

Department of Administrative Services 2022 Legislative Report

This report summarizes the legislation passed during the 2022 Legislative Session that relates to DAS and its Divisions. Acts that apply to specific DAS business units are summarized in their respective sections.

The information contained in this report includes summaries of the respective legislation. The summaries below are not the actual laws passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. For the actual laws, please consult the Public Acts themselves. Please note that while reading a Public Act, language that is **[bracketed]** means that it has been deleted and language that is **underlined** means that it is new.

Every attempt has been made to include the summaries in the most appropriate division sections, however there are many acts that have broad implications for many divisions, and directors should review all new legislation to determine its impact on their divisions and make any plans necessary to implement and ensure compliance with new statutory mandates. Please be sure to pay special attention to effective dates.

Navigating this document:

Please note that:

- Headings in the Table of Contents are “clickable” and will take you to the relevant section within the report; and
- Each Public Act number listed herein contains a hyperlink to the full text of the Public Act on the Connecticut General Assembly website.

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Section 1 – Budget Implementer Bills

[Public Act 22-118](#) – AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE (“Implementer Bill”).

The Implementer Bill contains several provisions that relate to multiple DAS business units, which are summarized below.

Sections 1-9 amend the amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 from Special Act 21-15. The table below summarizes the amendments pertaining to DAS.

DAS - GENERAL FUND	FY 2023	FY 2023 - AMENDMENTS
Personal Services	[60,226,372]	<u>83,030,444</u>
Other Expenses	[28,708,951]	<u>28,856,256</u>
Loss Control Risk Management	88,003	
Employees' Review Board	17,611	
Surety Bonds for State Officials and Employees	71,225	
Refunds Of Collections	20,381	
Rents and Moving	4,610,985	
W. C. Administrator	5,000,000	
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt. Operations	14,922,588	
IT Services	[24,940,353]	<u>46,296,287</u>
Firefighters Fund	400,000	
AGENCY TOTAL	[139,006,469]	<u>183,313,780</u>
DAS - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	FY 2023	FY 2023 - AMENDMENTS
Personal Services	2,693,005	
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	11,011,449	
IT Services	912,959	
AGENCY TOTAL	14,617,413	
DAS - INSURANCE FUND	FY 2023	FY 2023 - AMENDMENTS
Personal Services	[114,758]	<u>755,980</u>
Fringe Benefits	[101,790]	<u>688,509</u>
<u>IT Services</u>		<u>280,136</u>
AGENCY TOTAL	[216,548]	<u>1,724,625</u>

DAS - CONSUMER COUNSEL AND P.U.C. FUND	FY 2023	FY 2023 - AMENDMENTS
Personal Services	75,437	
Fringe Benefits	66,717	
AGENCY TOTAL	142,154	
DAS - WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	FY 2023	FY 2023 - AMENDMENTS
Personal Services	[123,495]	<u>649,615</u>
Fringe Benefits	[110,528]	<u>626,126</u>
<u>IT Services</u>		<u>199,938</u>
AGENCY TOTAL	[234,023]	<u>1,475,679</u>

Other provisions of interest to DAS include the following sections.

Sections 10 and 11 reallocate federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and allocate the portion of ARPA funding unallocated by Special Act 21-15, the FY 2022 budget, and the FY 2023 budget. The funds allocated to DAS are as follows:

- Up to \$75,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for the support of school air quality;
- Up to \$719,936 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Wi-Fi connectivity and broadband for public spaces;
- Up to \$8,025,474 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, up to \$6,600,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and up to \$6,600,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 to expand CEN broadband to remaining municipalities and libraries;
- Up to \$20,060,884 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, up to \$19,025,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and up to \$2,024,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 to upgrade the CEN; and
- Up to \$441,195 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, up to \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and up to \$170,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 for the CEN charter school fiber internet connectivity program.
- *Effective from passage.*

Section 12 includes carryforward funding for various purposes. The funds being carried forward are as follows:

- Up to \$15,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for Workers' Compensation Claims, to settle workers' compensation claims;
- Up to \$915,460 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for Other Expenses, to support maintenance of state properties; and
- Up to \$2,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for Other Expenses, to address elevator inspection backlog.

- *Effective from passage.*

Sections 82-89 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner, by July 1, 2022, to (1) set guidelines on how free menstrual products (i.e., tampons and sanitary napkins) may be provided without stigmatizing the individuals requesting or seeking them and (2) post the guidelines on the department’s website. The sections also require certain government agencies and public or private organizations to provide free menstrual products to the individuals they serve without stigmatizing them, in accordance with the published DPH guidelines.

For example, starting July 1, 2023, certain other agencies and organizations must start providing free menstrual products without stigmatizing the individuals requesting the products, in accordance with the DPH guidelines, as follows:

- public higher education institutions, in at least one designated and accessible central location on each campus, and they must post notice of the location on their websites;
- school districts acting by the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner, to individuals confined in any DOC institution and attending a school within the district, upon request and as soon as practicable, in a quantity appropriate to the person’s health needs;
- public or private homeless shelters that receive grants from the housing commissioner, in each restroom that is accessible to residents; and
- domestic violence emergency shelters that receive state funding in each restroom that is accessible to residents.

Additionally, local and regional boards of education must do so starting September 1, 2023, in women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms, and at least one men's restroom, that are accessible to students in grades three through 12 in each school. *Effective July 1, 2022, except the provision regarding the DPH guidelines and one technical change are effective upon passage.*

Section 92 requires the governor’s budget document to include an explanation of how its provisions further the governor’s efforts to ensure equity in the state. It defines “equity” as efforts, regulations, policies, programs, standards, processes, and any other government functions or legal principles intended to do the following:

- identify and remedy past and present patterns of discrimination or inequality against, and outcome disparities for, any protected class under the state’s anti-discrimination laws;
- ensure that these patterns, whether intentional or unintentional, are not reinforced or perpetuated; and
- prevent the emergence and persistence of these patterns in the foreseeable future.

As under existing law, the budget document must also include the governor’s recommendations on the economy, including an analysis of the proposed spending and revenue programs’ impact on employment, production, and purchasing power of the state’s residents and industries. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Section 122 requires DAS to post individual links to the websites showing job openings in the judicial branch, legislative branch, and the constituent units of the state system of higher education beginning July 1, 2022. DAS must do so in a prominent location on its website where executive branch job openings are posted. If a link to one of the websites is updated after DAS posts it, the applicable branch agency or unit must notify DAS about it and DAS must update the link on its web site. *Effective from passage.*

Section 128 allows state agencies to designate certain EV charging stations (i.e., owned and operated by the agency on state property) for public use, for state-employee use, or for both public and state-employee use. When determining the authorized use for these stations, the agency must consider if visitors conduct business with the agency at the property (e.g., service centers, maintenance facilities, correctional facilities, visitor centers, health care facilities, and recreational facilities). The agency may establish maximum charging time limits per user per charging session based on the parking needs of the property and, if established, must post such limits at each station.

This section also requires that reasonable fees be established, and state agencies assess and collect these fees for EV charging stations purchased and installed on or after October 1, 2022. For their respective branches, DAS, the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, and the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, must establish a per-kilowatt-hour fee to recover, at the maximum extent practicable, the operational, maintenance, and electric costs for such stations. The fee does not apply to any owned or leased state vehicle. Each branch must update these fees annually or sooner if deemed necessary. The applicable fee must be posted at each station and DAS must post any fees for executive branch stations on its website. Once collected, the fees must be deposited into the state fund which funded the station.

The section also makes it an infraction (other than for emergency vehicles) to (1) park in an EV charging spot without charging a plug-in hybrid or battery EV and (2) exceed the maximum charging time limit established by the agency. An infraction carries a fine between \$35-90 (CGS § 51-164m). *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Sections 131-134 increase (1) the salaries for judges, family support magistrates, family support referees, and judge trial referees, (2) additional amounts that certain judges receive for performing administrative duties, and (3) salaries for certain officials whose compensation, by law, is determined in relation to a Superior Court judge's salary or state referee's per-diem rate. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 138 requires each state agency to apply certain terms from the 2022 agreement between the state and the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) to their employees who are not members of a bargaining unit (i.e., nonunion state employees). More specifically, state agencies must apply the agreement's terms for wage increases for:

- FY22 (generally, a \$2,500 lump sum payment and 2.5% base annual salary increase);
- FY 23 (generally, a 2.5% increase plus step increases, annual increments, or their equivalents, and a \$1,000 lump sum payment); and

- FY 24 (generally, a 2.5% increase plus step increases, annual increments, or their equivalents). *Effective from passage.*

Sections 143 and 144 establish the Connecticut Premium Pay program to be administered by the Office of the Comptroller (OTC) or a third-party administrator under contract with OTC. From October 1, 2022, until June 30, 2024, the program must provide \$200 to \$1,000 to eligible applicants, depending on their individual income and whether the account the bill creates to support the program is sufficiently funded. The sections establish a non-lapsing program account along with application and payment processes for the program. They also allow an essential worker to request a reconsideration of a denied application and prohibit appeals on reconsideration decisions, require quarterly reports to the Labor and Public Employees Committee, and prohibit employer retaliation against employees for applying to the program. *Effective from passage.*

Section 149 changes existing law regarding when local health directors conducting on-site inspections and remediation for children with lead poisoning must report the results. Unchanged by the section remains the requirement for DAS to determine the method and format of the transmission of data in the report. *Effective January 1, 2023.* (NOTE: this language is identical to the provisions passed within Public Act Public Act 22-49 discussed in Section 5).

Section 169 authorizes DAS to purchase the energy production plant that produces and provides steam and heated and chilled water for the Capitol Area System (CAS). The bill makes conforming changes to give DAS broad authority to operate the plant, similar to the powers regarding the CAS. These powers include recouping the costs of acquiring and operating the plant from the state and non-state entities the CAS serves. Under an agreement that expires September 30, 2022, CAS purchases the steam and heated and chilled water from the Capitol District Energy Center Cogeneration Associates (CDECCA) energy production plant. *Effective from passage.*

Sections 170 and 171 require coverage for children, stepchildren, or other dependent children of covered state employees or nonstate public employees to continue until at least the end of the calendar year after the earlier of when they (1) obtained coverage through their own employment or (2) turn age 26. Existing law generally requires fully insured health, dental, and vision insurance coverage to extend through the policy year after a dependent turns age 26. The sections apply to individual and group policies delivered, issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2022. However, in practice, the comptroller does not issue individual plans to these employees. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 194 makes it a violation of the state's paid family and medical leave law (PFML) for an employer to interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise, any right provided by the PFML or discharge or cause to be discharged, or in any other way discriminate against someone for (a) opposing any practice made unlawful by the PFML or (b) exercising the rights afforded to an employee under the PFML. The provision similarly makes it a violation of the PFML for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged, or in any other way discriminate against any individual because the individual:

- filed a charge, or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding, under or related to the PFML;
- gave, or is about to give, any information in connection with any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under the PFML; or
- testified, or is about to testify, in any such inquiry or proceeding.

Existing law makes these same actions violations of the state’s Family and Medical Leave Act and the family and medical leave law for state employees. As with these other violations, an employee aggrieved by a violation of these provisions involving the PFML may file a complaint with the labor commissioner under the same procedures. An employee may also sue the employer without first having to file an administrative complaint. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 199 requires DAS, by the 15th day of each month during FY 23, to report to the Appropriations Committee on the number of (1) vacant positions in each state agency, (2) people each agency hired during the previous month, and (3) people who refused an employment offer by each agency in the previous month. *Effective from passage.*

Section 205 expands the Essential Workers COVID-19 Assistance Program to cover a broader range of essential employees and extends the deadline to apply for the program’s benefits from July 20, 2022, to December 31, 2022. By law, the program provides benefits for uncompensated leave, out-of-pocket medical expenses, and burial expenses to certain essential employees who could not work between March 10, 2020, and July 20, 2021, due to contracting COVID-19, or symptoms that were later diagnosed as COVID-19. The section also changes how the program’s benefits must be determined and administered by generally (1) requiring a claimant’s benefits for uncompensated leave to be reduced by the amount of any employer-provided paid leave the claimant received for the same time; (2) allowing the program to pay a claimant benefits for one type of claim (e.g., uncompensated leave) while a claim for a different type of benefits (e.g., medical expenses) is pending; and (3) requiring the program administrator, once the bill passes, to review any previously denied, or currently pending, claim for assistance from the program and make a new eligibility determination. Under the section, a claimant’s disability or unemployment claim must not prevent the program administrator from approving a claim for the program’s current benefits or the bill’s new leave benefits, as long as the current benefits are offset by any disability or unemployment benefits already paid to the claimant for his or her uncompensated leave, including payments made without prejudice. The section also specifies that it does not require a claimant who has received unemployment benefits to be currently employed with a previous employer in order to qualify for the program’s current benefits or the bill’s new leave benefits. *Effective from passage.*

Section 210 requires DESPP, in consultation with DAS, the state fire marshal, OPM, and the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, to establish and administer a pilot program, until July 1, 2025, to collect fire and rescue service data. The pilot program must be established within available appropriations and either use the National Fire Operations Reporting System or develop a system capable of real-time tracking information relevant to fire and rescue responses, including call processing time, alarm handling, and turnout time. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Sections 227 and 250 alter a scheduled removal of an executive director. Under current law, the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) executive director is included among the list of statutory department heads but is scheduled to be removed from the list as of July 1, 2022. The sections reverse this scheduled removal and retain the executive director as a department head on and after that date. The sections also make a technical change to reflect that the former Department of Rehabilitation Services has been renamed as the Department of Aging and Disability Services. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 262 transfers a magnet school operator's grant from one grant provision to another. Existing law contains a number of magnet school grants that are based on whether the school is operated by a school district or a regional education service center (RESC) and other considerations such as the percentage of its students it draws from the host town or sending towns. Under current law, a RESC-operated magnet that began operations in the 2001-2002 school year and for the 2008-2009 school year enrolled 55% to 80% of its students from a single town receives grants of \$8,344 for each student, except it receives smaller grants for any students enrolled who exceed the enrollment number as of October 1, 2013. For those students, the grants are (1) \$3,060 if from the host town and (2) \$7,227 if not from the host town. Under this section, for FY 22, any magnet operator under this existing law, or any successor operator, instead receives for all students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year a grant of \$8,058. The bill does this by applying another magnet school grant to this magnet school. It applies the existing provision for RESC magnets that are not within the Hartford region and have less than 55% enrollment from one town. *Effective from passage.*

Section 301 adjusts appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Specifically, this section increases the General Fund appropriation to DAS by \$14,500,000. *Effective from passage.*

Section 303 adjusts appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Specifically, this section increases the Special Transportation Fund appropriation to DAS for State Insurance and Risk Management Operations by \$1,000,000. *Effective from passage.*

Section 334 reduces school construction project bond authorization to DAS by \$100,000,000. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 360 authorizes the State Bond Commission to authorize the issuance of bonds, in an amount not to exceed seventy-five million dollars in the aggregate, for DAS's use of providing grants-in-aid for school air quality improvements, provided that not more than fifty million dollars may be used to provide reimbursements for improvements that were completed between March 1, 2020 and July 1, 2022. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 362 authorizes bond funds to DAS for School Construction Grant Commitments as follows:

- (1) Estimated Grant Commitments.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PROJECT NUMBER	ESTIMATED COSTS	ESTIMATED GRANT
FARMINGTON	22DASY052076N0622 Farmington High School	\$131,666,047	\$24,924,383
STAMFORD	22DASY135280N0622 Westhill High School	\$257,938,824	\$51,587,765
GRANBY	22DASY056052A0622 Granby Memorial High School	\$3,486,378	\$1,319,943
HAMDEN	22DASY062104DV0622 Hamden Middle School	\$17,100,000	\$13,680,000
MANCHESTER	22DASY077241RNV0622 Keeney Elementary School	\$33,200,000	\$27,811,640
MILFORD	22DASY084213EA0622 Pumpkin Delight Elementary School	\$15,060,750	\$5,593,563
SIMSBURY	22DASY128111RNV0622 Latimer Lane School	\$36,792,406	\$12,351,211
REGIONAL DISTRICT 7	22DASY207031VE0622 Agricultural Education Center	\$100,000	\$80,000

(2) Previously Authorized Projects for the Technical Education Career System that have Changed Substantially in Scope or Cost which are Seeking Reauthorization.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PROJECT NUMBER	AUTHORIZED	REQUESTED
BRIDGEPORT (CTECS)	900-0015 VT/N Bullard-Havens	\$139,447,195	\$199,000,000

Sections 363, 372, 375, and 377-379 eliminate the School Safety Infrastructure Council (SSIC) and generally transfers its duties to the School Building Projects Advisory Council. SSIC is 10-member council of agency heads and gubernatorial and legislative appointees, chaired by the DAS commissioner. It was tasked with developing the school safety infrastructure criteria for projects that are awarded state school building project reimbursement grants and school security infrastructure competitive grants.

Under current law, the School Building Projects Advisory Council is an eight-member council of agency heads and executive branch appointees, also chaired by the DAS commissioner, that conducts studies, research, and analyses and makes recommendations to the governor and legislature on improvements to the school building projects processes. These sections add one person to the council’s membership, appointed by the governor, with experience and expertise in

construction for students with disabilities and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility provisions. These sections also eliminate provisions in current law requiring SSIC to develop the grants' criteria, meet at least annually to review and update the criteria, and make them available to boards of education. They instead require the advisory council to periodically review and update the criteria as necessary and submit any updates to the education and emergency services and public protection commissioners, along with the Public Safety and Security and Education committees. The advisory council must also periodically review and update as necessary the school safety infrastructure criteria. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 364 eliminates a provision requiring DAS to only approve school construction grant applications for interdistrict magnet school projects if the State Department of Education (SDE) commissioner finds the school will reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, SDE only approves magnet school funding if the school will reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation (CGS § 10-264I). The bill also makes conforming and technical changes, including (1) deleting an obsolete moratorium provision on grant applications for the construction of new magnet schools and (2) referencing DAS, rather than SDE, in provisions on the application process. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 365 requires the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) to adopt, by January 1, 2023, and every five years after, a long-range plan of capital improvement and school building project priorities and goals for magnet school facilities that will help the state address its obligations under the *Sheff* court decision and related stipulations and orders. The plan must include a summary of activities related to school building projects, capital improvements, and capital equipment included in a rolling three-year school building plan that is required by the section. Upon adoption of the long-range plan, CREC must submit it to DAS, and the department must file it directly with the Appropriations, Education, and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees.

It also requires CREC to maintain a rolling three-year school building project, capital improvement, and equipment plan that identifies the (1) expected school building projects, capital improvements, and capital equipment for each CREC magnet school facility and their anticipated cost and (2) specific equipment each magnet school is expected to need and the estimated cost, based on the useful life of existing equipment and changing technology projections. Finally, it requires CREC to annually submit the plan to DAS, and the department must file it directly with the Appropriations, Education, and Finance, Revenue, and Bonding committees. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 366 requires, starting with projects authorized on or after July 1, 2024, DAS to withhold 5% of a school construction reimbursement grant if the DAS commissioner determines that the applicant has failed to comply with the provisions of state set-aside law for MBEs. Additionally, under current law, DAS must hold back 11% of a school construction applicant's reimbursement grant pending the completion of an audit on the project. The section reduces this amount to 5%. *Effective from passage.*

Section 367 requires DAS to administer a reimbursement grant program for costs related to indoor air quality improvements in school buildings. It allows local or regional boards of education or regional education service centers (RESCs) to apply for the grants to reimburse costs associated with projects to install, replace, or upgrade HVAC systems or other improvements. It also prohibits boards of education and RESCs from using these grant funds to replace local matching requirements for other federal or state funding received for indoor air quality improvement or HVAC projects. Boards may submit an application for a project that (1) began on or after March 1, 2020 and was completed before this act's effective date or (2) began on or after this act's effective date. Under the section, if there are insufficient funds to give grants to all applicants, then DAS must prioritize applicants with schools that have the greatest need for HVAC systems or other indoor air quality improvements. DAS must use the eligibility criteria enumerated in the statute when determining priority among applicants. The funding for this HVAC grant program is comprised of seventy-five million dollars provided through ARPA (Section 10) and seventy-five million dollars authorized through bond funds (Section 360). *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 368 requires the Office of Workforce Strategy, in consultation with the Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Higher Education (OHE), and Technical Education and Career System (TECS), to establish, within available appropriations, an HVAC system pipeline training pilot program by March 1, 2023. The funding for this pilot program is comprised of \$300,000 provided through ARPA in Section 1 of Public Act 22-146. The pilot program must develop pre-apprenticeship workforce pipeline training programs that meet the following criteria:

- designed to identify and support individuals from underserved and underrepresented populations and historically marginalized communities in (a) the training for installation and maintenance of HVAC systems and (b) any related, associated trades;
- offered to these individuals; and
- include comprehensive career navigational and wraparound training services, including recruitment, job coaching, supportive services including transportation services, and job placement support. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 369 requires boards of education to conduct a uniform inspection and evaluation of the HVAC system in each school building under its jurisdiction every five years. It also requires the HVAC inspection report be made public at a board of education meeting and include any corrective action. Finally, it requires the existing air quality inspections to take place every three years rather than five. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 370 creates a working group to study and make recommendations related to indoor air quality within schools. DAS is a member of the working group. Appointments of working group members shall be made not later than sixty days after the effective date of the section. The working group must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Education, Labor, and Public Health committees by January 4, 2023. The working group terminates on January 4, 2023, or on the submission of the report, whichever is later. *Effective from passage.*

Section 371 expands eligibility for reimbursement grants for school building projects. By law, such reimbursements authorized by the legislature must follow per-pupil square footage limits set in state law or regulation. Currently, any building constructed before 1950 receives a 25% increase to any square footage limit. This section expands eligibility for this increase to include any building constructed before 1959. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 372 requires DAS to create an addendum to the school construction priority list project report. By law, DAS must send this report to the Governor and the legislature’s school construction committee before December 15th each year. Under this section, the report addendum must contain all non-priority list grants approved by the DAS commissioner during the previous fiscal year. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 373 subjects the following projects to legislative approval by eliminating DAS’s authority to approve reimbursement grants on an emergency basis: (1) public school administrative or service facilities and (2) school security projects, including improvements to existing school security infrastructure or new infrastructure. Accordingly, these types of projects must instead appear on the school priority list and the project report that DAS submits to the legislature’s school construction committee for approval every December.

The section also removes the requirement that a superintendent notify DAS of the need for an emergency grant and formally apply within a certain timeframe. Under current law, a superintendent has seven calendar days after discovering the emergency to notify DAS in writing about the reason for the emergency grant, and to receive the grant he or she must apply to DAS within six months after submitting the written notice. Historically, this law only applied to emergency projects, but it now applies to a broader list of projects (like roof projects and solar panels), making the “discovery” no longer relevant. The amendment in this section is a corresponding change that should have been made when the statutes were amended in 2017. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 374 requires towns and regional school districts that are grant recipients to submit a project completion notice to DAS within three years after the date when a certificate of occupancy for the project was issued. If a grant recipient does not submit this notice on time, then DAS must deem the project complete and begin a final project audit. By law, DAS must conduct an audit within five years after a school district files a notice of project completion (CGS § 10-286e(a)). Additionally, the section requires DAS to deem a project authorized before July 1, 2022, as complete if its grant recipient has received a certificate of occupancy and has not submitted a project completion notice to DAS on or before July 1, 2025. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 376 eliminates the option for a construction manager to self-perform any project element, which under current law, would have become effective beginning July 1, 2022 but for this revision. It also requires the construction manager for subcontractor bids on school building projects to invite bids on project elements and give notice of bidding opportunities on the State Contracting Portal. It explicitly deems the construction manager ineligible to bid on any project element.

The section requires that each bid be kept sealed until opened publicly at the time and place stated in the bid solicitation notice. After consultation with and approval by the employing town or regional school district, the construction manager must award any related contracts for project elements to the lowest responsible qualified bidder. As under current law, construction cannot begin before the guaranteed maximum price is determined.

It also eliminates the newspaper advertising requirement for public invitations to bid on orders and contracts for (1) school building construction projects receiving state grants, (2) architectural services, and (3) construction management services. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Sections 380 – 405 and 516 collectively, exempt school construction projects from various statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, (1) qualify for state reimbursement grants, (2) receive higher reimbursement percentages for these grants, or (3) have their projects reauthorized due to a change in scope. Additionally, it repeals a Danbury high school project on the 2020 priority list. *Effective from passage.*

SECTION NO.	TOWN	SCHOOL AND PROJECT	EXEMPTION, WAIVER, OR OTHER CHANGE
380	New Britain (state project)	E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, unspecified, but includes installing artificial turf athletic field	Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2021, to be on the 2022 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$45 million, if the application is filed by October 1, 2023, and the project is otherwise eligible under the program
381	Stamford	Westhill High School, new construction	Sets the project reimbursement rate at 80% if (1) Stamford establishes a pathway-to-career regional program at the new school and enrolls students from, and shares services with, surrounding towns to reduce racial isolation in the community and (2) the project is otherwise eligible under the program

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382	Torrington	Torrington Middle & High School, new construction	<p>Reauthorizes new construction project that has changed substantially in scope or cost, if the project cost does not exceed \$179,575,000</p> <p>Allows a project reimbursement rate of 85% if the project is otherwise eligible under the program</p>
382	Torrington	Torrington Middle & High School, construction of a central administration facility	Sets the allowable project reimbursement rate at 85%, including for any costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate
383	Norwalk	Norwalk High School, new construction	Amends a 2020 notwithstanding for the same project to increase its maximum cost from \$189 million to \$239 million

384	Danbury	Danbury Career Academy at Cartus, new construction	<p>Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2021, to be on the 2022 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$154 million, if the town files an application by October 1, 2022, and the project is otherwise eligible for the program</p> <p>Sets the project reimbursement rate at 80%, including site acquisition, limited eligible costs, and the associated central administration project</p> <p>Sets the project reimbursement rate at 80% for purchasing parcels of land adjacent to the project site</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p> <p>Allows the town to receive reimbursement for certain ineligible project costs as long as they do not exceed \$992,842</p>
385	Farmington	Farmington High School, new construction of high school and construction of outdoor athletic facilities	Sets the allowable project reimbursement rate at 30% for both projects, including for any athletic facilities costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate
386	Farmington	Farmington High School, central administration facility	Sets the allowable project reimbursement rate at 30%, including for any costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate

387	Ellington	Windermere Elementary School, renovation and extension and alteration	<p>Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2021, to be on the 2022 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$61.64 million if the town files an application by October 1, 2022, and the project is otherwise eligible for the program.</p> <p>Sets the project reimbursement rate at 70% for the project to address the presence of pyrrhotite in the foundation</p>
388	Manchester	Keeney Elementary School, renovation	<p>Allows an 83.77% reimbursement rate if the project is otherwise eligible under the program Waives the deadline for the town to file certain notices with DAS in order to avoid a lapse of the grant authorization</p>
389	New Fairfield	New Fairfield High School, code violation	<p>Reauthorizes renovation project that has changed substantially in scope or cost, if the project cost does not exceed \$1,118,551</p>
390	New Fairfield	Consolidated Early Learning Academy at Meeting Hill House School, extension and alteration	<p>Makes certain otherwise ineligible extension and alteration project costs reimbursable, if these costs do not exceed \$2.9 million</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
391	New Fairfield	Projects accepted as complete by the local board of education for the town at meetings held on the following dates: October 19, 2017 May 2, 2019 June 6, 2019	<p>Forgiveness of a refund to the state for the unamortized balance of the remaining state grant as of the date the building project was abandoned, sold, leased, demolished, or redirected for use other than a public school</p>

392	Seymour	Seymour High School, roof replacement and energy conservation	<p>Making certain otherwise ineligible panel costs eligible for reimbursement and release of final retainage</p> <p>Waives the requirement that construction bid not be let out prior to DAS approval of the plans and specifications</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
393	Seymour	Bungay Elementary School, roof replacement and energy conservation project	<p>Makes certain otherwise ineligible panel costs eligible for reimbursement and release of final retainage</p> <p>Waives the requirement that construction bid not be let out prior to DAS approval of the plans and specifications</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
394	Seymour	Seymour Middle School, energy conservation project	<p>Makes certain otherwise ineligible panel costs eligible for reimbursement and release of final retainage</p> <p>Waives the requirement that construction bid not be let out prior to DAS approval of the plans and specifications</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>

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395	Bridgeport	Bassick High School, new construction	Reauthorizes project and allows a change in scope to include land acquisition and site remediation costs, if the project cost does not exceed \$129 million Sets a 78.93% project reimbursement rate
396	Bristol	Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School, extension and alteration	Reauthorizes extension and alteration project that has changed substantially in scope or cost, if the project cost does not exceed \$63 million
397	Granby	Granby Memorial High School, alteration	Waives the standard building space requirements
398	New Britain	Chamberlain Elementary School, renovation	Amends 2021 notwithstanding for the same project, which allowed a change in scope to include preschool facilities, to require that construction of these facilities occur on a site approved by DAS
399	Hartford	Any school building project related to the District Model for Excellence Restructuring Recommendations and School Closures	Amends a 2019 notwithstanding for these same projects by extending the application deadline by two years, to June 30, 2024
400	Hartford	Bulkeley High School, board of education/central administration facility	Reauthorizes project and allows a change in scope, so long as costs do not exceed \$29.75 million and if the project is otherwise eligible under the program Sets the allowable project reimbursement rate at 95%, including for any costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate

401	Hartford	Bulkeley High School, renovation	<p>Waives the standard building space requirements Sets the project reimbursement rate at 95% for the renovation, construction, extension, or major alteration of an athletic facility, gymnasium, or auditorium, including for any costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate</p>
402	Region 14 (i.e. Bethlehem and Woodbury)	Nonnewaug High School, extension and alteration	<p>Reauthorizes extension and alteration project that has changed substantially in scope or cost, if the project cost does not exceed \$1,939,400</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
403	Rocky Hill (University run Sheff magnet school)	Goodwin University PreK School, interdistrict magnet facility, extension, alteration, and site purchase	<p>Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2021, to be on the 2022 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$19,715,574, so long as Goodwin files an application by December 31, 2022</p> <p>Sets the reimbursement rate at 100% if the project assists the state in meeting its Sheff obligations</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>
404	East Hartford (University-run Sheff magnet school)	Goodwin University Industry 5.0 Magnet Technical High School, alteration	<p>Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2021, to be on the 2022 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$28,986,700, so long as Goodwin files an application by December 31, 2022</p> <p>Sets the reimbursement rate at 100% if the project assists the state in meeting its Sheff obligations</p> <p>Waives the standard building space requirements</p>

405	Hartford	Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, renovation and new addition	<p>Waives the requirement to apply before June 30, 2021, to be on the 2022 priority list for the project with a maximum cost of \$95.9 million if (1) DAS, in consultation with the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), administers the project's design and construction components as under state law, (2) the purchase and installation of furniture, fixtures, and equipment and move management is administered as under state law, and (3) CREC enters into a memorandum of understanding with the DAS commissioner for the project</p> <p>Makes the project eligible for total project cost reimbursement</p>
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Section 406 eliminates the requirement for applications for building permits to include two copies of the plans and specifications. By law, the State Building Inspector is responsible for reviewing and approving building permit applications for certain Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) buildings or structures that exceed certain threshold limits or include residential occupancies for 25 or more individuals. Current law requires applications to include two copies of the plans and specifications for these projects. The bill eliminates the requirement for copies. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 407 allows DAS to publish its biennial list of code variances and exemptions on its website rather than sending the list to building officials and taking appropriate action to publicize the list. By law and unchanged by the section, the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee must biennially create this list of variations or exemptions. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Sections 451-456 prohibits the state from recovering properly paid cash or medical assistance unless required to do so under federal law. These sections also require the state to release any lien on real property or any claim filed before July 1, 2022, to recover public assistance that is not required under the federal law or associated with child support collection. Relatedly, they eliminate provisions releasing liens under more narrow circumstances. Current law generally limits the state’s claim to recover cash and medical assistance to amounts required to be recovered under federal law for recipients of aid under cash assistance programs (i.e., State Supplement Program (SSP), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Temporary Family Assistance (TFA, which replaced AFDC) provided to anyone over age 18, or State Administered General Assistance (SAGA)) or Medicaid. This includes recoveries from windfalls

such as lottery winnings, proceeds from a lawsuit, and inheritances. But, under current law, when children receive or have received cash assistance benefits under AFDC, TFA, or SAGA, their parents are generally liable to the state for the full amount of aid paid to or on behalf of either parent, their spouses, and dependent children. These sections eliminate these provisions. They also eliminate provisions that cap the state's claim when parents receive a windfall from a lawsuit or inheritance at (1) 50% of the lawsuit proceeds or inheritance received by the parent or (2) the amount the parent owes, whichever is less. Details are included in respective sections of the [OLR Bill Analysis](#). *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 457 exempts up to \$50,000 of other assets from certain collections efforts. Current law gives the state a claim against any property owned by an inmate, except:

- property that is statutorily exempt from execution to satisfy court judgments and exempt property of a farm partnership;
- money from a contract for reenacting the inmate's violent crime in various media (such as movies and books) or from the expression of the person's thoughts or feelings about the crime which by law must be paid to the Office of Victim Services;
- property acquired for work performed during incarceration as part of a program designated or defined in DOC regulation as job training, skill development, a career opportunity, or an enhancement program; and
- property the inmate acquired after he or she was released from incarceration.

The section additionally exempts up to \$50,000 of other assets, except for inmates incarcerated for capital felony or murder with special circumstances, felony murder, 1st and 2nd degree sexual assault, 1st degree aggravated sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault of a minor. Under existing law, any action by the state must be brought within two years of the inmate's release from prison or within two years of his death if he dies while in DOC custody. This time restriction does not apply to property that is fraudulently concealed. *Effective from passage, and applicable to costs of incarceration incurred, before, on or after that date.*

Section 458 limits the state's ability to collect certain proceeds stemming from lawsuit judgments. Under the law, whenever a person who owes the state money for the cost of his or her incarceration wins a lawsuit judgment, for a case he or she brought within 20 years of release, the state's claim is a lien against the proceeds. The maximum amount of the claim is the full cost of the inmate's incarceration or 50% of the proceeds, minus certain expenses (e.g., attorney's fees), whichever is less. This section limits the state's claim to lawsuit proceeds for inmates incarcerated for capital felony or murder with special circumstances, felony murder, 1st and 2nd degree sexual assault, 1st degree aggravated sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault of a minor. *Effective from passage, and applicable to costs of incarceration incurred, before, on or after that date.*

Section 514 repeals outdated language and language that conflicts with the state building code regarding educational sound insulation and luminous safety path markings. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 517 repeals a provision in the 2021 budget implementer requiring that \$454,355 of the State Contracting Standards Board's (SCSB) FY 23 appropriation lapse on July 1, 2022 (PA 21-2, June Special Session, § 201). Section 1 of this Public Act reflects a reinstatement of the original appropriated \$637,029 to SCSB in FY 23 from the 2021 budget bill. *Effective from passage.*

[Public Act 22-146](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, A COMMUNITY OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM, CERTAIN MUNICIPAL-RELATED PROVISIONS, SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT GRANTS AND HIGH-DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS.

Sections 13 and 32 expand the types of school construction projects that are eligible for minimum reimbursements. To the extent projects are submitted and the statutorily calculated reimbursement rate would be less than the rates indicated, there would be increased costs to the state and increased revenue to involved towns. The impact of new projects on the school construction priority list will be reflected when such projects are considered by the legislature in the future. *Effective June 1, 2022.*

Section 2 – Acts Affecting Real Estate & Construction

[Public Act 22-25](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CLEAN AIR ACT.

Section 1 requires the state to acquire cars and light duty trucks that are “battery electric vehicles” on the following schedule: (1) 50% by January 1, 2026, (2) 75% by January 1, 2028, and (3) 100% by January 1, 2030. It also requires DAS to consider the lower cost of maintaining battery electric vehicles when establishing the amount to lease the vehicles to another state agency. Under this section, if the state fleet does not meet the above requirements, DAS must report to the Government Administration and Elections, Transportation, and Environment committees. The report must be submitted annually starting January 1, 2026.

This section also adds two components to the study conducted in consultation with DOT by requiring the agencies to (1) develop a plan to implement zero-emission buses statewide and (2) identify barriers to implementation. It also eliminates the current requirement that the agencies study the feasibility of a competitive bid process for total procurement of zero-emission vehicles and instead requires that they do so for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles. Under the section, DAS must report the study’s results and a copy of the implementation plan to the committees by January 1, 2024. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Section 5 requires that, on and after January 2023, each new construction of a state facility with total costs over \$100,000 be installed with level two EV charging stations in at least 20% of parking spaces designated for cars or light-duty trucks. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Section 17 requires that level two EV charging stations be installed in new construction school building projects on any project list that DAS submits to the legislature beginning July 1, 2023. It

does so by prohibiting DAS from approving a school building project plan that does not provide for level two EV charger installation in at least 20% of parking spots for cars or light-duty trucks at the school building. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-39](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING REEMPLOYMENT AND THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, CONVEYANCES OF CERTAIN LAND OR INTERESTS IN LAND OF NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS AND STATE CONTRACTOR PREQUALIFICATION.

Section 3 requires applicants to disclose any proceedings that were settled within the past five years when seeking state contractor prequalification from DAS. It also requires applicants to disclose administrative proceedings concluded adversely against them within the past five years that resulted in a (1) civil penalty related to wages, employment regulation, workers' compensation, or employee personnel files or (2) stop-work order related to workers' compensation. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Section 4 includes an additional reason for instances where DAS must deny or revoke a contractor's or substantial subcontractor's prequalification. Specifically, DAS must do so for any contractor or substantial subcontractor that, within the past five years, has withheld any information or documentation requested in a prequalification application. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-45](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING CONNEC AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT VALLEY AND WHITING FORENSIC HOSPITALS.

Section 9 requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), in collaboration with DAS, to evaluate state service classifications for physicians and senior level clinicians employed by Whiting Forensic Hospital. Specifically, DMHAS must determine whether these classifications are in the appropriate compensation plans needed to attract and retain experienced and competent hospital employees. Under the Act, the DMHAS and DAS commissioners must jointly report on their evaluation to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2023. *Effective from passage.*

[Public Act 22-86](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING ARCHITECTS WHO VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT COMPENSATION ASSIST PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN EVALUATING THE SAFETY ELEMENTS OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF A MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.

This Act grants civil immunity to licensed architects who volunteer to assist certain public safety officials—including building officials and the State Building Inspector—in evaluating the safety of elements of a built environment following a declared civil preparedness emergency due to a major disaster or emergency. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-88](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS ON OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING.

Section 22 limits the circumstances under which the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) may deny, suspend, or revoke major contractor licenses because the practitioner was found guilty or convicted of a felony. Specifically, it only allows DCP to do so if the decision is based on (1) the nature of the conviction and its relationship to the practitioner’s ability to perform the occupation’s duties or responsibilities safely or competently, (2) information about the practitioner’s degree of rehabilitation, and (3) the time passed since the conviction or release. DCP is directed to provide written notice of any suspension or revocation of a registration to DAS within ten days. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

SEE ALSO: Special Act 22-10 – AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING AND RELATED FACILITIES. (Section 4 – Equal Employment Opportunity)

SEE ALSO: Public Act 22-17 – AN ACT CONCERNING WAGE THEFT. (Section 7 – Procurement)

Section 3 – Acts Affecting Building and Fire Codes

[Public Act 22-1](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF OUTDOOR FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES AND OUTDOOR DISPLAYS OF GOODS.

Section 1 extends, until April 30, 2023, as-of-right outdoor dining and retail activities authorized by the Governor’s executive order. This section further requires the outdoor activities be operated so that pedestrian pathways and means of access comply with the physical accessibility guidelines in the State Building Code. The laws already require pathways to be constructed, and access to be provided, that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act’s (ADA) physical accessibility guidelines. *Effective from passage.*

[Public Act 22-12](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING COUNTERFEIT AND UNSAFE LIGHTERS.

This Act prohibits offering or selling a counterfeit or unsafe lighter in the state. It also allows the State Fire Marshal, a local fire marshal that enforces the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code, and any other person aggrieved by a violation of the Act’s provisions to bring a civil action in Superior Court to recover damages from the person who is alleged to have committed the violation. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-75](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATIVE TO FIRE OR EXPLOSION LOSSES AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING SMOKE DETECTORS IN THE FIRE SAFETY CODE AND AFFIDAVITS ON TRANSFER OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

Section 2 specifies that the Fire Safety Code must require smoke detectors in single and multi-family residences. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-143](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ENVIRONMENT RELATED STATUTES.

Section 5 clarifies that the state’s forest fire warden has the authority to supplement state forest fire control personnel with specially trained temporary emergency workers to help fight a forest fire in a state with which Connecticut has agreed to provide reciprocal aid, rather than only for in-state fires. Under existing law, DAS is tasked with assisting the state fire warden in developing appropriate classifications of such temporary emergency workers. *Effective from passage.*

[Special Act 22-14](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING RECORDS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE AND THE PROMOTION OF CAREERS IN RELATED FIELDS.

Section 1 directs DAS to convene a working group to develop a standardized system for the scanning or other digitization of records relating to the State Building Code and storage of those records on a searchable web-based public database. The working group must submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Planning and Development Committee by January 1, 2023. *Effective from passage.*

Section 2 directs the Office of Education and Data Management within DAS, in consultation with the Office of Higher Education, Office of Apprenticeship Training within CTDOL, to study options for students pursuing careers as building officials, including the development of financial and other incentives for the students and the development of internship and apprenticeship programs for the students. DAS and CTDOL must submit a report with their findings and recommendations to the Planning and Development Committee by January 1, 2023. *Effective from passage.*

Section 4 – Acts Affecting Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunity

Public Act 22-24 – AN ACT PROTECTING EMPLOYEE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND CONSCIENCE.

This Act generally prohibits employers, including the state and its political subdivisions, from disciplining or discharging an employee or threatening to do so because the employee refused to attend employer-sponsored meetings, listen to speech, or view communications primarily intended to convey the employer’s opinion about religious or political matters (i.e., “captive audience meetings”). The prohibition covers meetings with the employer or its agent, representative, or a designee.

Current law prohibits employers from penalizing employees for exercising their First Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution or similar rights under the Connecticut Constitution. The Act expands the law to also prohibit employers from threatening to penalize employees for exercising these rights. By law and unchanged by the Act, an employee may exercise these rights as long his or her activity does not substantially or materially interfere with the bona fide job performance or the working relationship between the employer and employee.

The Act also makes certain exceptions to both its prohibition on penalizing employees for refusing to attend captive audience meetings and current law’s prohibition on penalizing employees for exercising their constitutional rights. Among other things, these exceptions allow employers to communicate information required by law or that the employees need to perform their jobs.

It exempts certain religious organizations’ speech on religious matters made to their own employees. The Act also changes the enforcement provisions that apply to both the current law on employees exercising certain constitutional rights and the bill’s prohibition on penalizing employees for refusing to attend captive audience meetings. It does so primarily by limiting potential awards to lost wages or compensation, with no punitive damages. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Public Act 22-31 – AN ACT CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR INTERPRETERS FOR DEAF, DEAFBLIND AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS.

This Act makes several changes related to interpreters registered with the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Existing law establishes qualifications for interpreters generally and additional requirements for interpreting in educational, medical, or legal settings. Under the Act, settings that are not educational, medical, or legal are “community settings” and may include everyday life activities such as information sharing, employment, social services, entertainment, and civic and community engagements.

The Act retains existing qualification requirements for these settings. For medical and legal settings, the Act expands the acceptable qualifications for registered interpreters to include

holding an Approved Deaf Interpreter credential from the Massachusetts Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The Act makes a minor change to specify that the circumstances under which interpreters must be credentialed for medical settings are those in which “physical health, mental health, or both” are discussed, rather than those in which “health and wellness” are discussed. The Act establishes penalties for certain acts of false representation. It also eliminates a provision allowing people to report violations of interpreter credentialing laws to the state’s protection and advocacy system (i.e., Disability Rights Connecticut).

The Act requires ADS to categorize interpreters on its online list of registered interpreters by the settings for which they are qualified. It also requires ADS, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide information on certain services on their websites.

Lastly, the Act makes technical and conforming changes (e.g., updating terminology by changing from “deaf-blind” to “deafblind”, replacing references to the Department of Rehabilitation Services with ADS). *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-42](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING CHILDREN.

Section 1 expands the entities to whom the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must disclose certain records without the subject’s consent. With certain exceptions, existing law generally requires the department to obtain consent from the subject of a record before disclosing information created or obtained in connection with its child protection activities, activities of a child while in DCF care or custody, or the department's abuse and neglect registry.

The Act creates additional exceptions for disclosures to the following entities: (1) the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to determine a person’s suitability to care for children in an OEC-licensed youth camp or provide childcare services to a child and to receive a childcare subsidy; (2) any DCF-licensed child placing agency to determine a person’s suitability for employment or to adopt and provide foster care; and (3) DAS to determine whether an applicant for state employment, who would have contact with children in the course of his or her employment, is on the child abuse or neglect registry. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-46](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING ENGINEERING, MAINTAINER AND OPEN POSITIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

Section 1 requires DAS to recruit interns for the summer worker professional engineer job classification for the Department of Transportation (DOT), as requested. DAS and DOT must promote the recruitment at public and independent institutions of higher education. Beginning

July 1, 2023, DAS must increase the rate of compensation for the summer work professional engineer job classification by the percentage increase in the national consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical works for the previous twelve-month period. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 2 requires DAS to engage in the ongoing successive recruitment, between July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025, of entry-level engineering positions, entry-level transportation maintainer one positions, and transportation maintainer two positions on DOT’s behalf. It also requires DOT to (1) establish the duration of the application period for each recruitment and (2) make an employment offer or reject a candidate within 120 days after receiving a candidate’s application for these positions. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 3 allows the DOT commissioner to consider a candidate’s application for another open position at the department without requiring the candidate to submit another application, as long as the candidate meets the minimum experience and training qualifications. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-67](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT STATUTES.

Section 12 requires the Department of Labor (DOL) to make the state’s unemployment laws, regulations, and other related materials available on DOL’s website, rather than in print for distribution, and it also removes a requirement for approval of the printing and distribution by DAS. *Effective from passage.*

[Public Act 22-82](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE DATING OPERATORS, THE CREATION OF A GRANT PROGRAM TO REDUCE OCCURRENCES OF ONLINE ABUSE AND THE PROVISION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING AND PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Section 8 allows the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) to require that all state agencies provide at least one hour of training and education on domestic violence and the resources available to victims. The training must be given to employees hired (1) before January 1, 2023, by July 1, 2023, and (2) on or after January 1, 2023, within six months after their date of hire. Under this section, the training and education for state employees must be provided within available appropriations using CHRO developed training and education materials made available to each state agency at no cost. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Section 10-21 adds “status as a victim of domestic violence” to the list of protected classes under the state’s various anti-discrimination laws. Details are included in respective sections of the [OLR Bill Analysis](#).

[Public Act 22-128](#) – AN ACT ESTABLISHING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY.

This Act establishes a new legal state holiday on June 19 known as Juneteenth Independence Day. The State Personnel Act mandates that each full-time permanent state employee receives paid time off for legal holidays (CGS § 5-254). By law, legal state holidays are also bank and credit union holidays, during which time, bank and credit union transactions are generally suspended (CGS § 36a-23). The decision to close public schools on Juneteenth Independence Day is made by each local school district. By law, each local and regional board of education that remains open on a legal state holiday must hold a suitable educational program in observance of the holiday. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Special Act 22-10](#) – AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING AND RELATED FACILITIES.

This Act directs the Joint Committee on Legislative Management to contract with a third-party entity to study and assess the State Capitol complex for its accessibility: 1) for persons with disabilities, and 2) for individuals with bicycles. In addition, the third-party entity must submit an assessment report with recommendations to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management by January 1, 2023. *Effective from passage.*

[Special Act 22-22](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POST-COVID-19 WOMEN'S RETURN TO WORK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

This Act directs the Chief Workforce Officer, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and regional workforce development boards, to develop and implement a Post-COVID-19 Women's Return to Work Economic Development Plan, within available appropriations.

The plan may include, but need not be limited to, the establishment of (1) partnerships with institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, professional business associations and child care and transit providers to develop and promote return to work initiatives, paid internships in high-growth industries, job and career fairs, professional mentorships, experiential learning opportunities and educational and employment coaching services for women seeking to return to work after the COVID-19 pandemic; and (2) business incentives to increase apprenticeship and internship opportunities for women.

The Post-COVID-19 Women's Return to Work Economic Development Plan terminates on October 1, 2024. Not later than February 1, 2023, and annually thereafter until February 1, 2025, the Chief Workforce Officer shall report regarding such plan to the Commerce Committee. *Effective from passage.*

Section 5 – Acts Affecting DAS-BITS

NOTE: The Budget Implementer includes provisions which move a variety of funds for purposes of IT Optimization.

[Public Act 22-49](#) – AN ACT REDUCING LEAD POISONING.

Section 1 changes existing law regarding when local health directors conducting on-site inspections and remediation for children with lead poisoning must report the results. Unchanged by the section remains the requirement for the Commissioner of Public Health to consult with DAS in determining the method and format of the transmission of data in the report. *Effective January 1, 2023.* (NOTE: the same provision is included in the Implementer Bill discussed in section 1).

Section 6 – Acts Affecting Business Services

[Public Act 22-79](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

By law, the claims commissioner must submit two reports within five days of the General Assembly convening for regular session. The claims commissioner must submit a report on (1) all decided claims and (2) undisposed claims, for which the General Assembly may consider certain actions (including granting the claim or an extension).

This Act requires the report on all claims made to be for the preceding calendar year and include the following information for that year: (1) the total number of new claims filed; (2) the total number of claims disposed of, dismissed, and denied; (3) a description of each order of immediate payment of a just claim in an amount not exceeding \$35,000, including the claimant's name, the amount he or she was paid, and the reasoning for the payment; and (4) the total number of claimants who were authorized to sue the state.

By law, the claims commissioner must report on claims that remain undisposed for two years following the filing date or any granted extension. For the undisposed claims report, the Act requires it to also include: (1) an explanation on why the claim has not been disposed of, and (2) the date a decision will be given on the claim if the General Assembly grants an extension of time to dispose of it. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-89](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

This Act makes many minor and technical changes. It replaces the term “administrative law judge” with “chairperson” in several places in the workers’ compensation act to clarify that certain actions go to the chairperson of the workers’ compensation commission, rather than one of the regional judges under the chair. It also makes consistent in many sections of the Act the method for delivering notices required in various steps of the workers compensation process by allowing service in person or by registered or certified mail, which are already allowed in another workers' compensation law on notice process. *Effective from passage.*

[Public Act 22-96](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLOSING OF ACCOUNTS AT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

This Act requires financial institutions, when closing a deposit account (e.g., a personal checking or savings account), to notify the account holder of why the account is being closed. Specifically, financial institutions must, within five business days after closing an account, (1) mail the depositor, to the address on record, a written notice explaining the reason the account was closed and (2) if the depositor has consented to electronic correspondence (i.e., electronic statements), send the notice electronically to the email address on record.

The Act’s notice requirement does not apply to account closures resulting from government or law enforcement agency requests or investigations. Under existing law, a “deposit account” is any account into which deposits can be made that is held by a natural person; it excludes a general or limited partnership account or sole proprietorship business account. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-139](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY CANCER RELIEF BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

Section 1 directs the Joint Counsel of Connecticut Fire Services Organization, in consultation with the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, to come up with a joint plan for maintenance and remediation of toxic substances on turnout gear. Upon approval of the plan, the commission must advise fire departments regarding how to implement the plan and requires each fire department to adopt the plan. *Effective from passage.*

Section 2 requires the Workers’ Compensation Commission to (a) maintain a record of all firefighters’ workers’ compensation claims made due to a cancer diagnosis and (b) report a summary of the records to the Labor Committee each year by January 1st. *Effective from passage.*

Section 3 specifies that the approval of wage replacement benefits for a firefighter under section 7-313i of the general statutes does not create a presumption that a firefighter’s cancer was work related for purposes of chapter 568 of the general statutes. *Effective from passage.*

Section 4 requires the Comptroller to study the feasibility of providing pension benefits in circumstances when a firefighter's pension maturity or number of years of service required for the firefighter to receive pension benefits is not met because of an early retirement due to a qualifying work-related cancer or death. The Comptroller must report the results of the study to the Labor Committee. *Effective from passage.*

Section 5 requires each municipality to make contributions to the state’s firefighters cancer relief account, which is used to provide wage replacement benefits to eligible paid and volunteer firefighters diagnosed with cancer. Beginning January 1, 2024, each town must generally contribute, by December 15 of each year, \$10 per career firefighter within the town. However, the section only requires towns to contribute funds for firefighters who meet certain work experience and other criteria. *Effective January 1, 2024.*

Section 7 – Acts Affecting Procurement

[Public Act 22-17](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING WAGE THEFT.

This Act changes the penalties for prevailing wage job contractors and subcontractors that knowingly or willfully fail to pay their workers the required prevailing wage. It requires the Department of Labor (DOL) to issue a citation to these violators and allows the commissioner to impose a \$5,000 fine for each violation. The Act also changes the penalties that prohibit (debar) a contractor or subcontractor that violated the prevailing wage law from contracting with the state or its municipalities. Generally, it (1) allows DOL to refer knowing and willful violators for debarment, rather than requiring debarment for a certain period (as current law does), and (2) broadens the debarment penalty to also cover contractors and subcontractors who enter into certain settlements with the commissioner to resolve claims for prevailing wage violations. Finally, the Act allows any contractor or subcontractor referred for debarment to request a hearing with the commissioner under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. *Effective July 1, 2023.*

[Public Act 22-40](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE TRANSPORTATION STATUTES.

Section 6 eliminates the requirement that goods and services contracts—with a total value of \$50,000 or more—be “sworn as true” to the signatory’s best knowledge and belief, instead requiring it be made to his or her best knowledge and belief. The bill also makes technical

changes related to the information included in applicable consulting agreement representations. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 7 eliminates a reference to “most qualified or highest ranked” person in subsection (b) of section 4-252 of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding certification requirements for large state contracts. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Public Act 22-65 – AN ACT REQUIRING THE ONLINE POSTING OF CERTAIN STATE CONTRACTS.

Section 1 requires DAS to post on its website any goods or services contract entered into without competitive bidding or competitive negotiation, including through emergency procurement authority. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Sections 2-3 allow DAS, when posting the contracts under the provisions of section 1, to redact information that is not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Public Act 22-137 – AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO CONTRACT WITH OTHER STATES.

This Act allows DSS to enter into up to five contracts for facilities, services, and programs with another state to implement the department’s statutory purposes. *Effective from passage.*

Section 8 – Acts Affecting Legal & Legislative

Public Act 22-3 – AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE MEETINGS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

Section 1 removes the existing April 30, 2022 sunset date, allowing public agencies to continue to hold remote and hybrid meetings as long as they comply with the requirements under existing law. *Effective from passage.*

Section 2 permits regional school districts to hold remote or hybrid public meetings to present a proposed budget in the same way as other public agencies under the Act. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

[Public Act 22-15](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONAL DATA PRIVACY AND ONLINE MONITORING.

This Act establishes a framework for controlling and processing personal data. Among other things, it:

- Sets responsibilities and privacy protection standards for data controllers (those that determine the purpose and means of processing personal data) and processors (those that process data for a controller);
- Gives consumers the right to access, correct, delete, and obtain a copy of personal data and to opt out of the processing of personal data for certain purposes (e.g., targeted advertising);
- Requires controllers to conduct data protection assessments;
- Authorizes the attorney general to bring an action to enforce the bill’s requirements; and
- Deems violations to be Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violations.

The Act’s consumer data privacy requirements generally apply to individuals (1) conducting business in Connecticut or producing products or services targeted to Connecticut residents and (2) controlling or processing personal data above specified consumer thresholds. The Act exempts from its requirements (1) various entities, including state and local governments, nonprofits, and higher education institutions, and (2) specified information and data, including certain health records, identifiable private information for human research, certain credit-related information, and certain information collected under specified federal laws.

The Act also establishes a task force to, among other things, study Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-adjacent data and other topics on data privacy and make recommendations to the General Law Committee by January 1, 2023.

Details are included in respective sections of the [OLR Bill Analysis](#).

[Public Act 22-26](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING COURT OPERATIONS AND THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE RECEIVERSHIP ACT.

Sections 53-56 increase certain fees currently payable to officers and people serving process (e.g. state marshals) or performing other duties for state and municipal officers, the Judicial Department, the Division of Criminal Justice, and others. They also set a new mileage reimbursement rate for in-hand service of process, including those for civil orders of protection and set new rates for actions in cases involving evictions and foreclosure ejections. Details are included in the respective sections of the [OLR Bill Analysis](#). *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Section 57 adds state marshals to the list of certain individuals who may submit a written request and furnish their business address to the Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner, in which

case only their business address may be disclosed or made available for public inspection, to the extent authorized by law. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Section 58 prohibits any public agency from disclosing, under the Freedom of Information Act, from its personnel, medical, or similar files, the residential address of state marshals appointed by the State Marshal Commission. *Effective July 1, 2022.*

Public Act 22-109 – AN ACT REQUIRING THE ONLINE POSTING OF MEETING NOTICES OF STATE PUBLIC AGENCIES.

This Act requires state public agencies to post a schedule of their regular meetings for that year on the Secretary of the State’s website. Existing law, unchanged by the Act, requires an agency to file the schedule with the secretary by January 31st and post it on the agency’s website. The Act also requires the Secretary of the State to post notice of special meetings filed with the secretary on the Secretary of the State’s website. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Public Act 22-112 – AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH PROBATE COURT ORDERS.

Section 1 requires each state agency that is a party to a probate court proceeding to recognize and apply any probate court order, denial, or decree issued on or after October 1, 2022. This applies (1) to the extent allowed by federal law and (2) as long as the probate court has the statutory jurisdiction to issue the order, denial, or decree. *Effective October 1, 2022.*

Special Act 22-1 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Section 1 allowed the Governor to extend certain COVID-19 related Executive Orders through April 15, 2022. *Effective from passage.*

Special Act 22-3 – AN ACT EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDERS.

This Act amended Special Act 22-1 by extending certain provisions of Executive Order Numbers 7P, 12D, 13C, and 13E through June 30 2022. *Effective from passage.*

SEE ALSO Public Act 22-42 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING CHILDREN (Section 4 – Human Resources).

Section 9 – Conveyance Acts

[Special Act 22-17](#) – AN ACT AMENDING A CONVEYANCE OF STATE LAND TO THE TOWN OF HAMDEN.

The Act extends a sale deadline from a 2019 conveyance until June 2023. The underlying provision involves the conveyance of a parcel of land located in Hamden for the sum of one million seven hundred eight thousand three hundred dollars, plus administrative costs. *Effective from passage.*

[Special Act 22-19](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE LAND IN THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE FOR A SCHOOL BUS DEPOT.

This Act conveys a parcel of land in Cheshire for a school bus depot. *Effective from passage.*

[Special Act 22-21](#) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE LAND IN THE CITY OF TORRINGTON.

This Act conveys a parcel of land in Torrington for municipal purposes. *Effective from passage.*