include an electric bicycle or one-wheeled vehicle.

As under existing law, street-legal two- or three-wheeled vehicles that exceed these engine capacities are generally considered motorcycles. Unlike motorcycles, motor-driven cycles do not need to be registered and riders do not need a motorcycle endorsement.

## Section 40

Effective October 1, 2025

This section amends subdivision (61) of *C.G.S. § 14-1, Definitions*, of the general statutes:

"'Motorcycle' means (A) an auticycle, as defined in this section, or (B) a motor vehicle, with or without a side car, that has (i) not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, (ii) a saddle or seat which the rider straddles or a platform on which the rider stands, and (iii) handlebars with which the rider controls the movement of the vehicle. 'Motorcycle' does not include a motor-driven cycle, an electric bicycle or an electric scooter;"

## Section 59

Effective October 1, 2025

*C.G.S. § 51-164n, Procedure upon summons for infraction or certain violations. Payment by mail. Procedure at trial*, is amended and there are 4 pages under this section of a wide variety of ways to commit either Infractions or Violations under *C.G.S. § 35-58, Rules of construction*, and the handling of payments or process for pleas of not guilty. Up until this point, there is no mention of a criminal offense under this act.

## Section 60

Effective October 1, 2025

This section amends *C.G.S. § 14-140, Release on own recognizance. Report of failure to appear, comply with remote events and deadlines or pay fine or fee, surcharge or cost. Reciprocal agreements. Opening of judgment*, as follows:

"(a) Any person who has been arrested by an officer for a violation of any provision of any statute relating to motor vehicles may be released, upon such person's own recognizance, by such officer in such officer's discretion, unless such violation is of a provision relating to driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or using a motor vehicle without permission of the owner or evading responsibility for personal injury or property damage or involves the death or serious injury of another, in which cases such person shall not be released on such person's own recognizance."

Also – under Section 60 as amended – **DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSION FOR FAILURE TO PAY OR FAILURE TO APPEAR** requires DMV to send notice to someone whose license may be suspended for failure to pay or appear and it also establishes a license suspension procedure requiring the court to notify the commissioner when someone is arrested for a violation of any motor vehicle-related statute and willfully fails to appear for a scheduled court appearance.

## **Section 61    Effective July 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (c) of C.G.S. § 14-227b, *Implied consent to test operator's blood, breath or urine and to nontestimonial portion of drug influence evaluation. Testing procedures. License suspension. Hearing*, of the general statutes. The police shall now prepare a report of the incident not later than six business days after such arrest and send the report and copy of any results to the DMV.

## **STREET TAKEOVERS**

### **➤ P.A. 25-80    An Act Concerning the Illegal Use of Certain Vehicles and Street Takeovers**

## **Section 1 – 2 Effective July 1, 2025**

These sections amend C.G.S § 14-390, *Municipal regulation of operation and use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. Penalties. Seizure and forfeiture.*, and C.G.S § 14-390m, *Municipal regulation of operation and use of dirt bikes and mini-motorcycles on public property. Penalties. Seizure and forfeiture.*, and pertaining to all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes or mini motorcycles seized by a municipality are not to be forfeited so long as the owner collects such not later than 90 days after the municipality posts notice of the intended forfeiture on its website and mails notice to the owner.

Current law requires that any forfeited vehicle be sold at public auction. These sections of the Act provide that such may be destroyed in lieu of a public auction sale.

## **Section 3    Effective July 1, 2025**

This section is new and allows municipalities to adopt ordinances which prohibit street takeovers, penalize organizers and participants and adopt a process for the impoundment and forfeiture of such vehicles. Participants are persons gathered with the intent to observe and actually observe a street takeover.

## **Section 4    Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (b) of C.G.S § 14-111, *Suspension or revocation of registration, license or right to operate.*, and enhances the license suspension period for a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> violation of subsection (c) of C.G.S § 14-224, *Evasion of responsibility in operation of motor vehicles. Racing. Required removal of motor vehicle from traveled portion of highway. Impoundment or fine.*, to 45 days. Any subsequent violation is punishable by a 2-year license suspension.

## **Section 5      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends subsection (g) of C.G.S. § 14-224, *Evasion of responsibility in operation of motor vehicles. Racing. Required removal of motor vehicle from traveled portion of highway. Impoundment or fine.* and requires the court to impose a fine of at least \$2,000 fine for any subsequent violation of (g) of C.G.S. § 14-224, *Evasion of responsibility in operation of motor vehicles. Racing. Required removal of motor vehicle from traveled portion of highway. Impoundment or fine.*, a D felony.

## **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

### **➤ P.A. 25-139    An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault**

#### **Section 1      Effective from passage**

This section amends subsection (b) of C.G.S. § 46a-170, *Trafficking in Persons Council. Membership. Duties. Reports.* and adds the Commissioner of Transportation to the Trafficking in Person Council. The Chief Public Defender is a member of this Council.

#### **Section 2      Effective October 1, 2025**

This section amends C.G.S. § 46a-51, *Definitions.*, to add definitions of “victim of sexual assault” and “victim of trafficking in persons” as follows:

"Victim of sexual assault" means a victim of sexual assault pursuant to the following sections:

*C.G.S. § 53a-70, Sexual assault in the first degree: Class B or A felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-70a, Aggravated sexual assault in the first degree: Class B or A felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-70b, Sexual assault in spousal or cohabiting relationship: Class B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-70c, Aggravated sexual assault of a minor: Class A felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-71, Sexual assault in the second degree: Class C or B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-72, Rape in the first degree: Class B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-72a, Sexual assault in the third degree: Class D or C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-72b, Sexual assault in the third degree with a firearm: Class C or B felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-73, Rape in the second degree: Class C felony.*

*C.G.S. § 53a-73a, Sexual assault in the fourth degree: Class A misdemeanor or class D felony.*

"Victim of trafficking in persons" means a victim of trafficking in persons as defined in *C.G.S. § 53a-192a, Trafficking in persons: Class A felony*.

### **Sections 3 -15            Effective October 1, 2025**

These sections amend the following statutes to prohibit the discrimination of any person protected due to their status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons as defined in the act:

*C.G.S. § 46a-64c, Discriminatory housing practices prohibited. Disposition of complaints. Penalty.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-58, Deprivation of rights. Desecration of property. Placing of burning cross or noose on property. Penalty. Restitution.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-59, Discrimination in associations of licensed persons prohibited. Penalty.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-60, Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-64, Discriminatory public accommodations practices prohibited. Penalty.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-66, Discriminatory credit practices prohibited.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-70, Guarantee of equal employment in state agencies.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-71, Discriminatory practices by state agencies prohibited.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-72, Discrimination in job placement by state agencies prohibited.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-73, Discrimination in state licensing and charter procedures prohibited.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-75, Discrimination in educational and vocational programs prohibited.*

*C.G.S. § 46a-76, Discrimination in allocation of state benefits prohibited.*

*C.G.S. § 4a-60, Nondiscrimination and affirmative action provisions in awarding agency, municipal public works and quasi-public agency project contracts.*

### **Section 16    Effective October 1, 2025**

This section provides an affirmative defense for any persons in the juvenile or adult court who committed a misdemeanor while under the age of 18. The legislation requires that it be shown that at the time the offense was committed, the participation of the person was the "result of having been a victim of trafficking".

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

- **P.A. 25-98    An Act Concerning the Cost to Obtain Transcripts for Proceedings Conducted before Agencies**

**Effective July 1, 2025**

This is new legislation which authorizes the transcription of proceedings before any state agency. It also provides that the stenographer may charge the requestor \$2.40 for each page. It further prohibits an agency from charging, or seeking reimbursement from, anyone else for the transcript.

## **VETERANS**

- **P.A. 25-95    An Act Concerning Assorted Proposals to Recognize and Honor the Military Service of Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans in Connecticut**

**Section 1    Effective July 1, 2026**

Sec. 14. C.G.S. § 51-297, *Determination of indigency; definition, investigation, reimbursement for services, appeal. Penalty for false statement*, is amended by this section and section 201 of P.A. 23-204. The only substantive change is to exclude all service-connected disability benefits administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs from consideration when determining eligibility for assistance from a public defender based on indigency.

## **VICTIMS/SURVIVORS**

- **P.A. 25-113    An Act Concerning Broadband Internet, Gaming, Social Media, Online Services and Consumer Contracts**

**Section 19    Effective July 1, 2026**

The act creates a process for “survivors” of certain crimes (e.g., domestic violence) to request to a covered provider (i.e. motor vehicle manufacturer, or entity acting on its behalf, that provides a connected vehicle service) to take certain actions to prevent an “abuser” from remotely obtaining data from, or sending commands to, a vehicle.

(3) "Connected vehicle service" means any capability provided by or on behalf of a motor vehicle manufacturer that enables a person to remotely obtain data from, or send

commands to, a covered vehicle, but not limited to, any such capability provided by way of a software application that is designed to be operated on a mobile device.

\*This is extremely broad and at this point doesn't carry any separate criminal penalties under this Act. However, it's worth noting, for example, that it would provide a foundation for the offense of Electronic Stalking.

## **WRONGFUL INCARCERATION**

- **P.A. 25-20     An Act Concerning A Study On Pre-settlement Legal Funding And Loans Made In Connection With The Anticipated Receipt Of A Wrongful Incarceration Award**

### **Section 1     Effective upon passage**

This is new legislation passed to protect persons seeking compensation for wrongful incarceration, including loans for the pre-settlement legal funding of loan while a claim is pending before the Office of the Claims Commissioner. The Banking Commissioner will study complaints made in this area and make recommendations for enhanced consumer protection for persons seeking wrongful incarceration compensation. The recommendations are to be made in consultation with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Office of the Attorney General.

- **P.A. 25-57     An Act Concerning the Resolution of Claims for Wrongful Incarceration by the Claims Commissioner**

### **Section 1     Effective July 1, 2025**

The act creates a process to permit the Office of the Attorney General and the person claiming wrongful incarceration to agree or stipulate to certain facts and a contemplated compensation award. The Claims Commissioner may approve the agreement or stipulation if it is in the amount of \$1.5 million or less. Such approval exempts the requirement that an award be approved at the legislative level. It also provides for immediate payment of the award, thereby streamlining the process.

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