



2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services
Office of Chief Public Defender

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

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Division of Public Defender Services Office of Chief Public Defender

2026 Public Acts

The following is a summary of all Public Acts and Special Acts adopted during the 2026 *Legislative Regular Session* pertaining to criminal proceedings, juvenile delinquency and child protection.

Thank you to John R. DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel, Vionna Steele, Legal and Legislative Affairs Aide, and Renee Cimino, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection for their assistance. If you have any questions, please contact us at the:

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¹ The *Public Defender Legislative Committee*, established in 2004, is comprised of the Public Defender and Supervisory Assistant Public Defender Office Heads of the JD, GA, Post-Conviction and Specialty Units of the Division.

ANIMALS

➤ P.A. 26-112 An Act Concerning Animal Welfare

Section 1 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is new to require a study of the 'impact of the need for placement of companion animals on victims of domestic violence". The study, due by January 1, 2027, will be done by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Office of Victim Services.

Section 3 (NEW) Effective upon passage

This section is new and requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to convene a working group to study animal population control and submit a report to the General Assembly before January 1, 2027.

BOATING

➤ P.A. 26-60 An Act Concerning Certain Boating Regulations

Section 1 Effective from passage

This 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 prohibits anyone from standing on the gunwale or sitting on the gunwale of a motorboat with one or both legs over the outside of such if cruising at a speed greater than a "slow-no-wake" speed.

Section 2 Effective from passage

The section amends subsection (b) of C.G.S. 15-140j. *Certificate of personal watercraft operation. Operation of personal watercraft with passengers. Operation of jetted articulated vessels. Regulations*, to prohibit any owner of a jet ski from allowing anyone, not just those under 16 years of age, from using the jet ski unless the person has the appropriate certificate issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

BOTTLE REDEMPTION

P.A. 26-2 An Act Concerning Redemption of Out-Of-State Beverage Containers

Section 3 Effective from Passage

This Act makes several changes to the state's beverage container redemption law ("bottle bill"). This Act is generally civil in nature with the exception of amending *C.G.S. Section 22a-246, Penalties*, which for a third or subsequent offense, any person shall be fined or assessed a civil penalty of not less than two thousand dollars and shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

The state's "bottle bill" generally requires a deposit to be charged on each beverage container at the time of purchase, which is then refunded to the consumer when it is redeemed at a retailer or redemption center. It bans redemption center operators, dealers, and distributors from accepting for redemption a beverage container that (1) they know or have reason to know was not originally sold in Connecticut as a filled beverage container; (2) was previously redeemed; (3) is damaged in a way that prevents reading or scanning the barcode; or (4) is on a special list of beverage containers (see Section for more info – it is unlikely we will see some or any of these).

CANNABIS

➤ P.A. 26-100 An Act Concerning Consumer Protection, Cannabis, Data Privacy, Fire Inspections, Criminal Mischief and Artificial Intelligence

Section 45 Effective October 1, 2026

This Section amends Subsection (a) of C.G.S. 42-524, *Construction of controllers', consumer health data controllers' and processors' duties* of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 12 of PA 25-113, with substantially similar provisions limiting the use of facial recognition technology to matching still images or video to a database and requires certain signs, among other requirements, but allows the use after receiving the consumer's consent in a commercial transaction.

Sections 49 & 56 Effective October 1, 2026

"CANNABIS" DEFINITION

These sections eliminate an exemption in *P.A. 26-8, An Act Concerning Cannabis, Hemp, and Infused Beverage Regulation*, that exempted CBN, CBG, CBC, or any other

minor cannabinoid derived from hemp. Under current law, "cannabis" is defined to generally include (1) manufactured cannabinoid and (2) cannabinol (CBN), and cannabidiol (CBD), as well as chemical compounds that are controlled substances and which are similar to them in physiological effect (except CBD derived from hemp, if it is not high-THC):

P.A. 26-8, An Act Concerning Cannabis, Hemp, and Infused Beverage Regulation, among other things, specifically exempts from the "cannabis" definition: CBN, cannabigerol (CBG), cannabichromene (CBC), or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp. This Act eliminates this exemption.

Sections 54 & 68 Effective October 1, 2026

CANNABIS FLOWER THC LIMIT

These Sections eliminate a provision in *P.A. 26-8, An Act Concerning Cannabis, Hemp, and Infused Beverage Regulation*, that eliminated the cap on THC for cannabis flower. *P.A. 26-8, § 79*, among other things, lifts the cap on THC (measured on a dry-weight-basis) for cannabis flower and prohibits DCP from limiting cannabis flower dosage, potency, or concentration. The act eliminates these provisions and reverts back to current law where cannabis flower is capped at 35% THC on a dry-weight basis.

Sections 63 - 64 Effective October 1, 2026

CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

These Sections amend both *C.G.S. § 53a-115-116, Criminal mischief in the first degree: Class D felony*, and expand the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree Criminal Mischief to include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems.

The act expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree Criminal Mischief to include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems (such as utilities, transportation, communications, emergency response, and other state and municipal systems). Under existing law, both crimes require the person to have acted with no reasonable grounds to believe he or she had the right to do so. By law, 1st degree criminal mischief is a class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine up to \$5,000, or both and 2nd degree criminal mischief is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine up to \$2,000, or both.

CHILD PROTECTION/CHILDREN

- S.A. 26-5 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study the Voluntary Surrender of Infants

Section 1 (NEW) Effective from passage

This Special Act establishes a task force to study the voluntary surrender of infants in Connecticut with an emphasis on the ways in which such provisions, policies and procedures create or perpetuate racial, ethnic, health, economic and socioeconomic disparities among parents who engage in such voluntary surrender.

- P.A. 26-26 An Act Concerning Child Welfare Accountability and Transparency

Sections 1-2 Effective October 1, 2026

These sections amend 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. Removal of children or denial of placement. Standard*, and requires DCF to prioritize relative and fictive kin caregivers when making an emergency placement, and provide written notice upon any denial of such placement, including why the placement with the non-kin caregiver serves the best interest of the child. Department of Children and Families (DCF) is also required to provide written notice to any individual denied a foster care license, including the reasons for the denial and the appeal process.

Section 3 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to establish a grant program for clothing, food, safety-related purchases and other necessities for kinship caregivers who have accepted emergency placement of a child pursuant to subsection (c) of section CGS § 17a-114, CGS § 17a-114 (Formerly Sec. 17-43c). - *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. Removal of children or denial of placement. Standard.*

Section 4 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to establish a grant program for caregivers for costs associated with after-school programs that provide educational, enrichment and recreational activities for children in grade kindergarten through twelve.

Section 5 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to establish a prospective social worker internship program and a mentorship program for newly hired social workers.

Sections 6-8 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to provide mandatory educational training programs concerning perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, human trafficking, cultural sensitivity and implicit bias for employees of DCF.

Section 9 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to create a postsecondary education grant program to fund postsecondary education for youth who voluntarily remain in DCF services post majority.

Section 10 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation requires the Auditors of Public Accounts to conduct a performance audit of the postsecondary education grant program.

Section 11 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to establish a public, online dashboard to provide real-time information concerning the department's administration and performance of state-wide services.

Section 12 (NEW) Effective upon passage

This new legislation requires DCF to establish a working group to identify information to be included on the DCF public online dashboard.

Section 13 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation requires the parent or guardian of a child who is the subject of an investigation, under protective supervision or resides in a home with another child who meets such criteria to notify DCF if the child will be removed from the state for a period exceeding 14 consecutive days. Once notification is given, this section requires DCF to take certain action to ascertain the child's location and evaluate the child's safety.

Section 14 (NEW) Effective upon passage

This new legislation prohibits DCF from using a parent or guardians voluntary mental health treatment as the sole basis for any action or proceeding by DCF.

Section 15 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends Subsection (b) of C.G.S § 17a-101g. *Classification and evaluation of reports. Determination of abuse or neglect of child. Investigation. Notice, entry of recommended finding. Referral to local law enforcement authority. Home visit. Removal of child in imminent risk of harm. Family assessment response program. Development of service plans and plans of care. Monitoring. Disclosure of information to community providers. Annual report*, and requires DCF during a child abuse or neglect investigation to consider any opinions expressed by the child or other children residing in the household concerning whether such child was abused or neglected.

Section 16 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to provide personal emergency communication devices to employees of the DCF who regularly conduct visits and evaluations of the homes of children under the supervision of the commissioner

Section 17 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to establish an urgent crisis center in Stamford.

Section 18 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation establishes a *Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee* to make recommendations concerning the operation, policies and service outcomes of state agencies providing child welfare services in the state.

Section 19 (NEW) Effective upon Passage

This new legislation requires DCF and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to conduct a joint study to identify ways to improve communication, policies and procedures relating to the removal of children pursuant to sections 17a-101g. *Classification and evaluation of reports. Determination of abuse or neglect of child. Investigation. Notice, entry of recommended finding. Referral to local law enforcement authority. Home visit. Removal of child in imminent risk of harm. Family assessment response program. Development of service plans and plans of care. Monitoring. Disclosure of information to community providers. Annual report.*

Section 20 (NEW) Effective upon Passage

This new legislation requires DCF and the Office of the Child Advocate to conduct a joint study to identify ways to improve policies and practices to ensure the immediate removal of any child who becomes the victim of a physical or sexual assault occurring in or as a result of a DCF out of home placement.

Section 21 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. § 46b-486, *Release of Information*, and allows The Department of Public Health to release information relating to an acknowledgment of parentage to an authorized representative of the DCF.

Section 22 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation requires DCF to begin a new investigation by a different DCF employee when a third report of child abuse or neglect is accepted within a 12-month period concerning a child, sibling or other child residing in the same home.

Section 23 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This new legislation requires notification to the Commissioner of DCF if an individual under the age of eighteen resides at the residence of a person sentenced to parole or probation after serving a sentence for violations of C.G.S. § 53-20. *Cruelty to persons.*, 53-21. *Injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of, children.* *Sale of children.*, 53-23. *Abandonment of child under the age of six years.*, 53a-70c. *Aggravated sexual assault of a minor: Class A felony.*, and subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-86. *Promoting prostitution in the first degree: Class B felony.*, section 53a-90a. *Enticing a minor. Penalties.*, sections 53a-196. *Obscenity as to minors: Class D felony.* to 53a-196f. *Possessing child sexual abuse material in the third degree: Class D felony.* or section 53a-196i. *Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor: Class C felony.*

➤ **P.A. 26-37 An Act Concerning the Provision of Parent-Managed Learning**

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends C.G.S. § 10-184, *Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements* and establishes formal oversight requirements for parent-managed learning (homeschooling).

Parents/guardians are required to annually complete an intent to educate form. All requests for parent-managed instruction (home schooling) require the

parent/guardian to personally appear at the school district and sign a withdrawal form. All parent-managed instruction withdrawal forms require the school district to conduct a DCF record check for each person who resides with such child to determine if they are on the state child abuse and neglect registry, or under investigation by DCF for an allegation of abuse or neglect.

If the record check finds that any such person is on the state child abuse and neglect registry or currently under investigation by DCF for an allegation of abuse or neglect, such withdrawal shall not be effective, and the child may not be withdrawn from public school.

The school districts must provide the parent/guardian with the reasons the withdrawal is not effective and information regarding how to challenge the findings.

Section 2 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This new legislation requires the Department of Education to develop the intent to educate and withdrawal forms and make them available to local and regional boards of education.

Section 3 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends *C.G.S. § 10-188, Private schools and instruction* and mandates that attendance of children at a nonpublic school, shall not be regarded as in compliance with laws of the state unless the teachers or person having control of such nonpublic school file with the Commissioner of Education annual student attendance reports.

Section 4 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends *subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of C.G.S. § 10-10a, Public school information system. Definitions. Development and implementation. Types of data collected. Access to data maintained under system* and requires state-wide public schools to track and report data on the number of children being instructed through parent-managed learning (home schooling) for whom an intent to educate form was completed or a withdrawal form was signed pursuant to C.G.S. 10-184. *Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements.*

Section 5 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends *Subsection (g) of C.G.S. 17a-28, Definitions. Confidentiality and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons.*, and requires DCF to

disclose records, without the consent of the person who is the subject of the record, to a local board of education pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-184 *Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements.*

- **P.A. 26-48 An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Department of Children and Families and the Data Link Connecticut System.**

Section 1 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

Section 1 of this act is new and merges and (1) consolidates existing DCF reporting Requirements concerning the department's services, compliance with statutory requirements, facilities operated by the department, reports of animal harm, neglect or cruelty, the department's family assessment response program, private providers that contract with the department, foster care services and licensing and diversion of children from the juvenile justice and court systems; (2) adds a reporting requirement concerning cost savings resulting from the implementation of the Behavioral Health Partnership; (3) eliminates a reporting requirement concerning children missing or abducted from the custody of the department; and, (4) makes technical and conforming changes.

The reports being consolidated include:

- The Racial Justice Report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-6e Annual report re utilization of Department of Children and Families' services by race and ethnicity;*
- The Sibling Visitation Report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-10a Visitation of child in care and custody of commissioner. Communication during public health or national emergency. Policy for temporary cessation of in-person visitation.*
- The DCF Operated Facilities Report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-32a Children's facilities' annual report to State Advisory Council on Children and Families and advisory groups;*
- The Animal Abuse Report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-100c Annual report re actual or suspected instances of animal neglect or cruelty;*
- The Family Assessment Response report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-101g Classification and evaluation of reports. Determination of abuse or neglect of child. Investigation. Notice, entry of recommended finding. Referral to local law enforcement authority. Home visit. Removal of child in imminent risk of harm. Family assessment response program. Development of service plans and plans of care. Monitoring. Disclosure of information to community providers. Annual report.*

- The Private Provider Outcomes Report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-63a Private service provider. Contract with Department of Children and Families. Measurable outcomes. Annual report to General Assembly;*
- The Foster Care Licensing Practices Report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-114g Annual report re foster care licensing practices; and,*
- The Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment Grant Report pursuant to *C.G.S. section § 17a-22ii Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment Fund.*

Section 3 Effective July 1, 2026

Section 3 amends *C.G.S. 17a-8b, Department to report missing and abducted children committed to custody of commissioner*, and removes the requirement that DCF report any missing or abducted children in DCF custody to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC). In practice, only law enforcement authorities may access the NCIC to make these reports. Current law required DCF, within 24 hours after a child in its custody is determined to be missing or abducted, notify the law enforcement authority with jurisdiction where the child was reported missing or abducted and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Section 4 Effective July 1, 2026

This amends *C.G.S. 10-19m (Formerly Sec. 17a-39). Youth service bureaus. Report. Regulations*, and defines "Youth" as a person from birth to eighteen years of age. There is also discussion of the many ways to establish youth service bureaus.

Section 5 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends *C.G.S. 17a-10a, Visitation of child in care and custody of commissioner. Communication during public health or national emergency. Policy for temporary cessation of in-person visitation*, to ensure that a child placed in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an order of commitment is provided visitation with such child's parents and siblings, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Section 6 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends *C.G.S. 17a-22ii Department of Children and Families Section 17a-22ii - Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment Fund* and establishes a *Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment Fund*, which shall be a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall be used by the Commissioner of DCF

to assist families with the cost of obtaining (1) a drug or treatment prescribed for a child by a health care provider for the treatment of a mental or behavioral health condition if the cost of such drug or treatment is not covered by insurance or Medicaid, and (2) intensive evidence-based services or other intensive services to treat mental and behavioral health conditions in children and adolescents, including, but not limited to, intensive in-home child and adolescent psychiatric services and services provided by an intensive outpatient program, if the cost of such services is not covered by insurance or Medicaid.

Section 7 Effective July 1, 2026

That Section amends C.G.S. § 17a-101g *Classification and evaluation of reports. Determination of abuse or neglect of child. Investigation. Notice, entry of recommended finding. Referral to local law enforcement*, whereby the Commissioner may establish a program of family assessment response to reports of child abuse and neglect and refer to community providers for family assessment and services without an investigation

Sections 9-13 Effective October 1, 2026

These sections amend C.G.S. *Section 10a-57g. Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network*, of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes (Section 9), C.G.S. *Section 4-124w. Office of Workforce Strategy. Responsibilities*., subsection (c) of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes (Section 10), C.G.S. *Section 10-15o. Office of the Educational Ombudsperson*., subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes (Section 11), C.G.S. *Section 12-15. Limitations on inspection or disclosure of tax returns or return information. Exceptions. Penalty*., subdivision (19) of subsection (b) of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes (Section 12), and C.G.S. *Section 17b-112l. Initiative for two-generational service delivery to encourage educational, health and workforce readiness and self-sufficiency*., subsection (e) of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes (Section 13), of the Act essentially renaming the P20 WIN program to "Data Link Connecticut" or DataLinkCT. The program is a state data system used to match and integrate data from state agencies, colleges and universities, and other organizations to inform policy and practice for education, workforce and supportive service efforts.

Section 14 Effective October 1, 2026

In addition to adding "Data Link Connecticut," this section also defines "disconnected youth." A "disconnected youth" is defined as a person 14-26 who is:

- (1) an at-risk student or (2) not enrolled in high school and:

(a) does not have a high school diploma or its equivalent;

(b) has a diploma or equivalent but is unemployed and not enrolled in an adult education program, college, or a workforce training or certification program, including an apprenticeship, or otherwise pursuing postsecondary education; or,

(c) is incarcerated.

Section 15 Effective July 1, 2026

This section repeals the following:

- C.G.S. 17a-6e *Annual report re utilization of Department of Children and Families' services by race and ethnicity;*
- C.G.S. 17a-22n *Monitoring implementation of the Behavioral Health Partnership. Annual report to General Assembly;*
- C.G.S. 17a-32a *Children's facilities' annual report to State Advisory Council on Children and Families and advisory groups;*
- C.G.S. 17a-63a *Private service provider. Contract with Department of Children and Families. Measurable outcomes. Annual report to General Assembly;*
- C.G.S. 17a-100c *Annual report re actual or suspected instances of animal neglect or cruelty; and,*
- C.G.S. 17a 114g *Annual report re foster care licensing practices.*

CORRECTIONS

➤ P.A. 26-10 An Act Updating Prison Rape Elimination Standards

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends C.G.S. § 18-81cc. *Prevention, detection and monitoring of, and response to, sexual abuse in prisons, jails, correctional centers and juvenile facilities*, and requires the state's executive branch agencies and political subdivisions that incarcerate or detain adult or juvenile offenders to comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act ("PREA") in effect as of January 1, 2024. Current law requires them to, within available appropriations, adopt and comply with the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission's recommended standards. This act also expands the services provided by

the Office of the Correction Ombuds to receive and review each copy of any report or complaint of a sexual assault transmitted to the Office of the Correction Ombuds.

Section 2 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends *C.G.S. § 18-81qq. Office of the Correction Ombuds*, and makes certain changes to the investigative process such as removing any condition that an incarcerated person must have pursued an internal grievance procedure before the ombuds may discuss an incident with them. The act further allows the ombuds to use state issued cell phones while performing official duties at correctional facilities.

➤ P.A. 26-40 An Act Concerning Health Care in The Department of Correction Facilities

This act makes various changes to laws on health care services for incarcerated people, the Department of Correction (DOC), the Office of the Correction Ombuds, and related matters, as discussed in the section-by-section analysis below.

Section 1 Effective from Passage

Correction Ombuds

This Section amends *CGS § 18-81qq. Office of the Correction Ombuds* and makes certain changes to the investigative process such as removing any condition that an incarcerated person must have pursued an internal grievance procedure before the ombuds may discuss an incident with them. And it allows the ombuds to use state issued cell phones while performing official duties at correctional facilities.

Section 2 Effective October 1, 2026

DOC Health Care Services, Notices, Records, and Related Matters

This Section amends *C.G.S. § 18-81ll Department's responsibilities re release of medical information by inmate to family or emergency contact* and requires DOC to (1) provide health care to incarcerated people for free and cancel any outstanding fees or other costs; (2) generally provide medically necessary procedures (in some cases, at Department of Public Health (DPH)-licensed facilities) in a timely way; (3) post notices in English and Spanish about the right to access care; (4) upon intake, verify the person's prescriptions and ask them to identify their primary care provider and to sign a related form; and, (5) implement an electronic health records system, including allowing care requests to be made electronically.

Section 3 Effective from Passage

DOC Health Care Services Plan

This Section amends *C.G.S. § 18-81pp Plan for the provision of health care services to inmates. Report* and requires the DOC Commissioner to (1) update the department's health care services plan to ensure continuity of care regarding medications upon incarcerated people's intake and that there is an available same-day medication delivery service and (2) annually report on the plan's implementation status.

Section 4 (NEW) Effective from Passage

Time-Critical Medication List

This is a new Section and requires DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission, in consultation with DPH, to create a list of time-critical medications, with timing windows, related protocols, and documentation requirements.

Medical Staffing Scorecard and Contingency Plan

Additionally, under this Section, starting on and after January 1, 2027, DOC and the Correction Medical and Health Commission are required to (1) publish a quarterly scorecard with medical staffing-related information and (2) develop a health services staffing shortage contingency plan for each correctional facility.

Section 5 Effective October 1, 2026

Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports

The Section amends *C.G.S. § 54-91a (Formerly Sec. 54-109). Presentence Investigation of defendant*, and requires certain Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports to include an appendix about the defendant's medical and prescription history and sets documentation requirements if the defendant refuses to give that history.

Section 6 (NEW) Effective from Passage

DOC Nurse and Social Worker Student Loan Reimbursement Program

This Section is new and creates a program to give student loan reimbursement grants, within available bond authorizations, to nurses and LCSWs who work at DOC.

Section 7 Effective from Passage

Food Service and Commissary Program Audits

This Section amends *C.G.S. § 18-81ss Provision of nutritious meals. Serving nutraloaf or punitive diet Prohibited* and requires (1) the Auditors of Public Accounts ("APA") to conduct or contract for an audit of DOC's nutrition and food service and commissary programs and (2) requires DOC to submit a Corrective Action Plan in response.

Section 8 Effective from Passage

Pilot Programs

This Section amends *C.G.S. § 18-100j Pilot treatment program for methadone maintenance and other drug therapies.*, of the general statutes and requires DOC to begin two pilot programs: one allowing incarcerated people to keep and self-administer certain medications for chronic disease management at a minimum -security facility, and, another to help with discharge planning and care coordination at York Correctional Institution.

Section 9 (NEW) Effective from Passage

Medical and Health Commission

This is a new Section which creates a Correction Medical and Health Commission to, among other duties, (1) make recommendations to improve medical, nutrition, behavioral health, and health care services for incarcerated people and (2) develop a related 10-year plan.

- **P.A. 26-117 An Act Concerning the Availability of Breast Cancer Screening, Diagnosis And Treatment Services for Women Committed to The Custody of The Department of Correction**

Section 1 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This is new legislation which authorizes the Commissioner of DOC to arrange for screening, diagnostic and treatment services for breast cancer to any woman in DOC custody at a location closer to the correctional facility than the UCONN Health Center.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- **P.A. 26-130** An Act Concerning Various Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Proposals, Certificates of Approval for Airports, Heliports, Vertiports, Restricted Landing Areas and other Air Navigation Facilities, Police Collaboration with Social Workers, Surveillance Pricing, Education Cost Sharing and Withholding of Taxes from Lump Sum Payments.

Section 1 **Effective October 1, 2026**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 53-142k. Organized retail theft* to change the period of time from 180 days to 365 days within which a person who wrongfully takes property commits organized retail theft. In addition, the section expands the manner which a person can “receives, possesses, conceals, stores, barter, sells or disposes of any retain property” to include online through the internet or other electronic devices or the use of an online platform. The penalties remain unchanged from current law.

Section 2 **Effective October 1, 2026**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 53a-119. Larceny defined.*, and makes gender neutral changes considered to be technical. In addition, the section creates new offenses of fostering the sale of stolen property and gift card crime.

Fostering the sale of stolen property is defined as when a person “hosts, advertises or otherwise assists in the sale of stolen property, including through an online platform, knowing or believing that such property has been stolen, unless such property is received, retained or disposed of with purpose to restore such property to the owner.”

Gift card crime is defined as when a person, “with intent to defraud . . . (i) acquires or retains possession of a gift card or gift card redemption information without the consent of the cardholder, card issuer or gift card seller; (ii) alters or tampers with a gift card or its packaging; or (iii) devises a scheme to obtain a gift card or gift card information from a cardholder, card issuer or gift card seller by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises.”

This section also provides definitions for: gift cards, closed-loop gift card, gift card redemption information, open-loop gift card, cardholder, card issuer and gift card seller.

Section 3 **Effective October 1, 2026**

This section amends *C.G.S. § 52-564a. Liability for shoplifting* and makes gender neutral changes considered to be technical. In addition, the section increases the threshold

for civil liability for any person who violates this section. Lastly, if a plaintiff is unsuccessful in the civil action, the legislation removes the current damage cap of \$300 to provide for an unlimited amount that may be awarded to the defendant for costs and reasonable attorney's fee.

Section 4 Effective from passage

This section amends *C.G.S. § 46b-486. Release of information* to authorize a (DCF) representative to have access to information acknowledging parentage from the DPH in juvenile matters where the parentage of the child is "outstanding".

Section 6 Effective October 1, 2026

This Section amends subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of *C.G.S. § 18-81ll. Department's responsibilities re release of medical information by inmate to family or emergency contact.*, as amended by section 2 of P.A. 26-40 regarding intake of prescriptions for incarcerated persons.

Section 7 Effective from passage

This Section amends subsection (c) of *C.G.S. § 18-100j. Pilot treatment program for methadone maintenance and other drug therapies.*, as amended by section 8 of P.A. 26-40 to require certain agencies to collaborate to initiate a pilot program for discharge planning for patients with "chronic disease and behavioral health needs, including mental health and substance abuse disorders and coordinate care for persons incarcerated at York Correctional. The legislation requires that the agencies work with DOC to refer and provide community-based care for persons upon release for not less than 2 years and permits contracting with a federally qualified health center to work with DOC on this, all within a specific period of time.

Section 8 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. § 54-102kk DNA testing of biological evidence* to expand access to post-conviction relief. It permits a person convicted and sentenced to incarceration to file post-conviction DNA testing of evidence while on probation, parole or subject to the jurisdiction or supervision of a correctional agency.

In addition, the act provides that a person has a right to appeal any court order denying a request for DNA testing of evidence in the possession of control of law enforcement, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), any laboratory or the court, as such order is a final judgment.

Section 9 Effective January 1, 2027

This section amends C.G.S. § 54-91c. *Testimony of victim or representative of deceased victim prior to acceptance of plea agreement and at sentencing hearing. Terms of proposed plea agreement. Notification by state's attorney*, to provide a victim, as defined in this statute, with the right to make a statement regarding the dismissal of, or entry of a nolle for certain offenses charged, against a defendant, prior to the proceedings pertaining to such or the imposition of a sentence. The list of offenses for which the court is required to permit a victim to appear in such circumstances are:

C.G.S. 53-21	<i>Injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of, children.</i>
	<i>Sale of children</i> (subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection (a);
C.G.S. 53a-70	<i>Sexual assault in the first degree: Class B or A felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-70a	<i>Aggravated sexual assault in the first degree: Class B or A felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-70c	<i>Aggravated sexual assault of a minor: Class A felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-71	<i>Sexual assault in the second degree: Class C or B felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-72a	<i>Sexual assault in the third degree: Class D or C felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-73a	<i>Sexual assault in the fourth degree: Class A misdemeanor or class D felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-83b	<i>Commercial sexual abuse of a minor: Class B felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-86	<i>Promoting prostitution in the first degree: Class B felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-90a	<i>Promoting prostitution in the first degree: Class B felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-90b	<i>Misrepresentation of age to entice a minor: Class C felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-189a	<i>Voyeurism: Class D felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-189c	<i>Unlawful dissemination of an intimate image: Class A misdemeanor or class D felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-191	<i>Incest: Class D felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-192a	<i>Trafficking in persons: Class A felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196	<i>Obscenity as to minors: Class D felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196a	<i>Employing a minor in an obscene performance: Class A felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196b	<i>Promoting a minor in an obscene performance: Class B felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196c	<i>Importing child sexual abuse material: Class B felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196d	<i>Possessing child sexual abuse material in the first degree: Class B felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196e	<i>Possessing child sexual abuse material in the second degree: Class C felony;</i>

C.G.S. 53a-196f	<i>Possessing child sexual abuse material in the third degree: Class D felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196h	<i>Possessing or transmitting child sexual abuse material by minor: Class A misdemeanor;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196i	<i>Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor: Class C felony;</i>
C.G.S. 53a-196j	<i>Harmful communication with a minor: Class A misdemeanor;</i>

or,

“any other offense that is (i) a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense, each as defined in section 54-250. *Definitions*, or (ii) designated as a family violence crime, as defined in section 46b-38a. *Family violence prevention and response: Definitions.*”

Lastly, the section removes any requirement that a victim provide a stamped, self-addressed postcard for the purpose or notifying the victim of a sentencing date in a matter and require the victim to update their address information with the state’s attorney.

Section 10 Effective from passage

This section amends C.G.S. § 7-294tt. *Guidance on police officer collaboration with social workers*, which requires recommendations the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) on how police officers can collaborate with social workers. The new language also requires recommendations on the impact of such and when collaboration is not feasible including when social workers may respond or accompany a call with a police officer.

Section 17 Effective from passage

This section amends subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of C.G.S. § 18-81qq. *Office of the Correction Ombuds*, as amended by P.A. 26-40 to require the Correction Ombuds to file a report on the number of complaints found not to warrant an investigation and a summary of the reasons, why no later than December 31, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

- P.A. 26-39 An Act Concerning the Department of Developmental Services Abuse and Neglect Investigations.

Section 1 Effective from Passage

This Section amends C.G.S. Subsection (e) of section § 46a-11c (Formerly Sec. 19a-458b). *Initial determination and evaluation of report. Investigation of certain deaths. Electronic copy of reports*, and ensures family members of suspected abuse or neglect victims have access to abuse and neglect investigation reports filed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), unless such family members are suspected of such abuse or neglect, and requires the department to evaluate and report on the sufficiency of background checks of persons hired to provide services to clients served by the department. Neither the original report of alleged abuse or neglect nor the evaluation report of the investigator which includes findings and recommendations are public records.

Section 2 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends C.G.S. Subsection (e) of section § 17a-238a of the 2026 supplement, *Information available to individuals eligible for funding or services from Department of Developmental Services. Report. State-wide comprehensive residential waiting list. Assessment of need for future residential funding or services. Review, as follows:*

“(e) On or before August 1, 2018, and at least annually thereafter, the commissioner or his or her designee shall, in consultation with:

(1) each individual with intellectual disability who is eligible to receive residential funding or services from the department and who has an individual plan, and,

(2) the individual's legal representative, if applicable, assess the individual's need for future residential funding or services from the department.

Such assessment shall include an indication of the time period when each support or service would be accepted by such individual based on information collected at the annual individual planning meeting. The department shall provide to the individual or the individual's legal representative, if applicable, the latest version of the department's 'Guide for Individuals and Legal Representatives when an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect has Been Made' during such meeting.”

Section 4 Effective July 1, 2026

This Section amends C.G.S. § 17a-247i. *Annual abuse, neglect reports. Five-year policy and procedure review regarding abuse and neglect reporting, investigations.*, of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, regarding annual abuse and neglect report and the five-year policy and procedure review regarding abuse and neglect reporting, investigations as follows:

“(a) Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report regarding abuse and neglect reports filed and investigations conducted pursuant to sections 17a-247b. Establishment and maintenance of registry., 17a-247f. Reports of abuse or neglect of individual receiving services from Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services. Investigations., and 46a-11c. Initial determination and evaluation of report. Investigation of certain deaths. Electronic copy of reports., as amended by this act. Such report shall include:

(1) The number of abuse and neglect complaints received by the Department of Developmental Services in the previous calendar year, including deaths of persons reported;

(2) the number and type of complaints that were investigated by the department and the percentage of such complaints investigated directly by the department or by private providers;

(3) the number and percentage of cases that were substantiated;

(4) what, if any, administrative action was taken by the department regarding such substantiated complaints, including outcomes and recommendations; and,

(5) (A) the number of complaint substantiations by role of the perpetrator, including, but not limited to, the roles of (i) family member, (ii) day program provider, (iii) direct care staff, or (iv) other residential care staff,

(B) the number of complaint substantiations by the type of settings where the abuse or neglect occurred, including, but not limited to, (i) private homes, (ii) day programs, (iii) state-licensed community living arrangements, (iv) state-run residential programs, and (v) health care facilities,

(C) the percentage of investigations that produced recommendations,

(D) the percentage of recommendations that were confirmed to be completed by providers not later than ninety days after issuance of such recommendations,

(E) the number of regulatory citations that were issued by the department for failure to ensure detection and reporting of abuse and neglect,

(F) the number of regulatory citations that were issued by the department for failure to implement a corrective action requirement,

(G) the number of abuse or neglect allegations that were reported for individuals who died and what, if any, findings, recommendations or administrative action was taken by the department, and

(H) any systemic agency actions and recommendations to ensure the safety of individuals served by the department and prevent and respond to concerns of abuse and neglect.

(b) Not later than February 1, 2026, and every five years thereafter, the commissioner shall review the policies and procedures of the department as they relate to reports and investigations of abuse and neglect and post any updates to the policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site. Such review shall include:

(1) Ensuring the policies and procedures reflect the current process in place for investigating reports of abuse and neglect;

(2) reviewing the department's method for sharing information regarding substantiated abuse and neglect complaints and original reports and evaluation reports of abuse and neglect with the person reported to be the victim of such abuse or neglect or such person's legal representative while continuing to maintain confidentiality of the records as prescribed in section 17a-247d. **Registry confidentiality.**, and section 46a-11c. **Initial determination and evaluation of report. Investigation of certain deaths. Electronic copy of reports.**, as amended by this act;

(3) an evaluation of systems to screen persons hired to provide services to clients enrolled in programs administered by the department and recommendations, as necessary, to improve background checks of such persons; and

(4) obtaining feedback on the policies and procedures from qualified providers as determined by the commissioner.

(c) The Commissioner of Developmental Services shall ensure that all materials related to the prevention, occurrence of, and response to abuse and neglect of individuals served by the department are disseminated through a consumer-friendly and easily accessible Internet web site that ensures the widest possible access to services for families and persons with disabilities"

DIGITAL DEFRAUDING

➤ P.A. 26-119 An Act Establishing the Crime of Digital Defrauding

Section 19 Effective October 1, 2026

This Act amends *C.G.S. 53a-119 Larceny defined.*, adding a new section 19 creating a new crime of digital forgery, which is when a person, intending to financially injure another person, makes and disseminates a visual representation or audio recording that he or she knows, or should have known, is a digitally forged likeness.

Under the act, a “digitally forged likeness” is defined as any “photograph, film, videotape or other visual representation of a person or an audio recording of a person's voice” that:

1. Is not wholly recorded by a camera/audio recorder, or either in part or its entirety generated by a computer system;
2. “Depicts, and is virtually indistinguishable from what a reasonable person would believe is the actual depiction of an identifiable person's image or voice,” and
3. Is created without consent.

(C) There is an affirmative defense under this section where the defendant took reasonable action to put people on notice that such item is a “digital forged likeness.”

See also the OLR summary for this act:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2026/SUM/PDF/2026SUM00119-R01SB-00483-SUM.PDF>.

The summary states as follows:

“This act makes someone guilty of larceny if they, with intent to financially injure someone else, make and disseminate a visual representation or audio recording that they know or should have known is a digitally forged likeness. The act refers to this form of larceny as “digital defrauding.” By law, the penalty for larceny depends on the value of the property taken, generally ranging from a class C misdemeanor when the property value is up to \$500, to a class B felony when the property value exceeds \$20,000 (see Table on Penalties).

Under the act, a “digitally forged likeness” is visual representation (like a photo, film, or videotape) or an audio recording, created without consent from the person whose image or voice is included, that is (1) not entirely recorded by a camera or audio recorder or (2) generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It appears the same as what a reasonable person would think is the actual image or sound of the person involved.

Under the act, a defendant to this larceny crime has an affirmative defense if they took reasonable steps to inform viewers or listeners that the representation or recording is a digitally forged likeness. (In general, an affirmative defense allows a defendant to introduce evidence, which, if found to be credible, will negate the defendant's liability, even if the defendant committed the alleged acts.)"

Lastly, the act specifies that it does not make interactive computer, information, or telecommunication services providers liable for creating content at someone's request or disseminating content from someone unless they knew that doing so violated the act.

Depending on the financial injury or "digital defrauding" caused under this Section, the penalty may arguably be anywhere between a Class C misdemeanor to a Class B felony.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Special Act 26-8 An Act Concerning The Development And Implementation Of A Plan For The Use Of Uniform state-Wide Case Identification Codes In Domestic Violence Cases**

Section 1 - (NEW) Effective from Passage

This Special Act requires the Chief Court Administrator, or his/her designee to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the use of uniform state-wide case identification codes in domestic violence cases. As used in this section, "domestic violence case" means a criminal matter, involving family violence, as defined in C.G.S. *Section § 46b-38a. Family violence prevention and response: Definitions*, between a family or household member, as defined in C.G.S. *Section § 46b-38a. Family violence prevention and response: Definitions*., irrespective of the underlying criminal offense charged.

- **P.A. 26-32 An Act Concerning the Non-issuance Of A Standing Criminal Protective Order in the Case of a Family Violence Crime**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2026

This Act amends C.G.S. *§ 53a-40e (a), Standing criminal protective orders*, and requires any Superior Court that does not issue a standing criminal protective order against someone convicted, or found not guilty due to mental disease or defect, of a family violence crime, to state its reasons for not doing so on the record.

➤ P.A. 26-5 An Act Concerning Female Genital Mutilation

Section 1 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This is new legislation that creates the offense of female genital mutilation. A person commits this new offense when a person *"knowingly circumcises, excises or infibulates the whole or any part of the labia majora or labia minora or clitoris of a person under eighteen years of age."*

Exempted from being a violation are surgical operations which are: for a medical reason; necessary for the person's health; which are performed by a licensed physician or other licensed "health care professional acting within the scope of their profession"; performed during labor or after giving birth *"for a medical purpose related to such labor or birth"* again by a licensed physician, a licensed nurse-midwife, a person in training to be a physician or nurse-midwife or a *"licensed health care professional acting within the scope of their profession"*.

The act makes clear that if such an operation is conducted because the person performing it believes it *"is required as a matter of custom of ritual"*, that the surgical operation is not considered either necessary to person's health or for a medical purpose.

Any violation of this new offense is classified as a class D felony.

Section 2 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 54-86g. Testimony of victim of child abuse. Court may order testimony taken outside courtroom. Procedure*, and adds female genital mutilation to the existing process for taking testimony of a child under the age of 12 in criminal prosecutions regarding assault, sexual assault or abuse of a child wherein the child provides testimony in a room outside of the courtroom upon the granting of a motion for such. No other changes to the process were made.

Section 3 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 54-86h. Competency of child as witness* to add the new offense of female genital mutilation to this statute regarding competency of a child. Other than this addition of the new offense, no other changes were made by the act to this statute.

Section 4 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is new and grants a statutory right to bring a civil action for compensatory or punitive damages or other relief as *"deemed appropriate by the court"* against a person who violates section 1 of this act

Section 5 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is also new and provides that if an action is brought pursuant to Section 4 of this act, *"the immunity between parent and child in such action brought by a child against such child's parent or on behalf of a child against such child's parent is abrogated."* As a result, such immunity does not exist in such an action.

Section 6 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026, And Applicable To All Cases Filed On Or After Said Date

This is new legislation which provides a civil statute of limitations of 30 years from the 18th birthday of the person upon whom the female genital mutilation was performed to sue for personal injury.

ETHICS

➤ **P.A. 26-66 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of The Office Of State Ethics for Revisions to The State Codes of Ethics, Redefining "Gift" For Purposes of Said Codes and Increasing Various Monetary Thresholds in Said Codes**

The act makes technical changes throughout to the terms him, himself and his inserting the phrase "such official's or employee's" instead.

Section 4, 6, 7 Effective October 1, 2026

These sections amend subdivision (5) of *C.G.S. 1-79 Definitions.*, subdivisions (7) and (12) of *C.G.S. 1-91 Definitions.*, the state ethics law to exempt from the definition of a gift the following:

- Any certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than \$250. Current law had defined the threshold as less than \$100;
- Food or beverage or both costing less than \$100 at certain receptions. Current law had defined the threshold as less than \$50;

- Celebration of a major life event, not a member of the family is increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500;
- Food or beverage at a hospitality suite as defined is increased from \$100 to \$250 at certain conferences;
- Anything having a value increased from \$10 to \$20 and the aggregate value not to exceed \$100 up from \$50;
- College sport admission as defined if offered to a public official or employee with not more than 1 guest and not more than once a calendar year.

FIREARMS

- **P.A. 26-41 An Act Concerning Convertible Pistols, Unfinished Frames or Unfinished Lower Receivers, Voluntary Relinquishment of Firearms and Ammunition and Refundability of Permits for Sale at Retail of Firearms and for Carrying of Pistols and Revolvers.**

Section 1 - Effective from passage

This section amends subsection (a) of *C.G.S. 53-202. Machine guns*, to include in the definition of a machine gun "any convertible pistol that is equipped with a pistol converter, as defined in subsection (c) of section 53-206g. *Sale, possession, use or manufacture of bump stocks or other rates of fire enhancement prohibited. Class D felony or class D misdemeanor.*, as amended by this act. The following definitions are added to the statute:

"(4) 'Convertible pistol' means any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily altered by hand or with a common household tool so that the pistol can be readily converted into a machine gun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter, as defined in subsection (c) of section 53-206g. Sale, possession, use or manufacture of bump stocks or other rates of fire enhancement prohibited. Class D felony or class D misdemeanor., as amended by this act. "Convertible pistol" does not include (A) any hammer-fired semiautomatic pistol, or (B) any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that has a tab or other piece of material molded to the pistol's frame that shields the cruciform trigger bar from interference by a pistol converter, unless the tab or other piece of material can be readily removed from the pistol's frame.

(5) "*Cruciform trigger bar*" means a component in a semiautomatic pistol that serves as a linkage between the trigger and firing pin and has its sear incorporated in a cross-shaped surface. (6) "*Common household tool*" includes, but is not limited to, a knife, screwdriver, wrench, hacksaw, crowbar, electric drill, rotary tool, hammer, chisel, file or pliers."

Section 2 – Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (c) of C.G.S. 53-206g. *Sale, possession, use or manufacture of bump stocks or other rates of fire enhancement prohibited. Class D felony or class D misdemeanor* regarding anything that "forcibly resets" a trigger to the definition of "rate of fire enhancement" and the newly defined terms pistol converter.

Section 4 – Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. 53a-3. *Definitions* the definitions section, and adds "convertible pistols" to the definition of machine gun in subsection (15) of the statute and as defined above in Section 1.

Section 5 – Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. 53-206j. *Sale, delivery or transfer of unfinished frame or lower receiver. Prohibited. Exceptions. Penalty* to clarify the prohibition of the purchase, receipt, sale, delivery or transfer of an *unfinished* lower receiver, not just an unfinished frame or a lower receiver, as current law provides.

It further requires that the *unfinished* lower receiver have a unique serial number or identification mark. Penalty for a violation is a class C felony with 2 years not being able to be suspended or reduced by the court.

The section also clarifies the definition of *unfinished frame* or lower receiver to include an *unfinished* lower receiver.

Section 10 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This is new language that defines the process for a person to surrender and return of any firearm to the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP).

Section 11 (NEW) Effective from passage

This is new and requires the Commissioner of DESPP to post a process for the surrender and the return of a firearm.

HATE CRIMES

- P.A. 26-77 An Act Revising and Consolidating the Hate Crimes Statutes

The primary purpose of this act is to consolidate current law and incorporate it into a new chapter. This act labels all offenses as “hate crime offenses” that are motivated by bias against the alleged victim’s “protected social category.” Throughout this act, the legislation uses “protected social categories” in lieu of articulating each member of the protected classes as currently exists under Connecticut law.

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-181i Intimidation Based on Bigotry or Bias-Definitions* and provides a definition section for what is currently referred to as protected classes under Connecticut law. This section now refers to “protected classes” as “protected social categories.”

Section 2 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-181j Intimidation Based on Bigotry or Bias in the First Degree* and removes “intimidated based on bigotry or bias in the first degree” from the title and statute and replaces that with “hate crime causing physical injury.” It also removes the intent of “*maliciously*.” There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 3 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-181k Intimidation Based on Bigotry or Bias in the Second Degree* and removes “intimidated based on bigotry or bias in the second degree” from the title and statute and replaces that with “hate crime causing physical contact.” It also removes the intent of “*maliciously*.” There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 4 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-181l Intimidation Based on Bigotry or Bias in the Third Degree* and removes “intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the third degree” and replaces the title and statute with “hate crime affecting property.” Under subsection (1), it replaces “Damages” with “*Intentionally Damages*” and under subsection (2) removes “threatens, by word or act, to do an act described in subdivision (1) of this subsection or advocates or urges another person to do an act described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, if there is reasonable cause to believe that an act described in said

subdivision will occur” and replaces that with “damages, destroys or defaces any real or personal property of a third person.”

This offense is no longer only a E felony. A violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section has been enhanced to a class D felony.

Section 5 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

“Hate crime affecting a house of religious worship” previously existed as “desecrating a house of worship.” Depending upon the amount of the damage, the penalty could be a C or D felony.

Section 6 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

“Hate crime by threat of physical contact” previously existed as “second degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias” if done maliciously. This section removes the intent of “maliciously.” There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 7 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

“Hate crime by threat to property” previously existed as “Third degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias.” The current classification as an E felony has been enhanced to a Class D felony.

Section 8 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

“Hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously affiliated community center in the first degree” previously existed as a subsection of *C.G.S. 53a-61aa Threatening in the First Degree* which had an enhanced penalty for this hate crime-specific threatening offense and maintains the current law’s elements. The penalty for a violation of this remains a Class C felony.

Section 9 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

“Hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously affiliated community center in the second degree” previously existed as a subsection of *C.G.S. 53a-62 Threatening in the Second Degree* which had an enhanced penalty for this hate crime-specific threatening offense and maintains the current law’s elements. The penalty for a violation remains a Class D felony.

Section 10 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

"Hate crime by advocacy or urging" previously existed as "Third-Degree Intimidation based on Bigotry or Bias." There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 11 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

"Hate crime by deprivation of civil rights" previously existed under *C.G.S. 46a-58 Deprivation of rights. Desecration of property. Placing of burning cross or noose on property.* This act specifically labels it as a hate crime. The act specifically reduces who is covered under the act and limits that protection to "protected social categories" as defined within the act. As a result, the original statutory protected classes, veterans, victims of domestic violence, domestic sexual assault, and human trafficking are now excluded under this statute. Under this act, conduct against these excluded protected classes are NOT hate crimes and do not have a specific penalty, though they remain discriminatory practices under existing civil law.

Violation of this remains a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum one thousand dollar fine. However, **if property damage exceeds one thousand dollars**, the offense has been reduced from a Class D felony to a Class E felony with a minimum one thousand dollar fine.

Section 12 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

"Hate crime by burning a cross" previously existed under *C.G.S. 46a-58 Deprivation of rights. Desecration of property. Placing of burning cross or noose on property.* This act specifically labels it as a hate crime but unlike other changes, it does not limit it to the protected social categories.

It remains a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum one thousand dollar fine and a Class E felony with a minimum one thousand dollar fine **if property damage exceeds one thousand dollars**.

Section 13 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

"Hate crime by noose" previously existed under *C.G.S. 46a-58 Deprivation of rights. Desecration of property. Placing of burning cross or noose on property.* This act specifically labels it as a hate crime.

It remains a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum one thousand dollar fine, but **if property damage exceeds one thousand dollars**, the penalty has been reduced from a Class D felony to a Class E felony.

Section 14 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53-57 Ridicule on account of creed, religion, color, denomination, nationality or race* and replaces it with "hate crime by commercial advertisement." "Hate crime by commercial advertisement" is made a "hate crime." There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 15 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This act labels, as specific hate crimes, certain discriminatory housing and public accommodations practices that are illegal under current law. This section previously existed under *C.G.S. 46a-64 Discriminatory public accommodations practices prohibited* and is replaced by "Hate crime by discriminatory public accommodations practice." There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 16 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section previously existed under *C.G.S. 46a-64 Discriminatory housing practices prohibited* and is replaced by "Hate crime by discriminatory housing practice." There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 17 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

"Hate crime by false report" is similar to "falsely reporting an incident in the first degree" with specific intent to falsely report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person's protected social category. There are no changes to the penalties.

Section 18 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is "Hate crime by false report to law enforcement." There are no changes to the elements or the penalty which is a class E felony.

Section 19 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is "Hate crime by false report resulting in serious physical injury or death." There are no changes to the elements or the penalty which is a class B felony.

Section 20 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is "Hate crime by stalking." There are no changes to the penalty.

Section 21 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is "Hate crime by misuse of emergency 9-1-1 system." There is no change to the penalty as a class D felony.

Section 22 Effective October 1, 2026

Persistent Offenders - This section extends persistent offender status to persons who commit a hate crime under this act or whose crime is designated a hate crime by a sentencing judge. There are no changes to the penalties with the following caveat:

Under the act a person is a persistent offender of a hate crime if he/she:

1. Stands convicted of any of the hate crimes under this section AND;
2. Was previously convicted of any of the act's hate crimes in effect before October 1, 2026.

Section 23 Effective October 1, 2026

Subsection (d) of *C.G.S. 54-56e Accelerated Rehabilitation* is amended to allow a court to require an individual charged with ANY hate crime under this act to participate in a hate crime diversionary program as a condition of probation under the existing AR program.

Section 24 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This is new legislation which makes it clear that any changes in this act do not limit a person's ability to make a claim of discrimination to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities or to bring a civil action for relief; limit the powers or jurisdiction of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the Office of the Attorney General (AG); or, affect the court's authority to order financial restitution.

Section 25 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 46a-58 Deprivation of rights. Desecration of property. Placing of burning cross or noose on property. Penalty. Restitution* and adds that nothing in *C.G.S. 53-37, Ridicule on account of creed, religion, color, denomination, nationality or race* shall be construed to limit the meaning of any discriminatory practice as described in this section.

Section 27 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 46a-64c Discriminatory housing practices prohibited. Disposition of complaints. Penalty* and states that nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the meaning of any discriminatory practice as described in this section and removes the criminal penalties.

Section 28 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *46a-81d Sexual orientation discrimination: Public accommodations* and states that nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the meaning of any discriminatory practice as described in this section and removes the criminal penalties.

Section 29 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 46a-81e Sexual orientation discrimination: Housing* and maintains civil housing protections and clarifies criminal hate crime provisions states that nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the meaning of any discriminatory practice as described in this section and removes the criminal penalties.

Section 30 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-61aa Threatening in the first degree* and removes "houses of worship and religiously affiliated community centers" from subdivision (4), reserving this subsection for the new hate crime sections. The penalties remain unchanged.

Section 31 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-62 Threatening in the second degree* and removes "houses of worship and religiously affiliated community centers" from subdivision (3) reserving this subsection for the new hate crime sections. This section further classifies subdivision (3) as class D felony. All other subdivisions remain class A misdemeanors.

Section 32 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-180 Falsely reporting an incident in first degree* and deletes prior hate motive subdivision and remains a class D felony.

Section 33 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-180a Falsely reporting resulting in serious injury or death* and removes prior hate motive enhancements and remains a class C felony.

Section 34 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-180c Falsely reporting second degree* and deletes prior hate motive subdivision and remains a class A misdemeanor.

Section 35 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-180d Misuse of emergency 9-1-1 system* and deletes prior hate motive subdivision and remains a class B misdemeanor.

Section 36 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 53a-181c Stalking first degree* and removes prior hate motive element from first-degree stalking. Stalking in the first degree remains a class D felony.

Section 37 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 52-571c Civil action for hate crimes* and provides for victims to sue for violations of specified hate crimes, including threats to person or property and advocacy.

Section 38 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 3-129f Investigation of allegations of intimidation based on bigotry or bias. Attorney General's authority to bring an action in the name of the state related to investigation* and provides for the Attorney General's authority to investigate specified hate crimes, issue subpoenas and interrogatories, seek relief to apply to all hate crimes under the act – but the information gathered under this act is prohibited from being used in a criminal proceeding.

Section 39 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends subdivision *C.G.S. (1) of subsection (a) of section 29-7d Hate Crimes Investigative Unit* and expands the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit's duties to prevent and detect criminal activity involving hate crimes to apply to all hate crimes under the act.

Section 40 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. *subsection (a) of section 51-279f Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council* and expands the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council membership by adding the director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn. It further requires the governor's appointees to also be representative of the people protected by the act's hate crimes.

Section 41 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. *17a-210d(a) Terms "intellectual disability", "persons with intellectual disability" and "individuals with intellectual disability" substituted for former terms* and make changes for consistency in references to the terms "intellectual disability."

Section 42 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. *53a-13(c) Lack of capacity due to mental disease or defect as affirmative defense* and makes conforming changes to "gender identity or expression."

Section 43 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. *53a-16 Justification as defense* and provides justification as a defense.

Section 44 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. *53a-30 (a) Conditions of Probation and Conditional Discharge* allowing the court to require offenders of any of the hate crimes under the act participate in certain anti-bias programs as a condition of probation or conditional discharge

Section 45 Effective from Passage

This section amends C.G.S. *54-300 Connecticut Sentencing Commission* and C.G.S. *51-279f State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council*, and requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, in consultation with the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, to review Connecticut's hate crime laws to determine appropriateness of the penalties and to report the findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2027.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- P.A. 26-70 An Act Concerning Oversight of Efforts To Prevent Human Trafficking and The Use of Confidential Crisis Hotlines at Correctional Institutions

Section 1 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This is new legislation which provides that “human trafficking” as utilized in this section is the same as the definition of “trafficking” as provided in C.G.S. § 46a-170. *Trafficking in Persons Council. Membership. Duties. Reports.* The legislation requires that the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) evaluate all efforts and the coordination of such, throughout the executive branch agencies, to prevent human trafficking. No later than January 1, 2027, a report shall be filed outlining a comprehensive plan to coordinate all efforts to combat human trafficking.

Section 2 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends subsections (a) and (b) of C.G.S. § 46a-170. *Trafficking in Persons Council. Membership. Duties. Reports* to add to the membership of the Trafficking in Persons Council, the Secretary of the State or his/her designee.

Section 3 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (b) of C.G.S. § 17a-3. *Powers and duties of department. Submission of reports required pursuant to federal law* requiring training on human trafficking to be provided to staff.

Section 4 Effective from passage

This section amends C.G.S. § 17-106h. *Training re identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking for law enforcement personnel, judges, persons involved with the criminal justice system, emergency and urgent care staff and school and constituent unit employees* to require the educational training program and any refresher course created for the identification and reporting of human trafficking for court staff, prosecutors, public defenders and others developed by the Commissioners of DCF and DESPP be provided to all employees of DCF and contractors who provide services unless the employees do not have contact with children.

Section 6 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is new and requires the Chief Court Administrator to develop training for Judicial employees regarding trafficking of minor children and adults.

Section 7 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (a) of *C.G.S. § 46a-13l. Child Advocate's duties. Child fatality review panel. Reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. Investigations*, to add to the duties of the Child Advocate, to include "Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan Home" when it reviews facilities and procedures of places where a juvenile is placed by an agency or department.

Section 8 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This section is new and requires the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to establish a *Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Subcommittee* through its *Statewide Steering Committee of the Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery Taskforce*. This subcommittee is required to be a "public-private partnership" to implement any recommendations put forth by the task force in its *"Blueprint to Strengthen Connecticut's Response to Human Trafficking"*. This section articulates what should be included in the implementation.

Section 9 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (b) of *C.G.S. § 17a-106a. Multidisciplinary teams. Purpose. Composition. Confidentiality. Records of meetings.*, to require, instead of permit, (DCF), and the state's attorney to establish multidisciplinary teams to review cases involving child abuse and/or neglect.

Section 10 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. § 17a-106f. Trafficking of minor children. Child welfare services. Training for law enforcement officials.*, to require the Commissioner of DCF to provide certain assistance and services *and* collaborate with the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within OPM and provide assistance to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop the training regarding trafficking of minor children and adults.

Section 11 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This is new legislation which requires P.O.S.T. training to include training on trafficking of minor children and adults.

Section 12 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This is new legislation which requires the Commissioner of DOC to request proposals for confidential crisis hotline by October 1, 2026, to be used to report sexual violence available to all male and female inmates and DOC workers.

Section 13 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This is new legislation which requires the Commissioner of DOC to revise policies pertaining to the use of confidential crisis hotlines to report sexual violence incidents by inmates at no charge and without the supervision of or permission of a DOC employee and for employees.

Section 14 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends subsections (a) and (b) of *C.G.S. § 4-68m. Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division. Duties. Collaboration with other agencies. Access to information and data. Availability of reports and presentations*, and expands upon the requirements of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within OPM, to advise and provide assistance to the state to coordinate the efforts to prevent human trafficking and training.

➤ **P.A. 26- 98 An Act Concerning The Prevention of Human Trafficking.**

Section 1 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026

This section is new and provides definitions pertaining to operators of motels, inns and other places of lodging.

Section 2 – 5 Effective October 1, 2026

These sections amend *C.G.S. 44-4. Maintenance of transaction records.*, *C.G.S. 44-5, C.G.S. Training re recognition of human trafficking.*, *44-6. Room that includes sleeping accommodations, offer or provision of financial discount or benefit for, limitations re.*, and *C.G.S. 54-234a. Display of notice re services for victims of human trafficking at certain public and private establishments and businesses. Penalty* to clarify the

definitions pertaining to operators of motels, hotels, inns or similar lodging and the records they maintain. Civil penalties are provided.

ICE/IMMIGRATION

- **P.A. 26-14 An Act Concerning Democracy and Government Accountability and The Use and Retention of Data Derived from Automated License Plate Reader Systems - Ice Updates.**

Section 1 (NEW) Effective from passage

This section is new and creates a cause of action against an individual, including a federal or state officer or employee, who deprives or causes a Connecticut citizen or someone within the state's jurisdiction to be deprived of a right, privilege, or immunity protected by the U.S. Constitution. This can occur by taking actions under color of United States or Connecticut statute, regulation, ordinance, custom, or usage. The act explicitly states that it is the legislature's intent that courts, when considering this action, must be guided by other courts' interpretations of the law that allows individuals to sue state or local government officials for federal constitutional rights violations (42 U.S.C. § 1983).

Section 2 Effective from passage

This section amends *Section 3-129g. Deprivation of, or interference with, rights, privileges and immunities secured by state and federal law. Attorney General's authority to investigate, intervene in or bring an action in the name of the state* of the 2026 supplement, and broadens the Attorney General's authority to take actions on behalf of the state by also allowing him to do so when any one has established a policy that deprives or interferes with another person's civil rights in the ways described below:

1. Deprives persons of any rights, privileges, or immunities protected by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions or laws ; or,
2. Interferes by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with another persons' exercise or enjoyment of any rights, privileges, or immunities protected by the U.S. or Connecticut constitutions or laws, or any attempt to do so.

Sections 3-5 Effective from Passage

Section 3 amends *Section 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*, of the 2026 supplement and

changes when there must be an investigation of a peace officer's use of physical force on someone that results in the person's death or the death of a person in custody by (1) limiting the investigations to deaths that occur in physical custody and (2) requiring an investigation when the officer is any federal law enforcement officer.

Section 4 amends C.G.S. 53a-22. *Use of physical force in making arrest or preventing escape* of the 2026 supplement and provides that notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (9) of C.G.S. 53a-3. *Definitions*, "peace officer" has the same meaning as provided in 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.*

Section 5 amends C.G.S. 51-277e. *Office of the Inspector General established. Appointment of Inspector General. Powers and duties of office* of the 2026 supplement and under subsection (5) designates the Office of the Inspector General to investigate the death of a person within the physical custody of a peace officer or law enforcement agency or the Commissioner of DOC.

Section 6 (NEW) Effective from Passage

This section is new and prohibits, subject to several exceptions, peace officers engaged in law enforcement activities from wearing a facial covering or personal disguise when interacting with the public and performing their duties. Peace officers, including federal law enforcement officers, as is the case for use of force investigations under the act (see §§ 3-5 above).

A violation of the ban on the use of facial covering and personal disguise is a class D misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both. Additionally, an officer who intentionally abuses process or intentionally assaults, batters, falsely imprisons or arrests, or maliciously prosecutes someone (under state or federal law), while knowingly and willfully violating the ban, is unable to use a privilege or immunity defense against a civil liability claim about the officer's actions. Under the act, a "facial covering" is an item that conceals or obscures an officer's facial identity, such as opaque masks, garments, helmets, or headgear. Specific examples include balaclavas, tactical masks, gators, and ski masks. "Personal disguise" is undefined.

Exempted Coverings and Uses:

The act allows peace officers:

1. to use a medical grade facial covering designed to protect their health and safety, but specifies that this does not include protecting an officer's identity;
2. to use facial coverings designed to (1) prevent airborne disease transmission or (2) protect against smoke exposure during a fire;
3. to use facial coverings needed for a water rescue operation;
4. to use facial coverings that protect against biological or chemical agent exposure during an incident where there may be an agent;
5. to use facial coverings that protect against freezing temperatures during an activity that does not require communicating orally with the public or someone that will be placed in custody;
6. to use facial coverings needed for an active undercover operation or other assignment for which supervising personnel or a court order allow them to be worn;
7. working on a bomb squad, motorcycle unit, or specialized weapons and tactics team to use gear necessary to protect their face and head from physical harm;

Additionally, the act requires, with certain exemptions, peace officers to be clearly identified by their badge and name tag. The badge and tag must be (1) on the officer's uniform whenever the officer is authorized to make arrests and is making a planned arrest or interacting with the public in his or her official capacity; and, (2) worn following existing badge and name tag requirements for police officers as follows:

"By law, police officers must already affix and prominently display their badge and name tag on their uniform's outermost garment, unless exempt under the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP's) model policy on badges and name tags, such as for undercover assignments. The bill similarly exempts a peace officer from the badge and name tag requirement when (1) the officer is working an active undercover assignment; (2) a court order or DESPP's model policy excuses it; or (3) weather-related events or traffic safety issues prevent having the badge or name tag on the outer garment."

An intentional violation of the ban is a class D misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both.

Section 7 (NEW) Effective October 1, 2026)

Section 7 is new and prohibits peace officers from taking someone into custody on the basis of a civil offense in a state or municipal facility or certain other locations such as schools, hospitals, and houses of worship ("protected areas") without a judicial warrant for the person.

Section 8 Effective from passage

Section 8 amends *Section 51-33b. Arrests on courthouse grounds based on a civil offense. Restricted.*, of the 2026 supplement to the C.G.S. It applies the definition of "civil offense" to the existing restrictions on taking people into custody on courthouse grounds. The Act prohibits peace officers from detaining, arresting, or taking someone into custody based on a civil offense in certain locations unless the officer (1) is acting in his or her official capacity and (2) has a judicial warrant for the person. Officers subject to the prohibition are those covered by the act's expanded definition of "peace officer" for use of force investigations, which includes broader applicability to federal law enforcement (see sections 3-5 above).

For purposes of these restrictions and the existing ones on taking people into custody on courthouse grounds, the Act defines "civil offense" as an offense for which there is a local, state, or federal civil proceeding for the charged person to offer a defense. It does not include an offense that state law identifies as an infraction, a motor vehicle violation, or an arrest that is allowed for any of the following:

- "1. An alleged criminal violation of (a) a state law or that of any other jurisdiction in the United States that could result in imprisonment as part of the sentence or (b) federal law that could result in imprisonment as part of the sentence and would require an initial appearance before a federal judge, magistrate, or judicial officer;*
- 2. Contempt of court, a judge-issued capias (warrant), or a warrant for a parole or probation violation; or,*
- 3. An emergency commitment or an arrest under the psychiatric disability-related statutes."*

The act allows a person aggrieved by a violation of the ban to bring a civil action in Superior Court, and any action seeking damages is triable by jury. The court may award a plaintiff appropriate legal and equitable relief, such as a temporary or permanent injunction, punitive damages, and attorney's fees and court costs.

Protected Area: The Act's protection from being taken into custody in certain areas applies to the following buildings or locations, including their grounds and garages or parking lots that are used as part of their operation, regardless of whether they are contiguous:

- "1. Schools, ranging from preschools to colleges or universities;*
- 2. Licensed hospitals or urgent care centers;*
- 3. Places of worship or religious study;*
- 4. Social services establishments, such as crisis centers, shelters, supervised visitation or family justice centers, victim services centers, food banks or pantries, or substance counseling and treatment facilities;*
- 5. Places for disaster or emergency response and relief, including supply distribution sites, to register for disaster-related assistance, or to be reunited with family;*
- 6. Cemeteries or other internment locations; and*
- 7. Playgrounds, recreation or child-care centers, before or after school care centers, foster care facilities, group homes for children, or school bus stops when children are there."*

Section 10 Effective from passage

This section amends *Section 52-571j. Action for interference with a person taking still or video images of police officer in the performance of duty* making federal law enforcement agencies liable when their officers interfere with someone taking a photo, digital still, or video image of them or another officer performing their duties. It further makes an immunity defense unavailable in a civil liability action for an intentional tort committed while interfering with the taking of the photo, digital still, or video image.

Current law makes a peace officer's employer liable if the officer interferes with someone taking a photo or digital still or video image of the officer or another officer performing his or her duties, subject to several exceptions. But it exempts federal government special agents and specified tribes' law enforcement unit members. This act generally applies its expanded definition of peace officer for inspector general use of force investigations (see §§ 3-5 above) to this provision, making the liability apply to the employers of all federal law enforcement officers, but keeping the exemption for tribal law enforcement.

Existing law exempts an employer from liability under certain specified circumstances, including when the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the interference was to lawfully enforce a state criminal law or municipal ordinance. This act, conforming with its liability expansion to federal agencies, broadens the exemption to include lawful enforcement of a federal criminal law. Additionally, if a peace officer intentionally abuses process or intentionally assaults, batters, falsely imprisons or arrests, or maliciously prosecutes (either under state or federal law) someone while interfering with someone taking a photo, digital still, or video of him- or herself or another officer, the officer is unable to use a privilege or immunity defense against a civil tort liability claim about the actions.

INTIMATE IMAGES

- **P.A. 26-55 An Act Establishing a Civil Action for The Office of The Attorney General and Private Right of Action for Victims of Unlawful Dissemination of a Synthetically Created Intimate Image**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2026

This act creates a civil cause of action for someone harmed by the unlawful dissemination of a synthetically created intimate image. (*See P.A. 25-168, § 261, which made dissemination of a synthetically created intimate image a crime.*)

JUDICIAL

- **P.A. 26-92 An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Operations**

Note: Throughout the act, the reference to “blood or marriage” is amended to “blood, marriage or law”.

Section 3 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. §4-58. Disposition of unclaimed property in custody of heads of state institutions* to require the Chief Court Administrator to create a procedure for efforts to return any unclaimed personal property, including clothing and jewelry of anyone who had been detained and the subsequent sale or disposal of such if not returned.

Section 5 – Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (c) of C.G.S. § 46b-38c. *Family violence response and intervention units. Local units. Duties and functions. Electronic monitoring program. Pretrial family violence education program; fees. Training program, it requires family violence units to disclose, to DCF employees:*

“information about the progress and compliance with court-ordered intervention and services when there are open cases within both the family violence intervention unit and the Department of Children and Families, which information shall be used for the sole purpose of child protection services and shall not be used in any other court proceeding unless otherwise authorized by law”.

The section permits family violence units to provide the following, as authorized by the “executive director or designee” of the family violence unit, to employees of the Court Support Services Division (CSSD):

“all files and reports regarding the defendant for purposes of: (i) Determining whether to recommend pretrial release; (ii) preparing a presentence investigation report or a pre-dispositional study; (iii) determining the supervision, both pretrial and post-conviction, and service needs of a child or youth or any other person referred to such division; and (iv) monitoring and enforcing conditions of release or probation.”

The act *removes* the subsection of the statute that had permitted disclosure to a bail commissioner or intake, assessment and referral specialist employed by the Judicial Department regarding defendants on or being considered for pretrial release.

The section also inserts CSSD in lieu of the Judicial Department within this act.

Section 6 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (c) of C.G.S. § 46b-122. *(Formerly Sec. 51-303) Juvenile matters separated from other court business when practicable. Exclusion of persons from hearing. Exceptions, regarding juvenile matters to change the reference to the phrase “blood or marriage”, to “blood, marriage or law”.*

Section 7 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends C.G.S. § 46b-129. (*Formerly Sec. 51-310*). *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*, to change any reference to the phrase “blood or marriage” to “blood, marriage or law”.

In addition, this section requires that the court, upon issuing an order of protective supervision, order “specific steps” for the parent to take for the return of, or to maintain, the child or youth to the parent.

Section 8 Effective July 1, 2026

C.G.S. § 46b-145. (*Formerly Sec. 51-326*). *Prohibition on prosecution of child before regular criminal docket. Exceptions*, already prohibits prosecution of a child on the regular criminal docket unless pursuant to C.G.S. § 46b-127. (*Formerly Sec. 51-308*). *Transfer of child charged with a felony to the regular criminal docket. Transfer of youth aged sixteen or seventeen to docket for juvenile matters*, and Subsection (f) of C.G.S. § 46b-133c. *Serious juvenile repeat offender prosecution. Sentencing*. This section adds subsection (f) of C.G.S. § 46b—133d. *Serious sexual offender prosecution. Sentencing*, to these two statutes for which a child can be prosecuted before the regular criminal docket.

Section 9 Effective July 1, 2026

Current law, pursuant to C.G.S. § 51-286f. *Transcript of certain sentencing hearings to be requested by prosecuting official and provided to Board of Pardons and Paroles* currently requires in a criminal prosecution that the prosecution request “on the record” the preparation of a transcript of sentencing hearings. This amendment deletes the requirement that the request be made on the record.

Section 10 Effective July 1, 2026

This section amends the definitions in C.G.S. §52-146w. *Disclosure of patient communication or information relating to reproductive health care services by covered entity prohibited. Exception* pertaining peer support team members, confidential communications.

Section 11 Effective October 1, 2026

This section requires that any list of qualified candidates for nominations for a judgeship be confidential and not open for public disclosure.

Section 12 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends subsections (d) and (e) of *C.G.S. § 54-56l. Pretrial supervised diversionary program for persons with psychiatric disabilities and veterans*, regarding anyone referred to CSSD for a determination of eligibility and an assessment of their mental health for the pretrial supervised diversionary program for persons with psychiatric disabilities. The legislation requires any person referred who resides outside of Connecticut to **physically return back** to Connecticut for such assessment.

In addition, the section requires any person placed in the program to be classified in accordance with the Chief Court Administrator's system regarding classification categories and monitoring standards established pursuant to *C.G.S. § 54-108b., Risk assessment and monitoring standards developed by Chief Court Administrator*.

Section 14 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (b) of *C.G.S. § 46b-133. Arrest of child. Notice of arrest. Release or detention of arrested child. Alcohol or drug testing or treatment as condition of release. Admission of child to juvenile residential center. Entry of taken into custody order or other process into central computer system. Duration of order to detain* to require the court to order a risk and needs assessment for any child brought before it for a determination of whether the child would benefit from services. Current law had not made this mandatory.

Section 16 – Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends subsection (g) of *C.G.S. § 10-253. School privileges for children in certain placements, nonresident children, children in temporary shelters, homeless children and children in juvenile residential centers. Liaison to facilitate transitions between school districts and juvenile and criminal justice systems*. Current law requires the Judicial Branch to notify a local or regional board of education whenever a child is placed in a juvenile residential center. This act transfers this obligation from the Judicial Branch the Commissioner of DCF and requires it to be done in writing.

Section 18 (NEW) Effective July 1, 2026

This section is new and prohibits the use or creation of the official seal of the Judicial Branch, or imitation of such, unless approved by the chief Court Administrator.

Section 20 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. § 54-201. Definitions* to include emotional harm. Current law provides a definition of a mental or emotional impairment as “directly attributable to a threat of . . . physical injury . . . or death to the affected person”. This section expands the definition to include a mental or emotional impairment “caused by the intentional or knowing actions of another person, and such actions would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person’s safety.”

Sections 26 and 27 Effective October 1, 2026

These sections amend subsection (a) of *C.G.S. § 54-65a. Forfeiture of bond for failure to appear. Issuance of rearrest warrant or capias. Termination or reinstatement of bond. Rebate to surety* and subsection (a) of *C.G.S. § 38z-660h. Return of collateral security or other indemnity. Penalty* to permit electronic notice, in addition to written notice, to the surety on a bond if a person has failed to appear or bond has terminated.

Section 30 Effective from passage

This section amends subsection (f) of section 24 of PA 25-91. The 2025 legislation established Habeas Corpus Procedures Task Force on which the Chief Public Defender or his/her designee is a member. The mission of the Task Force is to review:

“habeas corpus procedures utilized by the federal government and other states and, after conducting such review, make recommendations to the General Assembly, 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.”

A report due to the General Assembly by January 1, 2027 is extended to January 1, 2028.

Section 32 (NEW) Effective upon passage

This is new legislation which requires DOC to disburse to any person being released from incarceration, the balance in that person’s Trust Account by cash, check, or a prepaid device. If for some reason DOC is unable to disburse the funds because DOC

was not informed of the person's release date, at least 12 weeks in advance, DOC will obtain the forwarding address from the person and mail the funds to the person within 2 weeks of the person's release. If any funds are disbursed utilizing a prepaid device, any fee imposed will not be imposed upon the person leaving incarceration.

P.A. 26- 38 An Act Concerning the Department of Mental Health And Addiction Services' Recommendations Regarding Access to Opioid Overdose Reversal Medication and Various Revisions to Mental Health and Addiction Statutes.

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2026

This act amends subsections (c) to (g), inclusive, of *C.G.S. 10-212a Administration of medications in schools, at athletic events and to children in school readiness programs* of the 2026 supplement and expands the instances an opioid antagonist (used to treat opioid overdose, such as Narcan) may be administered to students in public schools. It updates education statutes on administering opioid antagonists to reflect federal Food and Drug Administration changes to these medications' designation. It allows for over-the-counter versions to be administered.

In addition, the act provides immunity to persons who administer a nonlegend opioid antagonist as follows:

"Any person who administers a nonlegend opioid antagonist to any person at a school shall not be liable to such person or such person's parents, guardians or family members for civil damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions arising from the administration of a nonlegend opioid antagonist pursuant to the provisions of this subsection that may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity shall not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence."

Section 2 Effective from passage

This section amends *C.G.S. § 17a-714a. Immunity and no violation of standard of care for prescribing, dispensing or administering opioid antagonist. Amendment of local emergency medical services plan* to articulate that anyone providing a "nonlegend opioid antagonist to any person for the purposes of treating or preventing an opioid-related drug overdose" in accordance with this section shall not be subject to criminal prosecution.

In addition, a new sub-section (d) provides:

"(d) (1) Any person may provide a nonlegend opioid antagonist to any person for the purposes of treating or preventing an opioid-related drug overdose. Any person that

distributes such a nonlegend opioid antagonist in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall not be liable for payments or damages in a claim or civil action or subject to criminal prosecution for such distribution or use of such nonlegend opioid antagonist."

MOTOR VEHICLES

➤ P.A. 26-14 An Act Concerning Democracy and Government Accountability And The Use and Retention of Data Derived from Automated License Plate Reader Systems

Sections 13-15 (NEW) Effective from passage

These sections set various conditions and restrictions on how law enforcement agencies and other public agencies may use ALPR systems or associated data, including limits on (1) when they can use these systems or data or share the data and (2) how long they can keep the data. The act sets related requirements and restrictions for private vendors contracting with public agencies for these purposes. It allows the attorney general to seek related court relief and P.O.S.T. to discipline law enforcement officers for certain malicious conduct.

It also requires P.O.S.T. to adopt a model ALPR usage policy and DESPP to adopt related regulations for implementation by law enforcement agencies. It requires P.O.S.T., in consultation with UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, to develop a standardized form for reporting ALPR system usage and sets related reporting requirements. Additionally, starting October 1, 2026, this act restricts law enforcement agencies (such as municipal police departments or the State Police), other public agencies, and private vendors under contract with them from using automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems or ALPR data, except for certain listed reasons. Among other things, it:

- (1) Sets a 21-day limit on how long agencies can keep this data unless certain conditions are met (such as its use in an active criminal investigation);
- (2) Specifically prohibits several uses of ALPR systems or data, such as for investigating suspected immigration violations;
- (3) Establishes requirements and restrictions for ALPR contracts between agencies and private vendors;
- (4) Allows the attorney general or private parties to go to court to enforce specified violations and P.O.S.T. to take disciplinary action against law enforcement officers for certain malicious conduct;

(5) Requires P.O.S.T. to adopt a model ALPR usage policy and DESPP to adopt related regulations for implementation by law enforcement agencies;

(6) Requires P.O.S.T., in consultation with UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP), to develop a standardized form for reporting ALPR system usage; and,¹

(7) Sets related reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies, other public agencies, and UConn's IMRP. Under the act, an "ALPR system" is a mobile or fixed electronic image recording device that, in combination with computer programs or algorithms, can convert images of license plates or vehicle descriptors into computer-readable data. But it does not include an image recording device that provides evidence used to enforce an offense specified in a state statute or municipal ordinance, including an automated traffic enforcement safety device (speed or red light camera), or those used as part of a work zone speed control system or a municipal school bus violation enforcement system.

"ALPR data" is any data that an ALPR system captures, records, holds, or stores, or processes, or that is derived from the system. This includes license plate characters, vehicles' still or video images, vehicle attributes, location data, time stamps, and metadata. Starting on October 1, 2026, the act prohibits public agencies or private vendors under contract with them, from operating ALPR systems or using ALPR data, except under the following conditions.

- **P.A. 26-24 An Act Revising Various Motor Vehicle Statutes, Implementing The Recommendations of The Department of Motor Vehicles and Concerning Youth Instruction Permits, Automobile Dealers and Manufacturers and the Towing and Storage of Motor Vehicles**

Section 4 Effective Date October 1, 2026

This Section amends *C.G.S. § 14-1. Definitions.* (32) of the 2026 supplement, and

¹ On August 7, 2026, Governor Ned Lamont urged all Connecticut municipalities to immediately pause the installation of new automated license plate readers (ALPRs) and safety cameras. He requested the Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council to draft formal statewide privacy and data-use guidelines within 30 days. See https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2026/08-2026/governor-lamont-calls-for-review-of-safety-cameras?language=en_US

defines an "Electronic scooter" as a device:

"(A) that weighs not more than one hundred ten pounds,

(B) that has two or three wheels and handlebars,

(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.

Sections 26 and 27 Effective October 1, 2026

E-BIKE AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLE DEFINITIONS

This Act modifies *C.G.S. § 14-1. Definitions.* (31) of the 2026 supplement, and addresses the motor capacity limits for e-bikes and motor driven cycles. The act makes bicycles with motors of exactly 750 watts e-bikes under the law. It does so by modifying the motor limit in the e-bike's definition from less than 750 watts to 750 watts or less. The act also modifies the definition of motor-driven cycle by eliminating the five brake horsepower limit for these vehicles. It retains existing law's requirement that these cycles have a capacity less than 50 cubic centimeters (cc) or a wattage of 3,700 watts or less, as applicable.

- **P.A. 26- 120 An Act Concerning Distracted Driving And The Safe Operation Of A Motor Vehicle In A Highway Work Zone.**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 14-296aa. Use of hand-held mobile telephones and mobile electronic devices by motor vehicle operators and school bus drivers prohibited or restricted. Exceptions. Penalties. Amounts remitted to municipality. Record of violation,* and prohibits the prosecution of a person for both distracted driving and reckless driving for the same offense.

Section 2 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 14-222. Reckless driving,* to provide that distracted driving while operating a motor vehicle in a work zone is reckless driving. The penalty

for reckless driving remains an unclassified misdemeanor with fines and the imposition of incarceration of up to 30 days for a 1st violation and up to 1 year incarceration for a subsequent violation.

ONLINE SAFETY

➤ P.A. 26-15 An Act Concerning Online Safety

Effective Date: Various

This Act pertains to Artificial Intelligence. While this act covers a broad range of requirements for businesses and the State, there are no criminal penalties involved.

SEX OFFENDERS

➤ P.A. 26-96 An Act Concerning Address Verification Reforms for Registrants

This Public Act makes various changes to laws on sex offender registration, including those related to registration violations and address verification. The act also importantly creates an affirmative defense for when circumstances beyond the person's control generally prevent him or her from complying with the registration requirements.

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. § 54-250. Definitions. (11) - Registration of Sexual Offenders - Definitions*. Subsection 11 of Section 1 amends *C.G.S. § 54-250. Definitions. (11)* and makes a change to the definition of a "Sexually Violent Offense" as it relates to 3rd degree sexual assault.

Section 2 Effective October 1, 2026

This amends *C.G.S. 54-251 (e) - Registration of person who has committed a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor or a nonviolent sexual offense*. Subsection (e) 1 of the act makes clear that any person who fails to notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a "change of name, address or status or another reportable event," a person shall only be subject to criminal penalty if such failure continues for five business days.

Pursuant to subsection (e)(2), there shall be an affirmative defense that:

"(A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of said subsection (a),

(B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and

(C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of said subsection (a) not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist."

Section 3 Effective October 1, 2026

This amends C.G.S. 54-252 (d) - *Registration of person who has committed a sexually violent offense*. Subsection (d)(1) of this act makes clear that any person who fails to notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a "change of name, address or status or another reportable event," *such person shall only be subject to such penalty if such failure continues for five business days*.

Pursuant to subsection (d) (2), there shall be an **affirmative defense** that:

"(A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this section,

(B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and

(C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist."

Section 4 Effective October 1, 2026

This amends C.G.S. 54-253 (e) *Registration of person who has committed a sexual offense in another jurisdiction* and states that, if such person fails to register with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay or notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a "change of name, address or status or another reportable event," *such person shall only be subject to such penalty if such failure continues for five business days*.

(2) There shall be an **affirmative defense** that:

"(A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this section,

(B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and

(C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist".

Section 5 Effective October 1, 2026

This amends C.G.S. 54-254 (b) *Registration of person who has committed a felony for a sexual purpose*, to provide in (b) 1 that any person who violates the provisions of this section by failing to notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a "change of name, address or status or another reportable event," *such person shall only be subject to such penalty if such failure continues for five business days.*

(2) There shall be an affirmative defense that:

"(A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this section,

(B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and

(C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist."

Section 6 Effective October 1, 2026

This amends C.G.S. 54-257 *Registry. Suspension of registration. Verification of address. Retake of photographic image. Change of name* as follows:

"(a) *Registry.* The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall establish and maintain a registry of all persons required to register under sections 54-251 *Registration of person who has committed a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor or a nonviolent sexual offense*, through 54-254, as amended by this Act. The department shall develop appropriate forms for use by agencies and individuals to report registration information, including changes of residence address.

Upon receipt and entering of the registration information, the department shall notify the local police department/state police troop having jurisdiction where the individual resides or plans to reside. There is also a requirement that if the individual is employed at, "carries on a vocation at" or is a student at a trade or professional institution or institution of higher learning in this state, the department shall notify the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over such institution."

(c) *Verification of address.* Any person registered under section 54-251. *Registration of person who has committed a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor or a nonviolent sexual offense*, through 54-254, shall provide proof of residency by mail, facsimile or electronic mail or in person to the Department of Emergency

Services and Public Protection not more than ninety days, but not fewer than seventy-five days after such person's initial registration date. The department shall accept any of the following documents as proof of residency, provided such document contains the individual's residence address and is dated not earlier than thirty days prior to submission of such document to the department:

- (1) *"A utility bill, including, but not limited to, a bill for electricity, gas, water or Internet service;*
- (2) *a financial statement, including, but not limited to, a bank statement or credit card statement;*
- (3) *a homeowner's, renter's or motor vehicle insurance bill or statement;*
- (4) *official correspondence from a state or federal government agency; or*
- (5) *any other document that the department deems sufficient to prove residency."*

(d) Verification of address - form. *"If the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection has not received proof of residency pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the department shall mail a non-forwardable address verification form to the registrant at the registrant's last reported residence address. Such form shall require the registrant to sign a statement that he or she continues to reside at the registrant's last reported residence address and return the form by mail, facsimile or electronic mail or in person by a date which is ten days after the date of the postmark on the form that was mailed to the individual."*

The form shall contain:

- (1) *"A statement that failure to return the form or providing false information is a violation of section 54-251. **Registration of person who has committed a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor or a nonviolent sexual offense, through 54-254. Registration of person who has committed a felony for a sexual purpose, as amended by this act;** and*

- (2) *A statement printed in bold text:*

(A) Explaining that the form may be returned to the department by mail, facsimile or electronic mail or in person; and

(B) *Providing the mailing address, facsimile number, electronic mail address and the physical address for in-person return of such form. "*

"In the case of an individual who resides at a residence address for which there is no residential mail delivery, the local police department or the state police troop having jurisdiction where the individual resides shall verify in person such individual's residence address. Each person required to register under section 54-251. **Registration of person who has committed a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor or a nonviolent sexual offense through 54-254. Registration of person who has committed a felony for a sexual purpose, as amended by this act, shall have such person's residence address verified in such manner every ninety days."**

SURVEILLANCE OF EMPLOYEES

➤ **P.A. 26- 73 An Act Concerning The Electronic Surveillance Of Employees.**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2026

This section amends *C.G.S. 31-48d. Employers engaged in electronic monitoring required to give prior notice to employees. Exceptions. Civil penalty.*, to require an employer to inform employees of the "specific" locations of electronic monitoring in the workplace. In addition, the act requires the employer to provide notice to any new employee hired after October 1, 2026 of which activities are prohibited and which may be monitored without prior notice. These requirements are not applicable at an airport or where the employer has reasonable grounds for employee safety and security purposes. The act provides for civil penalties.

The notice requirements of this act are not applicable to criminal investigations. The act further provides that any information obtained from electronic monitoring in a criminal investigation can be used in against an employee in any disciplinary proceeding.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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