



Department of Administrative Services

2024 Legislative Report

This report summarizes the legislation passed during the 2024 Legislative Session that relates to DAS and its Divisions. Acts that apply to specific DAS business units are summarized in their respective sections, organized by public act number followed by special acts.

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 when 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,
- Each Public Act number listed herein contains a hyperlink to the full text of the Public Act on the Connecticut General Assembly website; and
- The final section of this report lists Public Acts affecting DAS by effective date.

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Section 1 – Acts Affecting Real Estate & Construction Services

Public Act No. 24-18

AN ACT ALIGNING STATE LAW WITH FEDERAL LAW CONCERNING SERVICE ANIMALS

Sections 11 and 12 PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

Effective July 1, 2024

The act broadens the law covering service animals on public transportation and in places of public accommodation. Under current law, any blind, deaf, or mobility-impaired person or any person training a dog may travel on public transportation (e.g., trains), enter places of public accommodation (e.g., restaurants) with their guide or assistance dog or dog in training and keep the dog with them at no extra charge, as long as the dog is in the person's direct custody and wears a harness or orange-colored leash and collar. Current law also prohibits extra fees for people with guide or assistance dogs unless the fee applies to all guests. Dog owners are liable for any damages the dog does to the premises or facilities. Additionally, anyone who intentionally interferes with a blind, deaf, or mobility-impaired person's use of a guide dog or assistance dog or who denies their rights is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

The act applies these provisions to anyone with an intellectual, physical, mental, or learning disability and to service animals (as defined in federal law) in the owner's custody and control, rather than to guide dogs and assistance dogs. The provisions also apply to service animals in training. The act eliminates requirements that (1) animals wear a harness or an orange-colored leash and (2) animals in training be identified through tags, tattoos, bandanas, coats, leashes, or collars.

Current law similarly makes it a discriminatory practice to deny a blind, deaf, or mobility-impaired person accompanied by a guide dog, assistance dog, or dog in training full and equal access to any place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement. Under state law, this applies to any establishment that caters or offers its services, facilities, or goods to the general public, including any commercial property or building lot where a commercial building will be constructed or offered for sale or rent.

The act expands this provision to apply to people with intellectual, physical, mental, or learning disabilities and their service animals and individuals training service animals. The act also makes it a discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement to refuse entry to a person with a disability who is accompanied by a service animal.

The act removes a provision making it a discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement to fail or refuse to post a notice that blind, deaf, or mobility-impaired people with their guide dog wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar may enter the facilities.

The act allows staff of a place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement, when it is not obvious what service an animal provides, to ask a service animal's owner or keeper (1) whether the animal is a service animal required because of a disability and (2) what work or task the animal has been trained to do. Under the act, provisions about discriminatory practices do not preclude a business owner's ability to recover for damage caused to a person or property by a service animal.

Public Act No. 24-71

**AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
AND BATTERY-CHARGED SECURITY FENCES**

Effective upon passage

This act prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, order, or regulation that:

1. requires a permit or fee to install or use a battery-charged security fence, other than an alarm system permit;
2. imposes installation or operational requirements for these fences that are inconsistent from the act's requirements; or
3. prohibits the installation or use of these fences.

Additionally, the act increases the Codes and Standards Committee membership from 21 to 23 members, adding two new members with expertise in multi-family residential construction and residential remodeling.

Under current law, two committee members must be builders or construction superintendents, with one having expertise in residential construction and the other in nonresidential construction. The act increases this to four members who must be builders, remodelers, or construction superintendents. It requires one each to have expertise in residential remodeling, commercial construction, single-family detached residential construction, and multifamily residential construction.

Public Act No. 24-81

**AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT
FUNDS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT, HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION AND THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025**

Section 89 CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT REVIEW

Effective upon passage

Under existing law, the Connecticut Port Authority must submit a quarterly report to the Transportation Committee on the status of current and pending contracts, small harbor projects, and the State Pier project in New London. The act eliminates the requirement that DAS and OPM review and comment on the report before it is submitted to the committee.

Public Act No. 24-93

**AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS AND ASSORTED REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION
STATUTES**

**Section 18 CONFORMANCE OF SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS TO PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL
DESIGN**

Effective July 1, 2024

Requires school boards to conform the design of any school playground designed on or after July 1, 2025, to the principles of universal design.

Public Act No. 24-136

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND TRANSFERRING VARIOUS FUNCTIONS TO A DIVISION OF FIRE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, REVISING THE POWERS AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP

Section 2 COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEMBERSHIP

Effective from Passage

On June 30, 2025, the act ends the term of any Commission on Fire Prevention and Control member appointed by that date and makes several changes to the commission's membership beginning July 1, 2025. Generally, it increases the commission's size from 14 voting members to 18 voting members and three nonvoting members. It also changes its composition from 12 gubernatorial appointees and two ex-officio, voting members to 14 gubernatorial appointees, four legislative appointees, and three ex-officio, non-voting members. It additionally requires members of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Inc.'s education committee to serve as a commission subcommittee on matters relating to fire schools.

Under current law, the commission consists of the state fire marshal and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) president (or their respective designees) and 12 members appointed by the governor, representing six specified entities. The act retains the fire marshal on the commission but eliminates his authority to vote or assign a designee and removes the CSCU president. The act changes the governor's current appointments by (1) requiring one of the two members from the Connecticut State Firefighters Association be the chairperson of the association's education committee and (2) reducing the number of Connecticut Conference of Municipalities appointees from two to one. It adds three gubernatorial appointments, specifically two members of the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs' Association and one representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns.

Beyond these changes, the act adds four new voting members as follows:

1. one representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee's House chairperson;
2. one representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee's Senate chairperson;
3. one member of the Connecticut Fire Equipment Mechanics Association, appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee's House ranking member; and
4. one representative of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee's Senate ranking member.

The act also adds the following two officials (or their designees) as nonvoting members: the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Forestry Division's forest protection supervisor and the DESPP State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit's commanding officer.

By law, appointed members are appointed to three-year terms; the act allows members to continue to serve until a successor is appointed and requires any vacancy to be filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term. As under current law for the governor's appointments, the act requires each organization to be represented on the commission to submit a list of nominees to the appropriate appointing authority annually by July 15.

As under existing law, appointees must be qualified, by experience or education, in the fields of fire protection, fire prevention, fire suppression, firefighting, and related fields.

The act sunsets, on June 30, 2025, the current commission leadership process under which it elects from its membership a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary who must serve a one-year term starting on October 1 of the year in which they are elected. The act requires their terms to expire on June 30, 2025, and expressly states that nothing in the act may prevent their reelection. Beginning July 1, 2025, the act requires the governor to appoint the commission's chairperson from its membership, and the commission must elect from its membership a vice chairperson and secretary, who must all serve one-year terms. As with current leadership, nothing in the act prevents them from being reelected.

Section 3 and 4 COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL POWERS AND DUTIES
Effective July 1, 2025

The act makes several changes to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control's powers and duties. The act specifically requires the commission to set standards for fire service training and education programs, rather than to do so on a voluntary basis.

The act further requires the commission do the following:

1. advise the Division of Fire Services Administration on the management of the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan;
2. implement the recommendations of the DESPP study on issues facing fire services in the state that was authorized by the 2023 budget implementer; and
3. make recommendations on the funding needed for operating, maintaining, and making capital improvements to the state fire school and regional fire schools as part of the existing annual report it must submit to the governor, legislature, and DESPP commissioner.

The act requires the commission to submit this annual report to the Public Safety and Security Committee, rather than the Legislative Management Committee as current law requires.

The act eliminates the commission's authority to appoint clerical and other assistants it deems necessary to carry out the Office of State Fire Administration's functions.

Section 10 WORKING GROUP
Effective from passage

The act creates a working group to make recommendations on the structure and operations of the DAS Office of the State Fire Marshal and Office of Education and Data Management to effectively administer code development, code enforcement, fire prevention, and fire investigation functions. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2025. It terminates on the date it submits the report, or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

The working group consists of the following members:

1. the Public Safety and Security Committee’s chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and ranking members (or their designees);
2. the DESPP and DAS commissioners (or their designees);
3. the head of the DAS Office of Education and Data Management; and
4. a representative of the Connecticut State Fire Marshals Association, who must be appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee’s chairpersons.

All initial appointments to the working group must be made by July 1, 2024. The appointing authority must fill any vacancies.

Under the act, the working group must select a chairperson from among its members. The chairperson must schedule the group’s first meeting, which must be held by August 1, 2024. The Public Safety and Security Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the working group’s administrative staff.

[Public Act No. 24-151](#)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO STATE AND MUNICIPAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

Section 2 NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE AGENCY PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Effective July 1, 2024

The act authorizes new general obligation (GO) bonds for FY 25 for the state projects, grant programs, and other programs listed in the table below. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years, including:

Section	Agency	Project	Amount
2(b)(1)	Department of Administrative Services	Reimbursement for environmental remediation at the former Long Lane School in Middletown	\$14,100,000
2(b)(2)	Department of Administrative Services	Renovate and improve an opportunity center	\$1,000,000

Sections 115 MIRA TIPPING FEE STABILIZATION

Effective from passage

PA 23-170 created the quasi-public Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) Dissolution Authority as a successor to MIRA and tasked it with things such as winding down MIRA’s operations and activities. The act specified that MIRA’s funds were not surplus revenues and required them to be used to support the authority’s properties, systems, and facilities.

The act allows, through the end of FY 26, up to \$6 million of the authority’s funds spent for tipping fee (i.e., cost of waste disposal) stabilization to be reimbursed through state bonding. The act caps the total

issuance of state bonds for MIRA funds at \$13.5 million. It also prohibits using any MIRA funds for tipping fee stabilization beginning in FY 27.

Sections 116 & 117 STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE AMENDMENTS
Effective upon passage

The act requires the next adopted version of the State Building Code and the Fire Safety Code to include amendments that (1) allow additional residential homes to be served by a single exit stairway and (2) encourage construction of safe three- and four-unit residential buildings under similar requirements for certain one- and two-unit residential buildings.

The amendments must allow additional residential occupancies to be served safely by a single exit stairway, in such a way as to:

1. be consistent with safe occupancy and egress;
2. consider the experience of Seattle, New York City, and Honolulu in implementing similar provisions;
3. apply to municipalities in which the fire service is sufficient to maintain safe occupancy and egress under the additional occupancies, if appropriate;
4. promote the inclusion of units with three or more bedrooms in building designs to promote construction of family-sized units, especially on smaller lots; and
5. allow additional stories above grade plane to be served by a single exit stairway in buildings with automatic sprinkler systems, under conditions to ensure safe occupancy and egress, which includes additional levels of fire and smoke separation and any needed features to allow firefighters to ascend a stair as occupants descend.

The amendments must also encourage construction of safe three- and four-unit residential buildings, which must:

1. be consistent with safe occupancy and egress, and
2. include three- and four-unit residential buildings in the International Residential Code portion of the State Building Code, or otherwise provide for requirements for these buildings in the International Building Code portion of the State Building Code similar to those for one- and two-unit residential buildings in the same portion of the code, under conditions that ensure safe occupancy and egress.

The act respectively requires (1) the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to jointly, with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner's approval, include these amendments in the next update to the State Building Code and (2) the state fire marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee to include the amendments in the next update to the Fire Safety Code.

Additionally, the act requires the state building inspector, the Codes and Standards Committee, and DAS commissioner, when adopting State Building Code amendments, to consider that the state's housing

shortage compromises the safety of residents who cannot afford a safe home. The amendments must also encourage producing buildings that include safe housing that can be built at a reasonable cost.

Special Act No. 24-19

AN ACT REPEALING THE PRIOR CONVEYANCE OF AND RECONVEYING A PARCEL OF STATE LAND IN THE TOWN OF WILTON

The act requires the DOT to convey a parcel of land in the Town of Wilton to Hoffman Properties, LLC.

Section 2 – Acts Affecting Human Resources; and Equal Employment Opportunity

Public Act No. 24-18

AN ACT ALIGNING STATE LAW WITH FEDERAL LAW CONCERNING SERVICE ANIMALS

Section 1 USING SICK TIME FOR SERVICE ANIMAL TRAINING STATE AND QUASI-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Effective July 1, 2024

Current law allows permanent, full-time state employees and quasi-public agency employees who are blind or physically disabled to use accumulated paid sick leave to take guide dogs or assistance dogs to qualifying training. The act instead allows employees to use the sick time to train service animals, as defined in federal law, rather than guide dogs or assistance dogs, and it increases the amount of time employees may use from 15 to 20 days. The act broadens eligibility for this benefit to employees who have a disability, including physical, intellectual, mental, or learning disabilities as defined in state law.

Under the act, the training must be done by an organization that (1) trains service animals, rather than a guide dog or assistance dog association; and (2) belongs to a professional association of service animal schools. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the benefit is available to employees who have been employed for at least 12 consecutive months, and employers may require up to seven days' advance notice and reasonable documentation.

Public Act No. 24-30

AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS

Effective from passage

This act enters Connecticut into the Social Work Licensure Compact. The compact went into effect on April 12, 2024, when it was enacted in seven states. The compact creates a process for social workers to obtain a multistate license, allowing them to practice in any member state (including by telehealth). Member states must grant a multistate license in one of three categories (clinical, master's, or bachelor's) to social workers who meet the compact's eligibility requirements. The Social Work Licensure Compact Commission administers the compact, and Connecticut joins the commission under the act.

Among other provisions, the compact:

1. sets eligibility criteria for states to join the compact and for social workers to practice under it,
2. addresses several matters related to disciplinary actions for licensees practicing under the compact,
3. allows the commission to levy an annual assessment on member states and fees on multistate licensees to cover its operational costs,
4. only allows amendments to the compact to take effect if all member states adopt them into law, and
5. has a process for states to withdraw from it.

Additionally, under the act, the public health commissioner must require anyone applying for social worker licensure to submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (§ 2). This corresponds to a compact requirement.

Public Act No. 24-44

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER

Effective July 1, 2024

This act makes several changes in the laws governing claims against the state and the Office of the Claims Commissioner (“the office”). Principally, it:

1. reinstates the \$50,000 minimum threshold for claimants seeking legislative review of the office’s decision on certain claims, and requires all claimants seeking legislative review to submit a summary, of no more than two pages, of the basis for their request;
2. renames the “temporary” deputies within the office as “special” deputies and removes the current limitation on their service on or after March 1, 2026;
3. removes the 90-day post-hearing deadline for the office to issue decisions on claims, instead requiring that it make all reasonable efforts to do so within this period, and sets a limit on the duration of extensions that the legislature may grant the office;
4. makes changes to the required information in claim notices;
5. specifically requires the claims commissioner to work full-time in the position (§ 2); and
6. adds claims for \$50,000 or less to the list of claims that are privileged for hearing assignment (the existing list includes, among others, claims by people ages 65 or older) (§ 5).

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes, such as specifying that certain provisions in law apply to the deputy claims commissioner and special deputies, not just the claims commissioner.

Public Act No. 24-81

AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT, HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Section 78 VACATION AND PERSONAL DAYS DURING WORKING TEST PERIODS

Effective January 1, 2025

Existing law gives full-time permanent state employees 21 paid vacation days annually once they have worked at least one full calendar year (which, in practice, accrue incrementally throughout the year) and three paid personal days each calendar year (which are granted all at once). The act gives this same paid time off to these employees during their initial working test period. For those that begin working on or

after July 1, it requires the amount of personal days to be prorated during their first calendar year of employment. The proration must be based on the number of full calendar months remaining the year after the employee began employment, divided by six.

The act requires the administrative services commissioner, by June 30, 2025, to adopt or amend regulations to implement these provisions on vacation and personal days during employees' initial working test periods. Before adopting the regulations, and by January 1, 2025, she must also adopt policies and procedures to implement them, which have the force and effect of law. The act requires the commissioner to post the policies and procedures on the department's website and submit them to the secretary of the state to post on the eRegulations System at least 15 days before their effective date. The policies and procedures stop being effective once they are adopted as a final regulation.

Section 98 EMS REGIONAL COORDINATOR POSITIONS TO CLASSIFIED SERVICE

Effective from passage

The act requires the DAS commissioner to transition the regional emergency medical services (EMS) coordinator and assistant regional EMS coordinator positions and incumbents into the classified service. To the extent these employees are performing jobs that would normally be within a current executive branch bargaining unit, the act requires (1) the jobs to be added to the bargaining unit's descriptions and (2) employees in the jobs to be deemed part of the bargaining unit. The DAS commissioner must transition these employees beginning June 30, 2024, and do so in consultation with the Department of Public Health commissioner.

Public Act No. 24-83

AN ACT ADOPTING THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

Effective from passage

This act enters Connecticut into the Nurse Licensure Compact from October 1, 2025, until January 1, 2028. The compact creates a process for registered nurses (RNs) or licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPNs/VNs) to get a multistate license, allowing them to practice in any compact party state (including by telehealth). The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators administers the compact, and Connecticut joins the commission under the act.

Among various other provisions, the compact:

1. sets eligibility criteria for nurses to practice under the compact;
2. addresses several matters related to disciplinary actions for nurses practicing under it;
3. allows the commission to levy an annual assessment on party states to cover its operations costs;
4. only allows compact amendments to take effect if all party states adopt them into law; and
5. has a process for states to withdraw from it.

Additionally, under the act, the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner must require anyone applying to the department for a multistate nursing license from October 1, 2025, until January 1, 2028, to

submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (§ 2). This corresponds to a compact requirement.

The act also:

1. specifies that its compact provisions do not prohibit a home state licensing board, if asked by someone with a multistate license, from converting that license into a single-state license valid only in the home state (§ 3);
2. requires DPH, from October 1, 2025, until January 1, 2028, to transfer \$2 from each RN or LPN license renewal fee to the professional assistance program for health professions (currently, the Health Assistance InterVention Education Network (HAVEN) in addition to the transfers already required (see BACKGROUND) (§ 4); and
3. requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary or his designee, in consultation with the DPH commissioner and a HAVEN representative, to convene a working group to evaluate the compact's implementation (§ 5).

Public Act No. 24-96

**AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY LEAVE PROVISIONS UNDER THE
STATE PERSONNEL ACT**

Effective July 1, 2024

This act updates obsolete military terminology in the State Personnel Act. It also revises the maximum paid leave of absence that full-time, permanent state employees who serve in the state armed forces (e.g., Connecticut National Guard) or federal reserves may take each year without using their vacation time. The act allows them to take up to 15 days (rather than three calendar weeks) per year to perform ordered military training (rather than to undergo required field training). It also makes minor, technical changes.

Section 3 – Acts Affecting DAS-BITS

Public Act No. 24-19

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS

Section 20 CYBERSECURITY DISRUPTION AUDITS

Effective from passage

The act requires hospitals, except for those operated exclusively by the state, to take certain actions annually, starting by January 1, 2025, in relation to their plans and processes to respond to a cybersecurity disruption of their operations. Specifically, they must:

1. submit their plans and processes to an audit (see below) to determine their adequacy and any necessary improvements; and
2. on a confidential basis, make available for inspection to DPH, the DAS, and DESPP’s Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) information on whether the audit determined their plans and processes to be adequate and the steps they are taking to implement any recommended improvements.

The audit must be done by an independent, certified cybersecurity auditor or expert credentialed by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association or a similar credentialing entity.

Under the act, any recipient of the information submitted or made available under these provisions must keep the maximum level of confidentiality allowed under law and not disclose it except as expressly required by law. The information is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Public Act No. 24-151

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO STATE AND MUNICIPAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

Section 143 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOL PILOT PROGRAM

Effective July 1, 2024

For FY 25, the act requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to administer an artificial intelligence (AI) tool pilot program to award school boards with grants to help them implement an existing artificial intelligence tool for classroom instruction and student learning.

The commissioner will select the AI tool and five school boards to participate in the grant. The school boards selected must include at least one rural, one suburban, and one urban district and reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the state.

The commissioner and each participating board of education must jointly select the grade level in which the AI tool will be used, provided it is done in a grade level between grades seven to 12, inclusive.

The act requires the tool must comply with laws governing the use of AI, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the Connecticut student data privacy law, and other laws protecting student data and privacy.

Under the act, AI means any technology, including machine learning that uses data to train an algorithm or predictive model to help a computer system or service autonomously perform any task, including visual perception, language processing, or speech recognition, that is normally associated with human intelligence or perception.

Section 144 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

Effective July 1, 2024

The act requires SDE, for FY 25, to provide professional development for educators working for the school boards participating in the AI tool pilot program.

The professional development must include:

1. training on how to use the pilot program's AI tool properly and safely;
2. how the tool can benefit (a) educators in classroom instruction, and (b) students in learning, academic achievement, and workforce development; and
3. the laws governing the use of AI, FERPA, the Connecticut student data privacy law, and other laws protecting student data and privacy.

Section 145 MODEL DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP CURRICULUM

Effective July 1, 2024

The act requires SDE, in collaboration with the Commission for Educational Technology, to develop a model digital citizenship curriculum for grades kindergarten to 12, inclusive, that school boards can use.

The curriculum must be completed by January 1, 2025 and (1) be rigorous, age-appropriate, and aligned with State Board of Education-approved curriculum guidelines; (2) include content and instruction to develop digital citizenship skills and dispositions within online spaces with the media and technology across all content areas to cultivate positive student relationships and school climate; and (3) include topics aligned with the model curriculum developed by SDE on civics and citizenship, including instruction in digital citizenship and media literacy.

The act permits SDE to accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations, to help implement the model digital citizenship curriculum the act creates.

Section 4 – Acts Affecting Business Office

Public Act No. 24-74

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCES

Section 6 SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY WORKING GROUP

Effective from passage

The act extends the deadline, from July 1, 2024, to January 1, 2031, for the school indoor air quality working group to submit its final report to the governor and the Education, Labor and Public Employees, and Public Health committees. It also requires annual progress reports from the working group, with the first due by January 1, 2025, until January 1, 2030. The final report is due January 1, 2031, and the group terminates on July 1, 2030, or when it submits its final report, whichever is later.

Additional Members and Additional Qualifiers

The act adds two members to the current 23-member group. Under the act, the Senate majority leader, who currently appoints two members, gets a third appointment who must be a school building official with experience in operations and finance, infrastructure renewal, and project management.

The House majority leader, who currently has two appointments, gets a third appointment who must be a representative of the Capitol Region Council of Governments.

The act replaces a representative of the Associated Sheet Metal and Roofing Contractors of Connecticut with a representative of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association, which is one of the three Senate president pro tempore appointments. It also specifies that the House minority leader's industrial hygienist appointment must be from the UConn Health Center.

Group Charge

Under existing law, the group must make recommendations to the legislature on a range of issues related to school indoor air quality, including (1) criteria for rating the priority of HVAC repair and remediation needs, (2) optimal HVAC performance benchmarks to minimize the spread of infectious disease, and (3) best practices for the proper maintenance of HVAC systems.

The act additionally requires the group to recommend best practice and guidance for:

1. conducting HVAC system uniform inspections and evaluations, including (a) the addition of appropriate professionals to do this work, (b) which professionals may perform certain portions of the uniform inspection and evaluation, and (c) the timing and manner of the inspections, and
2. procuring these services.

The act also requires the group to make recommendations on a model request for proposals that school boards can use when procuring inspection and evaluation services.

Section 7 HVAC INSPECTION AND EVALUATION

Effective July 1, 2024

The act extends, from January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2031, the deadline for school boards to complete a uniform inspection and evaluation of their school buildings’ HVAC systems required by law (see Background — School HVAC Inspections). Beginning July 1, 2026, school boards must conduct the inspection and evaluation in at least 20% of their schools each year until all schools in the district are inspected. It also requires that each school building be inspected again every five years.

Current law requires school boards to complete the uniform HVAC system inspection and evaluation in each school before January 1, 2025, and then every five years.

Like current law, the act allows DAS to grant a waiver from the inspection requirement, upon a school board’s request, if the department finds (1) there is an insufficient number of certified testing, adjusting, and balancing technicians; industrial hygienists certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing; or mechanical engineers to perform the inspections and evaluations or (2) the board has scheduled the inspection for a date after the inspection deadline. Specifically, the act allows DAS to grant a waiver of up to one year from the five-year deadline and the requirement to inspect at least 20% of a district’s schools each year. Current law allows a one-year waiver and requires that the inspection be scheduled for after January 1, 2025.

Section 8 STATE GRANTS FOR HVAC INSPECTIONS

Effective July 1, 2024

Starting July 1, 2024, current law prohibits the DAS commissioner from awarding grants for HVAC or indoor air quality improvements to school districts that have not certified compliance with the law’s inspection and evaluation requirements. The act delays the start of this prohibition to July 1, 2026. Presumably, if a district applies during the 2026 to 2031 time period, it will have to certify that it met the threshold percentage of inspecting at least 20% of its schools each year (see above).

The law allows school boards or regional educational service centers (RESC) to apply for the grants to reimburse costs for projects to install, replace, or upgrade HVAC systems or related improvements. The school board may receive a reimbursement grant for 20%-80% of its eligible expenses, based on its town ranking among all Connecticut towns using property wealth as a measure. As with the school construction grant program, less wealthy towns receive a higher reimbursement rate. RESCs are reimbursed under a similar method that reflects the wealth of the towns served by the RESC.

Public Act No. 24-81

AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT, HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Section 1 ARPA ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENTS AND BUDGET PROVISIONS

Effective from passage

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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[Support School Air Quality]		[75,000,000]		
Interagency Portal			50,000	
[Capital Area Heating System Study]			[2,000,000]	

Section 25 to 30 ASSETS OF STATE HUMANE INSTITUTION RESIDENTS
Effective July 1, 2024

Beginning July 1, 2024, this act prohibits the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner from recovering from a deceased person’s estate charges for the aid, care, or treatment the person received in a state humane institution except in the following circumstances:

1. recovery of the charges is required under federal law or
2. if the acting rate for care in the institution was set using fraudulent information, DAS may recover the difference between the amount acted and paid and the amount that would have been acted if not for fraud.

The act requires the DAS commissioner to release any liens filed for recovery of charges prohibited under the act. However, it does not authorize the commissioner to return to any person or estate payments recovered before July 1, 2024, for charges related to care in a state humane institution.

The act also makes related technical and conforming changes.

Section 31 to 33 COST OF INCARCERATION
Effective July 1, 2024

The law requires the DOC commissioner to charge an inmate for the cost of his or her incarceration. The act makes the following changes to the mechanisms through which the commissioner may recover the incarceration costs under current law:

1. terminates the state’s claims for incarceration costs that it incurred during time the inmate was serving for crimes that were later erased from his or her criminal record (as described below) and specifies that these inmates are not entitled to reimbursement for state claims paid before July 1, 2024;
2. exempts up to \$50,000 from the lien the state may place on an inmate’s inheritance, except in cases where the inmate was incarcerated for a capitol felony, murder with special circumstances; felony murder, 1st or 2nd degree sexual assault, 1st degree aggravated sexual assault, or 1st degree aggravated sexual assault of a minor; and
3. specifies that any property the probate court deems an asset must be used to pay the state’s claim against the estate of a former inmate who dies within 20 years after his or her release.

By law, record erasure eligibility is generally as follows: (1) misdemeanors are subject to erasure seven years after the person’s most recent conviction and (2) felonies are subject to erasure 10 years after the most recent conviction. The periods are calculated from the date the court entered the person’s most recent conviction for any crime (with an exception for certain drug possession crimes). These erasure provisions generally apply to (1) classified or unclassified misdemeanors, (2) class D or E felonies, and (3) unclassified felonies with up to five-year prison terms. Existing law, unchanged by the act, specifically

makes several of these crimes ineligible for this erasure (e.g., family violence crimes and nonviolent or violent sexual offenses requiring sex offender registration).

Section 233 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND

Effective from passage

The following sums are appropriated from the GENERAL FUND to DAS for the following purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

GENERAL FUND	2023-2024
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Personal Services	3,300,000
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	4,100,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers Comp Claims – UConn	600,000
Workers Comp Claims – DOC	5,700,000

Section 234 REDUCTIONS TO DAS APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND

Effective from passage

The amounts appropriated to DAS in section 1 of public act 23-204, are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

GENERAL FUND	2023-2024
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Other Expenses	6,550,000
Rents and Moving	650,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers' Compensation Claims	2,050,000
Workers' Comp Claims - UCHC	150,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DCF	3,500,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DMHAS	1,150,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DESPP	300,000
Workers' Comp Claims – DDS	5,300,000

Section 235 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND

Effective from passage

The following sums are appropriated from the SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND for DAS for the following purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2023-2024
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Personal Services	400,000
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	3,800,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers' Compensation Claims	1,600,000

Public Act No. 24-84

AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURES OF FINANCIAL RECORDS

Effective October 1, 2024

This act requires financial institutions to provide customer financial records to the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, or anyone deputized by her, within 20 calendar days after receiving a certificate signed by either. Current law does not impose a specific deadline, but instead generally requires anyone with information about someone's eligibility for certain state aid, care, or child enforcement services (e.g., Medicaid and child support payment collections) to disclose it when presented with a signed certificate by, among others, the social services commissioner or anyone deputized by her (CGS § 17b-137(a)).

Beyond the above deadline addition, the act also changes two banking laws to conform with this social services law. Under these laws currently, financial institutions:

- (1) are generally prohibited from disclosing a customer's financial records to anyone other than the customer or his or her agent unless, among other exceptions, the institution does so in response to a signed certificate by the administrative services or social services commissioners, and
- (2) must disclose financial records according to a signed certificate from either.

The act expressly adds references to people deputized by either commissioner as having authority to sign the certificates under these laws.

Under existing law and the act, it is a class C misdemeanor (punishable by up to three months in prison, up to a \$500 fine, or both) for (1) any financial institution officer or employee to knowingly and willfully furnish financial records in violation of the above banking laws and (2) anyone to knowingly and willfully induce or attempt to induce any financial institution officer or employee to disclose financial records in violation of the same. However, these penalty laws do not apply to the 20-day deadline established under the act.

Public Act No. 24-151

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO STATE AND MUNICIPAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

Section 2 NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE AGENCY PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Effective July 1, 2024

The act authorizes new general obligation (GO) bonds for FY 25 for the state projects, grant programs, and other programs listed in the table below. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years.

The act includes a standard provision requiring that, as a condition of bond authorizations for grants to private entities, each granting agency include repayment provisions in its grant contract in case the facility for which the grant is made ceases to be used for the grant purposes within 10 years of the grantee receiving it. The required repayment is reduced by 10% for each full year that the facility is used for the grant purpose.

Section	Agency	Project	Amount
2(b)(1)	Department of Administrative Services	Reimburse environmental remediation at the former Long Lane School in Middletown	14,100,000
2(b)(2)	Department of Administrative Services	Renovate and improve an opportunity center	\$1,000,000

Special Act No. 24-16

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR STUDENTS OF REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTERS

Effective from passage

This act establishes a 10-member task force to study workers' compensation coverage for students of regional agricultural science and technology education centers (i.e., "regional vo-ag centers") who are enrolled in (1) an approved public work-study program as defined by the commissioners of education and labor or a Connecticut Career Certification Program or (2) an internship, as defined in state law. The study must examine the current policies and practices of regional vo-ag centers regarding workers' compensation coverage for these students and potential changes to state law concerning workers' compensation coverage for them.

Under the workers' compensation law, an "employee" includes any person who has entered into or works under any contract or apprenticeship with an employer (CGS § 31-275(9)(A)). It appears that students in a work-study program, the career certification program, or a paid internship are already covered by workers' compensation.

Section 5 – Acts Affecting Procurement

Public Act No. 24-145

AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY ASSISTANCE STUDIES AND FUEL VENDOR REIMBURSEMENT

Section 1 ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FAIR COMPENSATION WORKING GROUP

Effective from passage

The act requires DSS to convene a working group to study best practices used in energy assistance programs in other states to fairly compensate deliverable fuel vendors while maintaining the maximum amount of funding to benefit recipients. The working group must report its study to the Appropriations, Energy and Technology, and Human Services committees by January 31, 2025.

The working group shall include the following members:

1. a member of a deliverable fuel vendor organization;
2. a representative from a community action agency that contracts with DSS to administer LIHEAP-funded energy assistance;
3. a Department of Administrative Services representative;
4. a person representing CEAP recipients' interests and financial concerns; and
5. an Office of Consumer Counsel representative.

Section 2 LIHEAP COMMON APPLICATION AND BENEFITS PORTAL STUDY

Effective July 1, 2024

The act requires DSS, in consultation with the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board, to study the feasibility of developing a common application and benefit portal for applicants for LIHEAP and Operation Fuel benefits. DSS must report its findings, including the portals costs and benefits, to the Energy and Technology and Human Services committees by July 1, 2025.

Section 3 PRICING STANDARDS FOR THE CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Effective from passage

The act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to set new pricing standards for deliverable fuel for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), starting with the program period beginning November 1, 2025, in order to ensure an adequate supply of vendors for the program. The standards must fairly compensate fuel vendors for costs incurred in fuel purchase and delivery while also maintaining the maximum funding amount for benefit recipients. It also requires the commissioner to include these pricing standards in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program's (LIHEAP) annual report starting August 1, 2025. (LIHEAP is the federal block grant that funds CEAP.)

Section 6 – Acts Affecting Legal & Legislative

Public Act No. 24-56

AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDS FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Effective July 1, 2024

This act expands two exemptions from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that principally apply to certain law enforcement agency records. First, existing law exempts from disclosure under FOIA law enforcement agency records created in detecting or investigating crime that are not otherwise available to the public when disclosure would not be in the public interest because it would reveal, among other things, (1) the identity of certain informants or witnesses or (2) signed witness statements. The act expands this exemption to also include (1) the identity of mandated reporters not otherwise known and (2) sworn witness statements.

The act also expands a FOIA exemption for certain images where disclosure could constitute an invasion of personal privacy. Under current law, this exemption applies only to certain images of homicide victims. Under the act, the expanded exemption applies to a photograph, film, video, digital image, or other visual image created by a law enforcement or other government agency depicting a domestic or sexual abuse victim, homicide or suicide victim, or deceased victim of an accident. The exemption applies if disclosure could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the victim's or surviving family members' personal privacy. Under existing law, a similar confidentiality requirement applies to body or dashboard camera recordings of an incident scene involving these victims (CGS § 29-6d(g)(2)(B)).

The act also exempts from disclosure a photograph, film, video, digital image, or other image created by a law enforcement or other government agency of a minor unless disclosure is required by the state's body and dashboard camera law. By law, body and dashboard camera recordings of minors must be disclosed if:

1. the minor and his or her parent or guardian consent to disclosure;
2. the minor or his or her parent or guardian alleges police misconduct, and the person representing the accused officer in an investigation requests disclosure solely to prepare a defense; or
3. a person is charged with a crime and his or her counsel requests disclosure solely to aid in the person's defense, provided the record's discovery as evidence is otherwise allowed (CGS § 29- 6d(g)(2)(C)).

Public Act No. 24-81

AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT, HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Section 99 INFORMATION REQUESTS TO ORIGINATING AGENCIES

Effective from passage

The act requires anyone requesting data, records, or files that were shared between state agencies under a statute, regulation, data sharing agreement, memorandum of agreement or understanding, or court order,

including requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), to direct the request to the state agency where the information originated. For this provision, a “state agency” is any office; department; board; council; commission; institution; constituent unit of the state system of higher education; technical education and career school; or other agency in the state’s executive, legislative, or judicial branch.

Under the act and regardless of FOIA, when a state agency receives one of these requests but is not the originating agency, it must (1) promptly refer the request to the state agency where the data, records, or files originated and (2) notify the requestor that the request has been referred to the originating agency. The notification must be in writing and include the originating agency’s name, address, and phone number, and the date the referral was made.

Lastly, the act specifies that this provision does not (1) require disclosure of any data, records, or files if the disclosure would not have been required had the request been made directly to the originating agency or (2) apply to certain requests for data in the criminal justice information system available to the public under FOIA (by law, this data must be obtained from the originating agency).

Public Act No. 24-128

AN ACT DEFINING "DEPENDENT CHILD" FOR PURPOSES OF THE STATE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CONCERNING THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION OVER NONRESIDENTS BY THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

Section 1 DEFINITION OF DEPENDANT CHILD

Effective October 1, 2024

This act defines a “dependent child” in the state’s Code of Ethics for Public Officials as a covered official’s son, daughter, or stepchild who qualifies as the official’s dependent child under federal tax law. Generally, to qualify as a dependent child under federal tax law, a child must (1) share a principal residence with the official; (2) be under age 19 or 24 if a student; (3) have provided for less than half of their own support for the year; and (4) not have filed a joint return with their spouse.

Although the Code of Ethics currently does not define a “dependent child,” under it public officials have a substantial conflict of interest if their dependent child will get a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary loss because of their official activity (unless it accrues to the child as a member of a profession, occupation, or group to no greater extent than other members of that profession, occupation, or group) (CGS § 1-85). Officials must also include certain information about their dependent children in the statements of financial interest they must file (CGS § 1-83).

Section 2 LIMITATION ON OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS LONG-ARM JURISDICTION

Effective from passage

The act also specifies that the Office of State Ethics’ (OSE) long-arm jurisdiction over out-of-state residents or their agents is limited to those who (1) pay money or give anything of value to a public official or state employee to obtain a competitive advantage, solicit non-public information, or unduly influence the award of certain state contracts or (2) are, or are seeking to become, prequalified state contractors or substantial subcontractors.

Section 7 – Acts Affecting School Construction

Public Act No. 24-151

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO STATE AND MUNICIPAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

Section 151 PRIORITY LIST GRANT COMMITMENTS

Effective from passage

The act authorizes eleven school construction state grant commitments totaling \$486.4 million toward total estimated project costs of \$583.3 million. It also reauthorizes three projects that have changed substantially in scope and cost with an additional state grant commitment of \$73.9 million.

(1) Estimated Grant Commitments.

School District School Project Number	Estimated Project Costs	Estimated Grant
BRISTOL Edgewood Pre-K Academy 24DASY017090RNV0624	\$16,803,560	\$11,701,999
LEARN New Early Childhood School at 51 Daniels Avenue 24DASY245090APF0624	\$95,736,656	\$90,949,823
STAMFORD South School - Upper 24DASY135283N0624	\$85,871,466	\$51,522,880
STAMFORD South School – Lower 24DASY135284N0624	\$72,463,942	\$43,478,365
BRISTOL Bristol Central High School Culinary Arts 24DASY017091A0624	\$1,426,955	\$993,731
BRISTOL Bristol Eastern High School Culinary Arts 24DASY017092A0624	\$1,448,285	\$1,008,586

DANBURY Danbury High School 24DASY034154A0624	\$16,500,000	\$10,429,650
HARTFORD Montessori Magnet at Batchelder 24DASY064322RNV0624	\$102,569,302	\$97,440,837
HARTFORD S.A.N.D. Elementary School 24DASY064323RNV0624	\$82,837,086	\$78,695,232
HARTFORD Maria C. Colon Sanchez Elementary School 24DASY064324RNV0624	\$96,945,196	\$92,097,936
NEWINGTON John Wallace Middle School 24DASY094112AB0624	\$10,717,573	\$8,038,180

(2) Previously Authorized Projects That Have Changed Substantially in Scope or Cost which are Seeking Reauthorization.

School District School Project Number	Authorized	Requested
HARTFORD Betances Learning Lab Magnet School 21DASY064316RNV0621		
Estimated...		
Total Project Costs	\$43,709,774	\$66,825,200
Total Grant	\$41,524,285	\$63,483,940
HARTFORD Fred D. Wish Museum School 21DASY064318RNV0621		
Estimated...		
Total Project Costs	\$49,320,000	\$67,290,900
Total Grant	\$46,854,000	\$63,926,355

HARTFORD
E. B. Kennelly School
21DASY064317RNV0621

Estimated...		
Total Project Costs	\$51,416,225	\$88,130,000
Total Grant	\$48,845,414	\$83,723,500

The following sections are effective July 1, 2024:

Sections 152 – 154 PRIORITY LIST REQUIREMENTS

The act requires that the priority list include additional information about enrollment projections, allows school boards to redirect a school building project to a public use during the grant amortization period, eliminates requirement that DAS assign categories to school building projects, modifies local authorization requirements and reasons for which DAS may disapprove an application.

Sections 155 – 156 REIMBURSEMENT RATE INCREASES FOR CERTAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROJECTS

The act increases the reimbursement rate bonus to 15 percentage points for certain elementary and early childhood projects; establishes a new 15 percentage point bonus for buildings used exclusively for early childhood care and education.

Section 157 INCLUSIVE MUNICIPALITY DESIGNATION

The act requires school boards seeking a five-percentage point reimbursement rate increase for being in an “inclusive municipality” to give DAS the housing commissioner’s written determination that the municipality qualifies for the designation.

Section 158 GRANTS TO ENDOWED ACADEMIES

The act eliminates a requirement that an endowed academy’s governing board meet specified composition requirements to be eligible for a grant.

Sections 159, 161 and 164 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The act replaces certain references to SDE or SBE in the school building project statutes with references to DAS.

Section 160 ENERGY FUNDS AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANTS

The act excludes certain energy-related funds from the state funds that must be subtracted from the total project cost when calculating a school construction grant.

Sections 162 – 163 PROJECT AUDITS

The act modifies certain audit-related and post-project completion deadlines; makes technical changes.

Section 163 CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

This section amended section 10-287 of the Connecticut General Statutes to make various changes to the contracting requirement for school construction projects. It was later repealed by Section 33 of Public Act 24-1 in the June Special Session. Section 32 of that bill restored most of the changes previously made in this section. See page 31 of this report for a summary of those changes.

Sections 165, 166, 171 and 172 TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES

The act removes references to repealed statutes.

Sections 167 SINGLE-USER TOILET AND BATHING ROOMS

The act prohibits DAS from including new construction projects on the priority list if the project plans do not provide for single-user toilet and bathing rooms that are identified as being available for use by all students and school personnel.

Section 168 SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The act requires that school building committees include the school board chair or a designee.

Sections 169 - 170 INDOOR AIR QUALITY GRANTS

The act makes endowed academies and state charter schools eligible for grants; delays, from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2026, the start of the prohibition on DAS awarding a grant to an applicant that is not compliant with the inspection requirement; requires DAS to reconsider previously rejected grant applications in FYs 25 and 26; earmarks up to \$15 million of an existing bond authorization for grants to purchase equipment and materials for constructing and installing individual classroom air purifiers.

Sections 173 - 175 RENEWABLE TARIFF FOR SOLAR IN SCHOOLS

The act requires PURA to initiate a docket by January 1, 2025, to establish a program to encourage solar facility and energy storage installation at public schools.

Section 176 SOLAR FEASIBILITY STUDY

The act generally requires school boards, before submitting a priority list application, to have a solar feasibility assessment performed for the school building that is the subject of the application.

**Sections 177 – 209 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXEMPTIONS,
WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS**
Effective from passage

The act exempts school construction projects in 25 towns and one regional school district from statutory and regulatory requirements to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher grant reimbursement percentages, or have their projects reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost; also repeals a prior project authorization.

The following projects are subject to an exempted (refer to the relevant section of Public Act 24-151 for complete details regarding each exemption):

Section 177 DANBURY: Danbury Career Academy at Cartus (Project Number 034-0153 N)

Section 178 DANBURY: Ellsworth Avenue School (roof replacement projects)

Section 179 NEW LONDON: Science/Technology Magnet High School (Project Number 095-0078 MAG/EA)

Section 180 MILFORD:

Calf Pen Meadow Elementary School (Project Number 084-0215 A)
John F. Kennedy Elementary School (Project Number 084-0210 A)
Live Oaks Elementary School (Project Number 084-0214 A)
Mathewson Elementary School (Project Number 084-0212 A)
Meadowside Elementary School (Project Number 084-0202 A)
Orange Avenue Elementary School (Project Number 084-0209 A)
Orchard Hills Elementary School (Project Number 084-0204 A)
Pumpkin Delight Elementary School (Project Number 084-0213 EA)
East Shore Middle School (Project Number 084-0208 A)
Harborside Middle School (Project Number 084-0203 A)
West Shore Middle School (Project Number 084- 0200 EA/RR)
Joseph A. Foran High School (Project Number 084-0211 A)
Jonathan Law High School (Project Number 084-0206 A)
The Academy (Project Number 084-0205 A)

Section 181 TOLLAND: Birch Grove Primary School (Project Number 142-0083 N)

Section 182 GREENWICH: Central Middle School (renovation project)

Section 183 TRUMBULL: Hillcrest Middle School (new construction project)

Section 184 DERBY:

photovoltaic project at Irving School (Project Number 037-0065 PV)
photovoltaic project at Bradley School (Project Number 037-0064 PV)
photovoltaic project at Derby Middle School (Project Number 037-0063 PV)

Section 185 NEW BRITAIN: Smith Elementary School (renovation project)

Section 186 NEW BRITAIN: Chamberlain Elementary School (Project Number 20DASY089169RNV0620)

Section 187 NEW BRITAIN: Jefferson Elementary School (renovation project)

Section 188 TORRINGTON: Torrington Middle & High School (Project Number 143-0076 N)

Section 189 ELLINGTON: Windermere Elementary School (Project Number 048-0060 RNV)

Section 190 DARIEN: Holmes Elementary School (Project Number 035-0118 RR)

Section 191 DARIEN: Hindley Elementary School (Project Number 035-0119 RR)

Section 192 DARIEN: Hindley Elementary School (Project Number 035-0121 EA)

Section 193 DARIEN: Holmes Elementary School (Project Number 035-0122 EA)

Section 194 DARIEN: Royle Elementary School (Project Number 035-0123 EA)

Section 195 ANSONIA: new construction project at the new middle school

Section 196 GOODWIN UNIVERSITY: interdistrict magnet facility and [alteration] new construction project at Goodwin University Industry 5.0 Magnet Technical High School on the East Hartford Campus authorized by Section 404 of public act 22-118, as amended by section 137 of public act 23-205

Section 197 REGIONAL DISTRICT 4: John Winthrop Middle School (alteration project)

Section 198 WINDSOR: school building project for an early learning center at the former Roger Wolcott School

Section 199 STAMFORD: Davenport Elementary School (alteration project)

Section 200 WATERBURY:

Code violation project (Project Number 151-0243 RNV/CV)

Duggan Elementary School (Project Number 151-0252 RNV/E)

Jonathan E. Reed Elementary (Project Number 151-0253 N/PS)

Carrington Elementary School (Project Number 151-0275 N)

Waterbury Career Academy (Project Number 151-0276 N/PS)

Michael F. Wallace Middle School (Project Number 151-0285 EA)

John F. Kennedy High School (Project Number 151-0288 EA)

Section 201 THOMPSON: Tourtellotte Memorial High School (Project Number 141-0022 CV/OT)

Section 202 SIMSBURY: Latimer Lane School (Project Number 128-0111 RNV)

Section 203 MIDDLETOWN: Middletown High School (new construction project)

Section 204 FARMINGTON:

Farmington High School (Project Number 052-0076 N)

Farmington High School (Project Number 052-0077 BOE)

Section 205 CTECS:

Connecticut Technical High School Facility and extension
Ella T. Grasso Technical High School (Project Number 900-0014 VT/EA)

Section 206 CTECS: H.C. Wilcox Technical High School

Section 207 ENFIELD: Nathan Hale Elementary School (Project Number 049-0126 EA)

Section 208 MANCHESTER:

Bowers Elementary School (Project Number 077-0139 RNV)
Buckley Elementary School (Project Number 177-0140 RNV)
Keeney Elementary School (Project Number 177-0141 RNV)

Section 209 SHERMAN: Sherman School (Project Number 127-0009 RNV)

Section 210 REPEALED PROVISIONS

Effective July 1, 2024

The act repeals the following obsolete school building project statutes: CGS §§ 3-76t, 10-285f, 10-285h, 10-287a, 10-287f, 10-287j and 10-292c to 10-292n.

Public Act 24-1
of the June Special Session

**AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE ASSESSMENTS FOR PROPERTY TAXATION,
INNOVATION BANKS, THE INTEREST ON CERTAIN TAX UNDERPAYMENTS, THE
ASSESSMENT ON INSURERS, SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, THE SOUTH CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY CHARTER AND CERTAIN STATE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER PROCEDURES**

Section 32 & 33 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

Effective July 1, 2024

(repeal effective upon passage)

Signed by the governor on July 1, 2024

The act makes cooperative purchasing contracts offered through a regional educational service center or a council of government a qualified bidder for most project awards; eliminates exception for site preparation and demolition to begin prior to determination of guaranteed maximum price; requires that consultant awards be made from a pool of at least three of the most responsible qualified proposers; and requires construction managers to report on ineligible costs and meet quarterly with school boards.

NOTE: This act also repeals section 163 of PA 24-151, which passed during the Regular Session but had not yet got into effect. That act included the statutory amendments listed above but also eliminated the statutory prohibition on construction managers bidding on project elements. While repealing section 163, this act reenacts all of the statutory changes described above but does not eliminate the prohibition regarding construction managers. As a result, the statutory prohibition on construction managers bidding on project element remains law, while the other changes first enacted in section 163 went into effect.

Section 8 – Acts by Effective Date

Effective Now (upon passage)

Legislation	Subject Matter	Action Required	Impacted Division
Pub. Act 24-19 § 20	Cybersecurity	ACTION: The Departments of Administrative Service and Public Health and Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security shall review hospital cybersecurity plans and processes to determine adequacy of the plans and implementation process of recommended improvements.	Bureau of Technology Solutions
Pub. Act 24-71 § 1	Codes and Standards Committee	ACTION: Commissioner shall appoint 2 additional members to the committee – one with expertise in residential remodeling and the other with expertise in commercial construction	Real Estate and Construction Services
Pub. Act 24-81 § 98	Classification of Medical Services Coordinator	ACTION: Commissioner shall transition coordinators and assistant coordinators for regional emergency services into the classified service.	Human Resources
Pub. Act 24-81 § 99	Freedom of Information Requests	ACTION: When FOI requests are made to agencies that did not originate the records, the agency must refer the request to appropriate agency and notify the requestor that the request has been referred.	Commissioner’s Office, FOI Liaisons
Pub. Act 24-136 § 10	Fire Services Administration	ACTION: Commissioner or designee shall serve on a working group to make recommendations regarding the structure of the Office of State Fire Marshal and the Office of Education and Data management	Real Estate and Construction Services
Pub. Act 24-145	Low Income Housing Energy Program	ACTION: DAS shall have a representative on a working group to study best practices utilized in other states to fairly compensate deliverable fuel vendors participating in energy assistance programs while maintaining the maximum amount of funding to benefit recipients of such programs.	Procurement
Pub. Act 24-151§ 116	Affordable Housing	ACTION: When adopting amendments to the State Building Code to encourage production of safe housing to be constructed at a reasonable cost, consideration must be given to the shortage of safe affordable housing.	Commissioner, Codes and Standards Committee and State Building Inspector

Pub. Act 24-151 § 117	Codes & Standards for Stairways	ACTION: When amending the Fire Safety Code to and the State Building Code specific consideration must be given to allow residential occupancies to be served safely by a single exit stairway.	State Fire Marshal, Codes and Standards Committee and State Building Inspector
Spec. Act 24-19	Property Conveyance	ACTION: SPRB to complete review of property conveyance in which Department of Transportation will convey land to Hoffman Properties.	State Properties Review Board
Pub. Act 24-30	Social Workers Licensure Compact	Awareness: Social workers may have multi-state and/or home state licenses which broadens the pool of social workers able to work in CT.	Human Resources
Pub. Act 24-74 § 6	School Air Quality	Awareness: Extends the deadline for the indoor air quality working group, adds members to the group, and expands the group's mission	Commissioner's Office
Pub. Act 24-81 § 1	ARPA Funds	Awareness: ARPA Funding amended to delete of "Support School Air Quality -\$75,000" from FY 23; delete "Capital Area Heating System Study - \$2,000,000" from FY 24 ; and add "Interagency Portal - \$50,000" to FY 24	Business Office
Pub. Act. 24-81 § 233-235	General Fund	Awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriation for fiscal year ending June 20, 2024: Personal Services \$3,300,000; State Insurance and Risk Mgmt. Operations \$4,100,000; Workers Comp Claims- UCONN \$600,000; Workers Comp Claims -DOC \$5,700,000 • Reduction from PA 23-204 for fiscal year ending June 20, 2024: Rents and Moving \$650,000; Other Expenses \$6,500,000. • Appropriation from Special Transportation Fund for fiscal year ending June 20, 2024: Personal Services \$400,000; State insurance and Risk Mgmt. Operations \$3,800,000; Workers' Compensation Claims \$1,600,000 	Business Office, Workers Compensation
Pub. Act 24-83	Nurse licensure Compact	Awareness: Nurses may have multi-state and/or home state licenses which broadens the pool of nurses able to work in CT.	Human Resources
Pub. Act 24-136 § 2	Fire Services Administration	Awareness: Commission on Fire Prevention shall be reconstituted.	Fire Marshal Commission

Spec. Act 24-16	Workers' Compensation Coverage for Students	Awareness: Legislative Task Force shall be established to study workers' compensation coverage for student of regional agricultural science and technology education centers	Workers Compensation Division
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Effective July 1, 2024

Legislation	Subject Matter	Action Required	Impacted Division
Pub. Act 24-74 § 8	School Air Quality	ACTION: No HVAC grants may be awarded to any applicant that has not certified compliance with inspection and evaluation after July 1, 2026	Commissioner's Office
Pub. Act 24-81 § 25-30	Collections- use of state humane institution	ACTION: DAS shall cease collections and release liens placed on estates of deceased persons for use of humane institutions unless required by federal law or deceased person had committed a billing fraud	Business Office – Collections Division
Pub. Act 24-81 §31	Collections – cost of incarceration	ACTION: DAS shall cease collection for the cost of incarceration for former inmates whose records have been erased	Business Office – Collections Division
Pub. Act 24-81 §32-33	Collections – cost of incarceration - inheritance	ACTION: DAS shall review whether the first \$50,000 inherited by a person obligated to pay the costs of incarceration are recoverable as it may be exempt from recovery by the state.	Business Office – Collections Division
Pub. Act 24-96	Military Leave	ACTION: Currently under review by Human Resources as regulatory and policy changes may be required Legislation shortens allowable military leave time and reframes the type of time as “military training” as opposed to “field training”.	Human Resources
Pub. Act 24-151 § 2	Bond Package	ACTION: Projects funded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement for environmental remediation at former Long Lang School - \$14,100,000 • Renovations and improvements for an opportunity center - \$1,000,000 	Real Estate and Construction Services and Business Office
Pub. Act 24-18 § 1	Service Animals	Awareness: Full time permanent employees who are disabled and who have been employed at least 12 consecutive months may take	Human Resources

		accumulated sick leave, not to exceed 20 days to participate in an approved service animal handler training for their service animal	
Public Act 24-18 § 12	Service Animals	Awareness: Clarification and expansion of the right of a person with a disability to be admitted to a public accommodation with a service animal	Facilities
Pub. Act 24-44	Claims Commissioner	Awareness: Creates “Special” as opposed to temporary deputies; increases the amount of claims within the Commissioner’s jurisdiction to \$50,000; clarifies time frames and processes for presentation to the GA	Office of Claims Commission
Pub. Act 24-56	FOI requests of law enforcement records	Awareness: Adds exemptions from disclosure of certain law enforcement records, such as identity of mandated reporters and images certain victims and minors	FOI Liaisons
Pub. Act 24-74 § 7	School Air Quality	Awareness: For the period commencing 7/1/2026 through 6/30/2031 DAS may provide a waiver to local and regional boards of education for ventilation inspection if certain conditions are present.	Real Estate and Construction Services – School Construction Services
Pub. Act. 24-81§ 89	Port Authority	Awareness: The mandate to review and comment of Connecticut Port Authority report has been discontinued.	Real Estate and Construction Services-Facilities
Pub. Act 24-145	Fuel Vendors	Awareness: Act requires adequate supply of vendors to support energy assistance programs	Procurement
Pub. Act 24-151 §115	MIRA	Awareness: Funds for tipping fees to be stabilized until July 1, 2026	Real Estate and Construction Services
Pub. Act 24-151 §143 - 145	Artificial Intelligence in schools	Awareness: The Department of Education will be launching an artificial intelligence education tool pilot program for classroom instruction and student learning.	Bureau of Information Solutions

Effective October 1, 2024

Legislation	Subject Matter	Action Required	Impacted Division
Pub. Act 24-84	Disclosure of Financial Records	Awareness: Financial institutions may disclosure its customers financial information in state aid-based cases to deputized commissioners, not only to the Commissioner directly.	Deputy Commissioners

Pub. Act 24-128	Ethics	Awareness: “Dependent child” is now defined and will include sons, daughters, stepdaughters and stepsons.	All
Pub. Act 24-151 §125	Employment Qualifications	Awareness: A degree from an institution of higher education will only be required when there is a bona fide occupational requirement or need	Human Resources

Effective January 1, 2025

Legislation	Subject Matter	Action Required	Impacted Division
Pub. Act 24-81 §78	Working Test Period Eligibility for Personal and Vacation Time	ACTION: Not later than June 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall adopt or amend regulations relating to the granting of vacation and personal leave to full-time permanent employees during their initial working test period.	Commissioner’s Office, Human Resources
Pub. Act 24-136 §§3-4	Fire Prevention Administration	Awareness: Fire Commission shall implement the recommendations of the fire services study and advise the Division of Fire Services Administration within DESPP on the management of the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan.	Fires Marshal Commission

School Construction Legislation

Legislation	Subject Matter	Action Required	Effective Date
Pub. Act 24-151 § 151	Priority List Grant Commitments	Awareness: Authorizes 11 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$486.4 million toward total estimated project costs of \$583.3 million, reauthorizes three projects with an additional state grant commitment of \$73.9 million	Effective Now (Upon passage)
Pub. Act 24-151 § 177- 210	Projects Exemptions, Waivers and Modification	Awareness: Exempts school construction projects in 25 towns and one regional school district from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow these projects to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher grant reimbursement percentages, or have their projects reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost; also repeals a prior project authorization	Effective Now (Upon passage)

Pub. Act 24-151 § 167	Single-User Toilet and Bathing Rooms	ACTION: Prohibits DAS from including new construction projects on the priority list if the project plans do not provide for single-user toilet and bathing rooms	Effective July 1, 2024
Pub. Act 24-151 § 169-170	Indoor Air Quality Grants	ACTION: Makes endowed academies and state charter schools eligible for grants; delays, from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2026, the start of the prohibition on DAS awarding a grant to an applicant that is not compliant with the inspection requirement; requires DAS to reconsider previously rejected grant applications in FYs 25 and 26; earmarks up to \$15 million of an existing bond authorization for grants to purchase equipment and materials for constructing and installing individual classroom air purifiers	Effective July 1, 2024
Pub. Act 24-93 §18	School Playground Design	Awareness: Requires school boards to conform the design of any school playground designed on or after July 1, 2025, to the principles of universal design	Effective July 1, 2024
Pub. Act 24-151 §§ 152 -154	Priority List Requirements	Awareness: Requires that the priority list include additional information about enrollment projections, allows school boards to redirect a school building project to a public use during the grant amortization period, eliminates requirement that DAS assign categories to school building projects, modifies local authorization requirements and reasons for which DAS may disapprove an application	Effective July 1, 2024
Pub. Act 24-151 §157	Inclusive Municipality Designation	Awareness: Requires school boards seeking a five-percentage point reimbursement rate increase for being in an “inclusive municipality” to give DAS the housing commissioner’s written determination that the municipality qualifies for the designation	Effective July 1, 2024
Pub. Act 24-151 § 158	Grants to Endowed Academies	Awareness: Eliminates a requirement that an endowed academy’s governing board meet specified composition requirements to be eligible for a grant	Effective July 1, 2024

Pub. Act 24-151 § 160	Energy Funds and School Construction Grants	Awareness: Excludes certain energy-related funds from the state funds that must be subtracted from the total project cost when calculating a school construction grant	Effective July 1, 2024
Pub. Act 24-151 §176	Solar Feasibility Study	Awareness: Generally, requires school boards, before submitting a priority list application, to have a solar feasibility assessment performed for the school building that is the subject of the application	Effective July 1, 2024
Spec. Sess. Public Act 24-1 §§ 32-33	Contracting Requirements	Awareness: Makes certain cooperative purchasing contracts a qualified bidder for most project awards; eliminates prohibition on construction managers bidding on project elements; requires that consultant awards be made from a pool of at least three of the most responsible qualified proposers; requires construction managers to report on ineligible costs and meet quarterly with school boards	Effective July 1, 2024