



Ned Lamont
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

Date: September 1, 2021

To: Interested Persons

From: Rod O'Connor and Kevin Bronson

Re: 2021 DDS Legislative Session Summary

This document provides a summary of bills and public acts that passed during the General Assembly regular 2021 legislative session. The bills and public acts highlighted may impact or be of interest to individuals receiving funding or services from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), their families or guardians, DDS employees or DDS qualified providers.

If you are reading this online or via email, we have included the link to each public act for bills that were passed by both the House and the Senate. In all bills and public acts, [bracketed] language indicates a deletion. Underlined language or the word "NEW" indicates new language.

We also have attached a list of bills that we were tracking that did NOT pass as of the end of session on June 9, 2021. We have provided a link to the bill history page for all bills in this summary, regardless of whether they passed or not. These lists are by no means exhaustive. Please keep in mind that many bills on the same or similar issues that did not pass (died) during the session may have had the provisions of the bill incorporated into a compromise bill or the larger budget bill. Also, if there were multiple bills on a similar subject, we may have only included the one that went the furthest in the legislative process.

Please note: SB stands for Senate Bill, HB stands for House Bill, PA stands for Public Act and FY stands for Fiscal Year. A fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. The fiscal year that begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020 is considered FY20.

Summaries in this document include information from the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis. Please note that this document is up-to-date as of September 1, 2021 and does not include action on bills in upcoming special sessions.

If you have questions on these or any other bills from the 2021 legislative session, please contact us at Rod.OConnor@ct.gov or Kevin.Bronson@ct.gov. Enjoy!

Links to Sections of the 2021 Legislative Summary

[Senate Bills That Were Signed into Law](#)

[House Bills That Were Signed into Law](#)

[Budget Bills](#)

[Bills Passed and Signed into Law in the June 2021 Special Session](#)

[Senate Bills That Did Not Pass](#)

[House Bills That Did Not Pass](#)

[Proposed Bills That Did Not Pass](#)

SENATE BILLS THAT WERE SIGNED INTO LAW

Public Act No. 21-35 S.B. No. 1 AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC Among its various provisions, this act (1) declares racism to be a public health crisis in Connecticut; (2) establishes a 28-member Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health; outlines the commission's responsibilities, including developing a strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and inequities in various areas; establishes a goal of reducing racial disparities in certain areas by at least 70%; requires the commission to determine best practices for state agencies to evaluate structural racism within their operations and implement a plan to eliminate that racism; (3) requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to study and report on developing a program to recruit and retain health care workers of color in the state; (4) requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess and report on racial equity within the department's environmental health quality programs; (5) requires the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO) to report on the status of amendments to the legislative Joint Rules on preparing racial and ethnic impact statements; (6) requires DPH to study and report on the state's COVID-19 response; and (7) sets requirements for state agencies or state entities that, directly or by contract, collect demographic data related to health care or public health; requires certain health care providers to include self-reported patient demographic data in their electronic health record systems; requires the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to (A) create a plan to implement these provisions and (B) review demographic changes and health data and reevaluate the standard race and ethnicity categories. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Public Act No. 21-46 S.B. No. 2 AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL EQUITY AND THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN This act makes various changes to laws affecting children and pupils and related entities, such as the departments of Children and Families (DCF), Education (SDE), Public Health (DPH); the Office of Early Childhood (OEC); and local and regional boards of education. Among other things, the act (1) (A) expands the Birth-to-Three Program, (B) prohibits the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) from charging for early intervention services, (C) allows Birth-to-Three coordinators to participate in planning and placement meetings and exempts them from certain disciplinary actions, and (D) requires local or regional boards of education to monitor certain children for developmental and social-emotional delays; and (2) (A) requires local or regional boards of education to integrate social-emotional learning into professional training, (B) requires the boards of education to allow up to two excused mental health wellness days per school year, and (C) allows minors to receive more than six outpatient mental health treatment sessions without their parent or guardian's consent. The act also (1) sets up a youth suicide prevention training program in local and district health departments, (2) adds specified mental health training to DPH's continuing education requirements for certain healthcare professionals, and (3) establishes a 25-member task force on children's

needs; and (4) require boards of education to monitor certain children for developmental and social-emotional delays.

Starting on January 1, 2022, the act expands the continuing education requirements for certain healthcare professionals to include at least two hours of training and education on (1) screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide risk, depression, and grief and (2) suicide prevention training. Except as noted as follows, the requirement applies (1) during the first license or certification renewal period as applicable and (2) at least once every six years after that. This requirement applies to: (1) physician assistants; (2) physical therapists; (3) occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants; (4) registered nurses and licensed practical nurses; (5) behavior analysts; (6) certified community health workers; and (7) emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, or emergency medical instructors. The bill also requires two hours of this training for nurse's aides, as part of their registration requirements. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021 and various other dates by section.

Public Act No. 21-69 S.B. No. 56 AN ACT DETERRING AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS This act makes it a discriminatory employment practice for an employer or the employer's agent to request or require a prospective employee's age, birth date, or school attendance or graduation dates on an initial employment application unless it is (1) for a bona fide occupational qualification or need or (2) required by state or federal law. The discriminatory employment practices law covers employers with at least three employees, including the state and its political subdivisions (§ 46a-51(10) CGS). By law, individuals aggrieved by a discriminatory practice may file a complaint alleging discrimination with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (§ 46a-82 CGS). EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-135 S.B. No. 416 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUTES This act makes various changes to Department of Developmental Services (DDS) statutes, including: (1) making information in DDS's abuse and neglect registry available to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to determine whether an applicant for employment with DDS or the Departments of Children and Families (DCF), Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), or Social Services (DSS), appears on the registry; (2) allowing DDS regional or training school directors to consent to emergency medical treatment for an individual under their custody or control, under the same conditions and procedures that already apply to emergency surgery, when the individual or his or her legal representative is not able to give timely written consent; (3) expanding the circumstances under which an individual's legal representative who is the substantiated perpetrator of abuse or neglect or lives with the perpetrator is denied access to certain reports and information concerning the DDS abuse and neglect investigation; (4) updating appointments to the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee to reflect name changes for certain entities and replacing entities that no longer exist; and (5) allowing DDS to submit an individual's eligibility denial letter, rather than a reassessment, to the probate court during guardianship reviews for adults determined ineligible for DDS services. The act also makes technical and conforming changes. **DDS Testimony Before the Public Health Committee on S.B. No. 416** EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Public Act No. 21-107 S.B. No. 660 AN ACT EXPANDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS SUFFERED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN CONNECTION WITH COVID-19 This act expands eligibility for workers' compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress injuries (PTSI) to cover (1) emergency medical services (EMS) personnel; (2) all Department of Correction (DOC) employees; (3) telecommunicators (i.e., 9-1-1 emergency dispatchers); and (4) under certain circumstances related to COVID-19, health care providers. The bill also changes the terminology used in the underlying law by replacing "post-traumatic stress disorder" (PTSD) with "post-traumatic stress injury." Current law provides workers' compensation PTSD benefits to police officers, DOC-employed parole officers, and firefighters diagnosed with PTSD as a direct result of certain qualifying events (e.g., witnessing someone's death) that occur in the line of duty. The bill allows EMS personnel, DOC employees, and emergency dispatchers to qualify for benefits through the same qualifying events, although the

dispatchers may do so by hearing them. Qualifying events for health care providers under the bill are the same types of events, but they must have occurred due to, or as a result of, COVID-19. The PTSI benefits provided under the bill are subject to the same limitations and procedures that current law applies to the benefits for firefighters, police, and parole officers. The act specifies that to be eligible for benefits, (1) Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) must meet the same 26-hour weekly work threshold that the existing workers' compensation law applies to people who work in or about a private dwelling and (2) emergency dispatchers must have been directly responding to an emergency that constitutes a qualifying event and providing a dispatch assignment. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Public Act No. 21-122 S.B. No. 763 AN ACT REQUIRING DRIVERS OF PARATRANSIT VEHICLES TO REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION OR ABANDONMENT OF ELDERLY PERSONS This act adds paratransit vehicle drivers to the list of mandated reporters who must report to the Department of Social Services (DSS) when they have reasonable cause to suspect that an elderly person needs protective services or has been abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned. A paratransit vehicle is a motor bus, taxicab, or other motor vehicle in livery service that is (1) operated under a Department of Transportation certificate or by a transit district and (2) on call or on demand or used to transport passengers for hire. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-49 S.B. No. 883 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS This act makes changes affecting (1) the Citizens' Election Program (CEP), which is the state's voluntary public campaign financing program open to candidates running for statewide office or the General Assembly; (2) procedures and considerations for appointing public members to state boards and commissions; and (3) reporting by the secretary of the state on the gender and racial diversity of state boards and commissions. Concerning boards and commissions, the act, among other things, does the following: (1) requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to maintain an online system on the state website for submitting recommendations for public member appointees to executive department boards or commissions; (2) requires appointing authorities for state boards, commissions, committees, and councils with members appointed by the governor or legislators, to ensure that the membership is qualified and diverse; and (3) requires the secretary of the state to publish a report on the gender and racial composition of certain state boards and commissions and compare this information with the state's gender and racial composition, according to the most recent U.S. census population data. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-183 S.B. No. 940 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH PROBATE COURT ORDERS This act specifically would have required state agencies to recognize, apply, and honor any probate court order, denial, or decree that the court is statutorily authorized to issue. Under the act, a "state agency" refers to an agency as defined in the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA). Unlike most probate appeals, the act would have required a party appealing such a probate court decision to file the appeal in Hartford Superior Court, rather than the Superior Court in the judicial district where the Probate Court is located. Also, as is currently the case for certain probate appeals, the act would have: (1) required hearings on the appeal to begin within 90 days after its filing, unless the Probate Court or Superior Court granted a stay, and (2) prohibited the Superior Court from referring the appeal to a special assignment probate judge. The act would have required state agencies, rather than state agencies that are parties to a Probate Court proceeding, to recognize, apply, and honor (rather than enforce) Probate Court decisions that the court is statutorily authorized to issue, instead of only those that apply to the agency's determination in a contested case. The act also would have made technical changes. **DDS Testimony Before the Judiciary Committee on S.B. No. 940** EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Governor Lamont vetoed Public Act No. 21-183 S.B. No. 940 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH PROBATE COURT ORDERS. The Connecticut General Assembly did not attempt to override the Governor's veto.

Public Act No. 21-100 S.B. No. 959 AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS This act makes changes to various laws governing Probate Court operations and related matters. The act makes changes related to probate court filing fees and specifically allows Probate Courts to (1) accept fee payment by electronic funds transfer and (2) charge related service fees. The act adds appeals of a quarantine or isolation order to the list of appeals that are subject to specified procedures. It specifies that certain estate settlement procedures apply following the death of an adult with intellectual disability for whom a guardian has been appointed. The act expands the application to guardians of adults with intellectual disability of certain procedures when closing out small estates so that the guardian may pay for the protected person's unpaid lifetime expenses, funeral and burial expenses, and administration expenses for closing the account if all these expenses equal or exceed the protected person's estate. The guardian or conservator may then take credit for these payments in the final accounting. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-55 S.B. No. 975 AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BILLS OF RIGHTS FOR LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF RESIDENT TECHNOLOGY FOR VIRTUAL VISITATION AND VIRTUAL MONITORING This act makes various changes affecting long-term care facility residents. Principally, it: (1) adds to the nursing home patients' bill of rights, the right to treat their living quarters as their own home and extends these rights to residents of managed residential facilities (e.g., assisted living facilities); (2) allows nursing home residents to use technology of their choosing that facilitates virtual monitoring or virtual visitation and establishes related notification, use, and consent requirements; (3) requires residents to pay for the technology and its installation, maintenance, operation, deactivation, and removal; (4) requires nursing homes to provide residents with free internet access, electricity, and a power source for virtual monitoring or virtual visitation technology, under certain conditions; (5) generally grants nursing homes immunity from civil, criminal, or administrative liability related to residents' use of this technology; (6) exempts from virtual monitoring technology requirements, mobile telephones used primarily for phone communication or tablets not used for virtual monitoring, with certain exceptions; (7) allows the long-term care ombudsman to develop and provide on its website standard consent and notification forms for the use of virtual monitoring technology; and (8) allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the bill's nursing home virtual monitoring and virtual visitation provisions. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except the provisions on virtual monitoring and virtual visitation in nursing homes take effect October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-32 S.B. No. 1019 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION AND CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES Among its several provisions, this act (1) expands required annual training for Board of Pardons and Paroles members to include the pardons process and collateral consequences of having a criminal record; (2) prohibits the Board of Pardons and Paroles from denying a pardon without providing a written statement explaining the reasons for the denial; (3) establishes a process to erase conviction records for misdemeanors and certain felonies after a specified period following the person's most recent conviction, except for family violence crimes or certain crimes requiring sex offender registration; (4) establishes a separate process for erasing misdemeanor convictions committed by minors before July 1, 2012; (5) allows attorneys for individuals subject to immigration matters to petition for their clients' erased records; (6) requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the judicial branch and the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) governing board, to implement automated processes for criminal record erasure; (7) allows DESPP to post information online or otherwise distribute information about which records are subject to erasure; (8) extends certain requirements for purchasers of public criminal records to cover records purchased from all criminal justice agencies, not just the judicial branch and sets a 30-day deadline for these purchasers to update their records after receiving information on certain records' erasure; (9) allows

DESPP to waive the criminal history search fee for indigent pardon applicants; (10) prohibits discrimination in various contexts based on someone's erased criminal history record information and classifies certain types of discrimination on this basis as discriminatory practices under Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities' (CHRO) jurisdiction; (11) adds DESPP and the Division of Criminal Justice to the list of "criminal justice agencies" for the purpose of determining access to criminal records; and (12) reduces the maximum sentence for misdemeanors by one day, from one year to 364 days, and makes related changes. EFFECTIVE DATE: Various dates

Specifically, the act establishes a process to erase records of most misdemeanor convictions and certain felony convictions after a specified period following the person's most recent conviction. The erasure applies to (1) related police, court, and prosecutor records (including any prosecuting grand jury) and (2) records held by the Board of Pardons and Paroles regarding court obligations arising from the conviction. These erasure provisions generally apply to (1) classified or unclassified misdemeanors; (2) class D or E felonies; or (3) unclassified felonies with up to five-year prison terms. The bill excludes (1) family violence crimes or (2) nonviolent or violent sexual offenses requiring sex offender registration. Under the act, these convictions are eligible for erasure after the following periods have passed since the person's most recent conviction for any crime: (1) seven years, for misdemeanors; and (2) 10 years, for (a) class D or E felonies or (b) unclassified felonies with prison terms of five years or less. Under the act, the records are erased automatically for offenses that occurred on or after January 1, 2000. For offenses before then, the records are erased when the person files a petition with the Office of the Chief Court Administrator. The act establishes a separate process for erasing misdemeanor convictions committed by minors before July 1, 2012. EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023

Sections 18 through 22 and section 29 of the act prohibit several types of discrimination by state agencies regarding erased criminal history record information starting January 1, 2023. Specifically, these sections: (1) require state officials and supervisory personnel to recruit, appoint, assign, train, evaluate, and promote state personnel based on merit and qualifications, without regard to their erased criminal history record information; (2) prohibit state departments, boards, or agencies from granting, denying, or revoking a person's license or charter on the grounds of his or her erased criminal history record information, except DMV may consider this information to the extent required by federal regulations on commercial driver's licenses; (3) requires all educational, counseling, and vocational guidance programs and all apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs of state agencies, or in which they participate, to be open to all qualified people, without regard to their erased criminal history record information; (4) prohibits someone's erased criminal history record information from being considered as a limiting factor in state-administered programs involving the distribution of funds to qualify applicants for benefits authorized by law; and (5) requires state agency services to be performed without discrimination based on erased criminal history record information. Additionally, the bill specifically prohibits state departments, boards, or agencies from allowing any newly prohibited types of discrimination that the act classifies as discriminatory practices under the CHRO laws (e.g., housing discrimination based on erased criminal records). EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-109 S.B. No. 1023 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES This act makes various changes affecting the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) and related laws. For all types of discriminatory practice complaints, the act allows claimants to file a complaint within 300 days after the alleged act. This applies to discriminatory acts that allegedly occurred on or after October 1, 2021. Under prior law, claimants had 300 days to file complaints for certain types of discrimination (e.g., employment and several types of state agency discrimination) and 180 days for other types (e.g., housing, public accommodations, and credit). For purposes of existing requirements for employee training in sexual harassment laws, the act allows employers to not provide the training to an employee who, within two years before being hired, received it while working for another employer. This applies if CHRO gave that training in-person or through the online training program. Existing law allows state entities' equal employment opportunity

officers to not investigate discrimination complaints filed against the entity if a complaint was also filed with CHRO or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC); instead, the entity may rely on CHRO's or the EEOC's process. The act provides that even if the entity relies upon the applicable commission's process, it still must mitigate discriminatory conduct and take immediate corrective action to prevent a similar occurrence. This provision generally applies to state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions. By current law, CHRO's executive director must approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove certain contractors' affirmative action plans within 120 days of their submission. The act specifies that these contractors are not barred from bidding on future contracts if the executive director failed to meet the deadline and the plan was deemed deficient without consequence. Existing law already provides that these contractors are not barred if their plans are deemed approved. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-185 S.B. No. 1030 AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOMES AND DEMENTIA SPECIAL CARE UNITS Among its various provisions, this act (1) requires nursing homes and dementia special care units to employ a full-time infection and prevention control specialist; (2) requires nursing homes to maintain at least a two-month supply of personal protective equipment for their staff; (3) requires a nursing home to ensure there is at least one staff member or contracted professional available on-call during each shift who is licensed or certified to start an intravenous line; (4) requires each nursing home's and dementia special care unit, by January 1, 2022, to encourage and assist in the establishment of a family council to support open communication between the facility and residents' families and friends; (5) requires nursing homes, by January 1, 2022, to take certain actions to ensure residents have regular opportunities for in-person and virtual visitation with family members and friends and that their social and emotional needs are met; and (6) requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), by January 1, 2022, to modify minimum nursing home daily staffing levels to require at least three hours of direct care per resident. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-196 S.B. No. 1070 AN ACT CONCERNING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS This act allows physician assistants (PAs) to certify, sign, or otherwise document medical information in several situations that currently require a physician's or advanced practice registered nurse's (APRN's) signature, certification, or documentation. Examples include: (1) certifying a patient's health condition or related information for purposes of insurance coverage, (2) certifying a disability or illness for continuing education waivers or extensions for various health professions, and (3) documenting that a patient's room transfer in a nursing home would be medically contraindicated. Additionally, the bill extends certain other provisions to PAs, such as adding them to the list of providers (1) who must report when a patient has tuberculosis and (2) to whom local health directors, in turn, must provide certain information for these patients. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, each PA must have a clearly identified supervising physician who has final responsibility for patient care and the PA's performance. The original bill was amended by Senate Amendment A which added certain provisions about PAs but removed provisions that would allow PAs and APRNs to order home health care services. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-145 S.B. No. 1071 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS This bill makes various changes in statutes about state auditors, auditing, and other related topics. Among its various provisions, the act: (1) explicitly prohibits state agencies from denying the auditors access to their records or accounts; (2) (a) requires certain new or amended state contracts to contain a provision allowing the agency to access any relevant data upon demand, at no additional cost, and in the agency's prescribed format and (b) similarly allows the auditors access to this data when auditing the agency; (3) requires state agencies to notify the auditors at least 15 days before contracting for auditing services and prohibits agencies from entering into these contracts until the auditors advise whether they can perform the work instead; (4) specifies that private providers of special education services are subject to auditing requirements regardless of whether they receive state or local funds directly or indirectly; and (5) extends provisions on prohibited activities that apply to state-hired consultants and independent contractors under the ethics code to also apply to people they employ. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

[Public Act No. 21-26](#) **[S.B. No. 1083](#) AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES This act makes various unrelated changes in the statutes pertaining to public health. Principally, it: (1) requires hospital personnel to ask patients, upon admission, whether the patient wants the hospital to notify a family member, caregiver, or support person of the admission; (2) requires the public health commissioner, by January 1, 2022, to revise marriage license applications and certificates to (a) replace references to “bride” and “groom” with “spouse one” and “spouse two” and (b) remove references to a spouse’s race or ethnicity or designation of such race or ethnicity; (3) requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to convene a working group to study the health benefits of psilocybin and requires the working group to submit its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2022; and (4) allows hospitals to provide written discharge planning materials required under existing law to patients electronically, if patients agree. EFFECTIVE DATE: Various dates**

[Public Act No. 21-33](#) **[S.B. No. 1093](#) AN ACT CONCERNING CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARDS, SECURITY GUARDS, BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND SEARCHES BY POLICE, LIMITATIONS ON OFFENSES SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC ERASURE, ENTICING A JUVENILE TO COMMIT A CRIME, LAWFUL ORDERS BY POLICE OFFICERS AND NOTICE TO A VICTIM CONCERNING AUTOMATIC ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORD HISTORY This act makes various changes to the laws regarding (1) police procedures, (2) juvenile criminal matters, (3) security guards, and (4) criminal record erasure under **[S.B. No. 1019](#)**. Specifically, the act: (1) provides a process for a person to object to a civilian police review board’s subpoena and allows the court to order compliance with a board’s subpoena; (2) allows a police officer whose image or voice is captured on certain recordings (e.g., body camera) to review the recordings before they are disclosed in certain instances where there is a request for public disclosure; (3) allows a trier of fact (e.g., judge or jury) to draw an unfavorable inference from the deliberate failure of a police officer who wears a body camera to record their use of force or other relevant incidents in civil cases involving depriving someone’s equal protection or privileges and immunities; (4) prohibits law enforcement from using no-knock warrants; and (5) establishes the crime of “enticing a juvenile to commit a criminal act”. The bill also expands the list of convictions ineligible for erasure under **[S.B. No. 1019](#)** to include (1) specified class D felonies and class A misdemeanors, such as several assault crimes, and (2) any offense for which the person has not completed serving the sentence, including probation or parole. Under certain circumstances, the act also requires prosecutors, before the court accepts a plea agreement, to notify the victim whether the defendant’s conviction may be eligible for erasure under **[S.B. No. 1019](#)**. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021, except that crimes ineligible for erasure is effective January 1, 2023; and (3) unfavorable inferences for failure to record for (a) use of force is effective July 1, 2021, and (b) civil cases is effective January 1, 2022.**

The act removes the following offenses from the list of offenses in **[S.B. No. 1019](#)** that would be subject to automatic erasure after 10 years for a felony conviction or 7 years for a misdemeanor conviction.

Sec. 53a-322. Abuse in the second degree: Class D felony

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_952.htm#sec_53a-322

Sec. 53a-60b. Assault of an elderly, blind, disabled or pregnant person or a person with intellectual disability in the second degree: Class D felony

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_952.htm#sec_53a-60b

Sec. 53a-60c. Assault of an elderly, blind, disabled or pregnant person or a person with intellectual disability in the second degree with a firearm: Class D felony

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_952.htm#sec_53a-60c

Sec. 53a-323. Abuse in the third degree: Class A misdemeanor

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_952.htm#sec_53a-323

Sec. 53a-61a. Assault of an elderly, blind, disabled or pregnant person or a person with intellectual disability in the third degree: Class A misdemeanor

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_952.htm#sec_53a-61a

HOUSE BILLS THAT WERE SIGNED INTO LAW

Public Act No. 21-9 H.B. No. 5596 AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH This act modifies requirements for the delivery of telehealth services and insurance coverage of these services until June 30, 2023. Among other things, it: (1) expands the types of health providers authorized to provide telehealth services; (2) allows certain telehealth providers to provide telehealth services using audio-only telephone; (3) allows certain telehealth providers to use additional information and communication technologies in accordance with federal requirements (e.g., certain third-party video communication applications, such as Apple FaceTime); (4) authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to temporarily modify, waive, or suspend certain regulatory requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health; (5) establishes requirements for telehealth providers seeking payment from uninsured or underinsured patients; (6) requires insurance coverage for telehealth services and prohibits providers reimbursed for services from seeking payment from an insured patient beyond cost sharing; (7) prohibits (a) insurance policies from excluding coverage for a telehealth platform selected by an in-network provider and (b) carriers from reducing reimbursement to a provider because services are provided through telehealth instead of in-person; and (8) makes a conforming change to a law requiring telehealth providers who are prescribing practitioners to issue prescriptions electronically. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Public Act No. 21-36 H.B. No. 5677 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID This act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to amend the state Medicaid plan to provide coverage for community violence prevention services for beneficiaries who meet both of the following criteria. First, they have received medical treatment for an injury sustained from an act of community violence (i.e., an intentional act of interpersonal violence committed in public by someone who is not the victim's family member or intimate partner). Second, they have also been referred by a certified or licensed health care provider or social services provider to receive these services from a "certified violence prevention professional" after the provider determined the beneficiary is at a higher risk of retaliation or a violent injury from another act of community violence. The act establishes training requirements for individuals seeking certification as a "certified violence prevention professional" and requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to approve at least one accredited training and certification program for these professionals. The act defines "community violence prevention services" as evidenced-based, trauma-informed, supportive, and non-psychotherapeutic services provided by a certified violence prevention professional to: (1) promote improved health outcomes and positive behavioral change, (2) prevent injury recidivism, and (3) reduce the likelihood that victims of community violence will commit or promote violence themselves. Under the act, these services may be provided within or outside of a clinical setting and may include the provision of the following services to community violence victims: peer support or counseling, mentorship, conflict mediation, crisis intervention, targeted case management, referrals to certified or licensed health care or social services providers, patient education, or screening services. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Special Act No. 21-10 H.B. No. 6121 AN ACT CONCERNING A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES The act requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to incorporate into the state workforce strategy a plan to establish a workforce development pipeline program for persons with disabilities, which shall incentivize businesses to provide training programs, offer modified interviews and reserve market-rate, full-time jobs for persons with disabilities. The plan shall be developed not later than November 1, 2021 and be implemented not later than

July 1, 2022. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit recommendations for any requisite legislative proposals for the implementation of such plan to the Commerce Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Public Act No. 21-65 H.B. No. 6319 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT RECOVERIES AND INCENTIVES UNDER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS This act (1) adds a notification requirement and filing deadline to the process of administering certain small estates to recover state claims when a person supported or cared for by the state dies; and (2) expands and makes permanent a pilot incentive program for nonprofit human services providers. In section 2 of the act it requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to expand an incentive program for nonprofit human service providers that realize savings in the state-contracted services they deliver. Current practice requires nonprofits to return any realized savings to the state. Under the bill, the program must (1) allow providers to keep any savings they realize from the contracted service cost if they meet their contractual requirements and (2) prohibit future contracted amounts for the same type of service from being reduced solely on savings achieved in previous contracts by such providers. The act removes eligibility criteria for a cost sharing pilot program and allows participation by any contracted nonprofit providers of human services, which include service providers to persons with intellectual, physical, or mental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-15 H.B. No. 6321 AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONNECTICUT PARENTAGE ACT This act adopts the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA), which may be cited as the Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA). The bill generally: (1) provides for equal treatment under the law for children born to same-sex couples by, among other things, removing certain gender-specific references (e.g., changing “maternity” and “paternity” to “parentage”); (2) expands recognition of non-biological parents by (a) making marital or “hold-out” presumptions gender neutral and (b) establishing de facto parentage (i.e., the court adjudicates a person to be a parent under certain circumstances); (3) provides guidance on adjudicating parentage and adjudicating competing claims of parentage (e.g., creates best interest of the child factors that the court must consider); (4) provides the process for establishing acknowledged parentage through an acknowledgment agreement; (5) provides for adjudicating genetic parentage and updates the rules governing children born under a surrogacy agreement; and (6) establishes a procedure to enable children conceived through assisted reproduction to access medical and identifying information about any gamete donors. The bill also makes conforming changes throughout the statutes addressing things such as (1) birth certificates; (2) human services, social services, and public health protocols and systems; (3) probate court matters; and (4) family relations matters. EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2022, except the provisions on adjudicating de facto parentage are effective July 1, 2022.

Public Act No. 21-82 H.B. No. 6417 AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF YOUTH CAMPS AND YOUTH SPORTS COACHES, TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS Starting October 1, 2022, this act requires youth camps licensed by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to require prospective employees age 18 or older to submit to comprehensive background checks if they are applying for positions that provide care or involve unsupervised access to any child in the youth camp. The act establishes specifications for these background checks, including specifying who may conduct them, what databases must be checked, the frequency of the checks, the exemptions from the requirements; the crimes that are generally disqualifying; the required protocols when a criminal record or certain convictions are found; notification requirements and associated penalties for failure to report; and record retention requirements. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-6 H.B. No. 6423 AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS This act eliminates the religious exemption from immunization requirements for individuals attending (1) public and private schools, including higher education institutions, and (2) child care centers and group and family day care homes. Prior law allowed individuals to opt out of vaccination if they presented a statement that immunization would be

contrary to their religious beliefs or, for minors, those of their parent or guardian. The act grandfathered into the exemption individuals enrolled in grades kindergarten or higher who submitted a religious exemption prior to April 28, 2021. It continues to grandfather these students if they transfer to another public or private school in the state (i.e., a primary or secondary school). Under the act, individuals with prior religious exemptions who are enrolled in pre-kindergarten or other preschool programs generally must comply with immunization requirements by September 1, 2022, or within 14 days after transferring to a different public or private program, whichever is later. The act retains existing law's medical exemption from these immunization requirements for individuals who can document that the immunization is medically contraindicated. Additionally, the act: (1) requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop and post on its website a medical exemption certificate for use by physicians, PAs, and APRNs; (2) requires DPH to release annual immunization rates for each public and private K-12 school in the state; (3) establishes an 11-member DPH Advisory Committee on Medically Contraindicated Vaccinations to advise the commissioner on issues concerning medical exemptions from state or federal immunization requirements; (4) requires DPH, in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Office of Early Childhood, to evaluate data these agencies collect on exemptions from immunization requirements; and (5) requires certain health insurance policies that cover prescription drugs to cover at least a 20-minute immunization consultation between a patient and provider for vaccines recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the insurance coverage provisions, which are effective January 1, 2022.

Public Act No. 21-76 H.B. No. 6444 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODERNIZATION OF STATE SERVICES AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

This act (1) generally eliminates requirements that contractors submit documentation (e.g., affidavits and certifications) about their compliance with certain contracting laws and instead requires that they incorporate the applicable requirements into the contracts; (2) revamps the state set-aside program's eligibility requirements for small contractors and minority business enterprises (MBEs) by requiring that for-profit entities be registered as a small business in the federal government's contracting database to participate in the program; (3) clarifies DAS's authority to waive competitive bidding requirements for minor nonrecurring and emergency purchases of \$10,000 or less; (4) allows use of reverse auctions to purchase services other than construction or construction-related services; (5) expands the types of technologies, products, and processes eligible for pre-market testing by state agencies; and (6) expands the state's "piggyback" purchasing authority to include purchases from contracts with another state agency or branch and allows agencies to make these purchases directly if approved by DAS.

Finally, the act allows state and quasi-public agencies to conduct various business activities electronically. Specifically, state agencies now may do the following: (1) accept fee payments by any means of electronic funds transfer they adopt; (2) receive, by electronic means with proof of delivery receipt, any communication or correspondence that must be delivered under current law by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; (3) receive, by electronic means, any communication or correspondence that must be delivered under current law by U.S. mail or fax (as long as the agency determines that electronic delivery is appropriate); and (4) post, on their website or another electronic portal available to the general public, any legal notice that must be advertised in a newspaper under current law. Under the act, each of these activities must comply with the Connecticut Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (CUETA) if conducted electronically (e.g., the parties must agree to conduct the transaction electronically). EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-152 H.B. No. 6449 AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND REQUIRING A REPORT FROM CERTAIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES REGARDING BACKGROUND CHECKS AND THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING PRECLEARANCE ASSESSMENTS OF CRIMINAL HISTORY

This act makes it easier for health care professionals and various tradespeople and other professionals licensed in other states to obtain a Connecticut

credential if they reside here. It does so by generally requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) or Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to issue the appropriate license or other credential to a state resident, or a spouse of an active duty service member permanently stationed here, if that person meets specified experience and background requirements (e.g., has no disciplinary history). The act requires the DPH to (1) convene working groups to determine whether Connecticut should join any interstate licensure compacts and (2) requires DPH to report to the Public Health Committee on whether it would be in the state's best interest to (1) replace any state exams for DPH-credentialed professionals with tests by national organizations that DPH deems acceptable and (2) reduce any experience and training requirements while increasing testing of applicants' knowledge or skills. Lastly, the act requires the departments of Administrative Services, Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Correction, Emergency Services and Public Protection, Labor, and Public Health, and the Office of Early Childhood to report to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on certain information related to background checks. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021, except July 1, 2021 for the DPH reporting and working group provisions.

Public Act No. 21-133 H.B. No. 6470 AN ACT CONCERNING HOME HEALTH, TELEHEALTH AND UTILIZATION REVIEW This act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, to the extent permissible under federal law, to provide Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services to the same extent as services provided in person. Existing law requires DSS to provide Medicaid coverage for categories of telehealth services if the DSS commissioner determines they are (1) clinically appropriate to be provided through telehealth, (2) cost effective for the state, and (3) likely to expand access in certain circumstances (§ 17b-245e CGS). Prior law allowed the DSS commissioner discretion to cover audio-only telehealth services under the state's medical assistance programs (e.g., Medicaid) until June 30, 2023. The act instead requires DSS commissioner to do so, without a sunset date, when (1) it is determined that doing so is clinically appropriate; (2) providing comparable covered audiovisual telehealth services is not possible; and (3) audio-only services are provided to people who are unable to use or access comparable, covered audiovisual services. The act also expands the types of health care providers who can order home health care services to include advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs), in addition to physicians under existing law. It allows DSS to waive or suspend prior authorization requirements and other utilization review criteria and procedures for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The act makes a minor change to a provision allowing telehealth providers to provide services from any location. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Public Act No. 21-172 H.B. No. 6559 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD This act makes numerous changes to the laws related to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) that include: (1) adding facilitating racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of children, families, and staff to the list of goals for the network of school readiness programs; (2) adding group and family child care homes to the definition of "early care and education and childhood development programs" in the law requiring OEC to conduct program evaluations and pilot innovative service delivery; (3) expanding the types of child care employees who must undergo pre-employment background checks and conforms current restrictions to federal regulations on when these new employees can begin working; (4) increasing the minimum age threshold, from 16 to 18, for mandatory background checks for household members of family child care homes; (5) specifying that as part of the existing background checks required of a relative who provides OEC-subsidized childcare services (a) the national sex offender registry check must use the U.S. Department of Justice's National Sex Offender Public Website and (b) the state offender database check must use the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's registry; and (6) authorizing the education commissioner to allow someone to teach within the Birth-to-Three program if they hold a teaching endorsement in (a) special education, (b) integrated early childhood and special education, (c) partially sighted, (d) blind, and (e) hard of hearing. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-164 H.B. No. 6574 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STATE CODES

OF ETHICS This bill makes numerous changes to the state codes of ethics for public officials and lobbyists by: (1) defining confidential information for the law's purposes as similarly defined in regulations; (2) requiring public officials and state employees who must file statements of financial interests with Office of State Ethics (OSE) to file them electronically using software the office creates; (3) exempting certain gifts from the codes' gift prohibition and clarifying who must report certain expenditures to a beneficiary public official or state employee; (4) requiring certain state regulatory agencies, in consultation with OSE, to annually submit a statement designating the agency positions which are subject to the public officials code's revolving door provisions; (5) extending the prohibited activities that apply to state-hired consultants and independent contractors to include persons they employ; (6) extending the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board's (CEAB) deadline from 15 days to 45 days for final hearing decisions on violations; and (7) clarifying that both individuals employing lobbyists and those employed as lobbyists are subject to the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists' prohibition on contingency fee lobbying. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-102 H.B. No. 6594 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

Among this act's various provisions, it: (1) requires prosecutors to notify the attorney general of certain proceedings involving pension revocation for public employees and eliminates this notice requirement for federal court proceedings; (2) expands the definition of vendor fraud to include instances where the person has intent to defraud the state or the beneficiary and has knowledge of an event that would result in lower benefit payments; (3) increases the penalty for electronic stalking and broadens the definition of the crime; (4) specifies what is considered "harm" for distributing intimate images; prohibits dissemination when the other person is not identifiable but there is other identifying information included; and increases the penalty when dissemination is to more than one person over certain electronic platforms; (5) waives, for certain indigent persons a public defender represents, the fee for certain diversionary programs and treatments and prohibits courts from requiring community service in lieu of any fees for indigent persons; (6) adds a penalty for failure to keep a narcotic in the original container and allows violators to take the pretrial drug education and community service program; and (7) reduces the (A) scope of laws enhancing the penalties for illegal drug activities in drug-free zones and (B) size of these zones from 1,500 to 200 feet. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

Public Act No. 21-71 H.B. No. 6634 AN ACT CONCERNING ESSENTIAL SUPPORT PERSONS AND A STATE-WIDE VISITATION POLICY FOR RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

This act allows long-term care facility residents, or their representatives, to designate a primary and a secondary "essential support person" who may visit the resident despite general visitation restrictions for other visitors. The act applies to residents in nursing homes and managed residential communities that provide assisted living services. The act also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish a statewide policy for visiting long-term care residents. If there is a declared public health emergency, the DPH commissioner must establish visitation requirements that incorporate a resident's need for essential support from an essential support person and other visitors. By law, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman's duties include providing services to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of long-term care facility residents. The act specifies that this includes services designed to address the impact of socialization, visitation, and the role of essential support persons on the residents' health, safety, and well-being. Under the act, an "essential support person" is someone a resident or his or her representative designates who may visit with the resident in accordance with rules established by the DPH commissioner to provide essential support as reflected in the resident's person-centered care plan. "Essential support" includes (1) assisting with activities of daily living and (2) providing physical, emotional, psychological, and socialization support. A secondary essential support person serves as the primary's backup. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Public Act No. 21-72 H.B. No. 6637 AN ACT CONCERNING A MENTAL HEALTH BILL OF RIGHTS FOR DEAF, DEAFBLIND AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS

The act establishes a bill of rights for persons in need of mental health services who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing under which a person has a

right to: (1) culturally and linguistically affirmative mental health services that accommodate his or her unique needs; (2) accessible mental health services delivered in his or her primary language or communication mode or style; (3) specialized mental health services when necessary that provide appropriate and fully accessible counseling and therapeutic options using an appropriate oral, aural, or speech-based system tailored to his or her unique needs; (4) express his or her opinion in determining the extent, content, and purpose of mental health treatment or services that accommodate his or her unique needs; (5) programs offering access to a full continuum of services, including all modes of therapy and evaluations; (6) programs informed by appropriate research, curricula, staff, and outreach; and (7) express his or her views concerning the development and implementation of state and regional programs for his or her mental health service needs. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

The original raised bill would have required the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Developmental Services, Social Services, Children and Families, Aging and Disability Services and Education and the director of the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind within the Department of Aging and Disability Services, to establish a state-wide mental health services program for deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing persons. The raised bill required the Commissioners of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Services, Social Services, Children and Families, Aging and Disability Services and Education to assign not less than one staff member from each respective agency to implement the provisions of the bill. [DDS Testimony Before the Human Services Committee on H.B. No. 6637](#)

[Public Act No. 21-121 H.B. No. 6666](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES Among its many provisions this act, which contains more than 70 recommended revisions to the public health statutes: (1) requires local health departments and districts to use a DPH-prescribed electronic system to report lead home inspection findings and resulting actions; (2) exempts long-term care facilities from complying with background check requirements in the event of an emergency or significant disruption; (3) exempts certain professional counselor and professional counselor associate licensure applicants from specified requirements; (4) removes the specific requirement that MFT licensure applicants' supervised practicum or internship include 500 clinical hours; (5) requires funeral directors, embalmers, and health care practitioners certifying deaths to use the electronic death registry system, if it is available; (6) adds licensed behavior analysts to the list of providers eligible for the professional assistance program for health professionals, and correspondingly increases their licensure renewal fee by \$5; adds these providers to the list of health professionals who must notify DPH if they are aware that another professional may be unable to safely practice; and makes behavior analysts mandated reporters of abuse of the elderly or long-term care facility residents; (7) increases the maximum hours of continuing education that social workers may complete online or through home study; (8) expands the types of out-of-state health care providers authorized to temporarily practice in Connecticut during a declared public health emergency; (9) adds "hospice agencies" to the statutory definition of a "health care institution," and removes "substance abuse treatment facilities" from the statutory definition of a health care institution; (10) allows physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to issue orders for home health care agency services, hospice agency services, and home health aide agency services; (11) allows DPH to suspend nursing home licensure requirements to allow homes to temporarily increase their bed capacity to provide services to patients during a declared public health emergency; (12) requires chronic disease hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care homes to position beds in a manner that promotes resident care and meets certain requirements; and (13) extends newborn screening requirements for health care institutions to licensed nurse-midwives and midwives; requires newborn screenings to be performed using bloodspot specimens; and specifies timeframes for specimen collection and notification. EFFECTIVE DATE: Various dates

BUDGET BILLS

S.B. No. 887 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES

DDS Testimony Before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee General Bonding Subcommittee on S.B. No. 887

S.B. No. 887 died on the Senate Calendar. See **Public Act No. 21-111 H.B. No. 6690** below.

H.B. No. 6438 AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021, AND CARRYING FUNDS FORWARD FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

H.B. No. 6438 died on the House Calendar. See **Special Act No. 21-15 H.B. No. 6689** below.

H.B. No. 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR. This budget bill would have enacted the Appropriation Committee's state budget for the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

DDS Testimony Before the Appropriations Committee on H.B. No. 6439

DDS Testimony Before the Appropriations Committee Health Subcommittee Workgroup

H.B. No. 6439 died on the House Calendar. See **Special Act No. 21-15 H.B. No. 6689** below.

Special Act No. 21-15 H.B. No. 6689 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND MAKING DEFICIENCY AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021 This emergency certified special act provides the state budget appropriations for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

Effective July 1, 2021, this budget appropriates the following amounts to the Department of Developmental Services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Line Item	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023
Personal Services	203,843,382	211,934,849
Other Expenses	16,439,356	16,439,356
Housing Supports and Services	1,400,000	1,400,000
Family Support Grants	3,700,840	3,700,840
Clinical Services	2,337,724	2,337,724
Behavioral Services Program	20,246,979	20,246,979
Supplemental Payments for Medical Services	2,908,132	2,808,132
ID Partnership Initiatives	1,529,000	1,529,000
Emergency Placements	5,666,455	5,666,455
Rent Subsidy Program	5,032,312	5,032,312
Employment Opportunities and Day Services	297,568,217	308,316,217
AGENCY TOTAL	560,672,397	579,411,864

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

Community Residential Services	655,119,602	668,069,602
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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (DAS)

DDS Workers' Compensation Claims	15,404,040	15,404,040
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As outlined above, the budget funds DDS over both years of the biennium. Items of interest include:

- Annualized funding for Emergency Placements. DDS will continue to use this funding to develop crisis prevention and intervention strategies to deescalate crisis situations and prevent long-term hospital emergency department stays. Current initiatives include the Step-Down Unit and Enhanced Family Support teams.
- Annualized funding for Housing Supports and Services. This funding will provide 70 new supportive housing units for individuals with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder.
- Provides funding for case load growth for employment opportunities and day service placements.
- Transferred funding to rent subsidy program from Community Residential Services line.
- In the Department of Social Services budget, the Community Residential Services account, which provides funding for room and board payments for DDS residential services, was increased to support individuals on the residential waiting list.

Additional provisions in the budget affecting DDS include:

- **Section 10(a)** The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) shall recommend reductions in executive branch expenditures to achieve budget savings in the General Fund by \$43,815,570 in FY 22 and \$43,215,570 in FY 23.
- **Section 11** OPM shall recommend reductions in executive branch agencies for retirement, restructuring or efficiency savings in the General Fund of \$4,607,283 for FY 22, and \$73,487,242 for FY 23.
- **Sections 18 & 19** Allows for the transfer of funds between state agencies via the use of Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) process to maximize federal matching funds. This allows any General Fund appropriation to be transferred between agencies to maximize federal funding with FAC approval. Funds generated through transfer may be used to reimburse GF expenditures or expand programs as determined by Governor and with FAC approval.
- **Section 25** OPM shall allocate funding of \$40 million in Fiscal Year 2022 and \$80 million in Fiscal Year 2023 appropriated in the Private Providers account as follows: (1) \$30 million in FY 22 and \$70 million in FY 23 for costs associated with a settlement between the state and Department of Developmental Services' contracted providers; and (2) \$10 million in both FY 23 and FY 24 for cost of living adjustments to employees who provide state-administered human services in the Departments of Correction, Housing, Public Health, Social Services, Children and Families, Aging and Disability Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Office of Early Childhood and the Judicial Department.
- **Section 29(a)** The unexpended balances in various state agencies, including the Department of Developmental Services, shall not lapse in FY 21 and are carried forward as described below:
 - **Section 29(b)(1)** Up to \$1.5 million in both FY 22 and FY 23 to DSS to support increasing the personal needs allowance to \$75.
 - **Section 29(b)(2)(A)** Up to \$2 million in FY 22 and \$21.7 million in FY 23 to OPM in the Private Providers account for costs associated with a settlement between the state and DDS-contracted providers.
 - **Section 29(b)(2)(B)** Up to \$13,150,000 in both FY 22 and FY 23 to OPM in the private providers account to support cost of living adjustments to employees who provide state-administered human services in the Departments of Correction, Housing, Public Health, Social Services, Children and Families, Aging and Disability Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Office of Early Childhood and the Judicial Department.

- **Section 29(b)(3)** DSS Up to \$40 million in FY 22 to support temporary rate increases for nursing homes.
- **Section 41** Allocates federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding of \$1,301.7 million in Fiscal Year 2022, \$1,012.9 million in Fiscal Year 2023 and \$49.9 million in Fiscal Year 2024. Connecticut was allocated a total of \$2,812.2 million in ARPA funding of which approximately \$447.7 million is unallocated. Specific ARPA funding allocations include:
 - **DDS Respite Care for Family Caregivers** in FY 2022 \$3,000,000.
 - **Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for Private Providers** in FY 2022 \$30,000,000; FY 2023 \$30,000,000; and FY 2024 \$30,000,000.
- **Section 44** contains the General Fund revenue estimates for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 to support the appropriations made in section 1 of [Special Act No. 21-15](#).

[Public Act No. 21-111 H.B. No. 6690](#) AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 BOARD, AUTHORIZING STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND MAKING REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT STATUTES This emergency certified public act authorizes additional bonding and adjusts bonding for capital improvements throughout the state. Specific to DDS, the act authorizes \$2,000,000 in bond funds for the department in each year of the biennium for fire, safety and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for individual and staff needs, including improvements in compliance with current codes, site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, repair or replacement of roofs, air conditioning and other interior and exterior building renovations and additions at all state-owned DDS facilities.

- **Section 112** of the act establishes a Community Investment Fund 2030 Board, in the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). The board shall have the following powers and duties: (A) Review eligible projects to be recommended to the Governor for approval; and (B) review and provide comments to DECD on projects funded through the state's Economic Action Plan. The Community Investment Fund 2030 Board is required to establish an application and review process with guidelines and terms for funds provided from the bond proceeds for eligible projects. The board shall give priority to eligible projects (i) that are proposed by a municipality that (I) has implemented local hiring preferences, or (II) has or will leverage municipal, private, philanthropic or federal funds for such project, and (ii) that have a project labor agreement or employ or will employ ex-offenders or individuals with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities.

BILLS PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW IN THE JUNE 2021 SPECIAL SESSION

[Public Act No. 21-1 JSS S.B. No. 1201](#) AN ACT CONCERNING RESPONSIBLE AND EQUITABLE REGULATION OF ADULT-USE CANNABIS This emergency certified act makes numerous changes related to criminal justice, licensing, employment, tax, traffic enforcement, and other laws to establish legal adult recreational use of cannabis (marijuana) in Connecticut. Before final passage the Senate amended the underlying bill with Senate Amendments A and B and the House amended the bill with House Amendment A. The vote for final passage of the bill in the House was 76 Yea, 62 Nay; and in the Senate was 16 Yea, 11 Nay.

Regarding adult recreational use, the act allows individuals age 21 or older (consumers) to possess, use, or otherwise consume cannabis and cannabis products. It generally limits possession to (1) 1.5 ounces of cannabis plant material and five ounces of such material in a locked container in the person's residence or locked vehicle glove box or trunk or (2) equivalent cannabis product amounts or combined amounts. It erases certain cannabis-related criminal convictions, in some cases automatically and in others upon the person's petition.

Starting July 1, 2023, the act allows any individual age 21 or older to cultivate up to three mature and three immature cannabis plants in his or her primary residence, if the plants are kept secure from anyone else. Starting October 1, 2021, the act similarly allows home cultivation by medical marijuana patients age 18 or older.

The act establishes a Social Equity Council to promote and encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by people from communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. It requires the council to establish criteria and review social equity applications. The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) must reserve 50% of the maximum number of applications for these applicants and they generally pay 50% of the fees for the first three years. The act establishes various DCP licensing and registration requirements for individuals and entities to work in the cannabis industry.

The act establishes guidelines, rules, and protections for employers and employees regarding recreational cannabis use. It generally bans certain employer actions, such as penalizing an employee for the employee's use of cannabis prior to employment. The act specifically authorizes other actions, such as allowing employers to establish a workplace policy prohibiting cannabis possession or use by an employee, except for possession of medical marijuana. The act (1) exempts some employers and types of positions from its requirements and (2) specifies that it does not limit an employer's ability to require employees to submit to drug testing. It also creates a civil action for employees aggrieved by a violation of the act's employer limitations.

Regarding taxes, the act establishes a state tax on retail sales of cannabis (0.625 cents per milligram of total THC for cannabis plant material; 2.75 cents per milligram of total THC for cannabis edible products; and 0.9 cents per milligram of total THC for cannabis, other than cannabis plant material or cannabis edible products). It directs the revenue to a new General Fund account, the General Fund, and two new appropriated funds for designated purposes (the Social Equity and Innovation Fund and Prevention and Recovery Services Fund) according to a specified schedule. It imposes a 3% municipal sales tax on the sale of cannabis that applies in addition to the state cannabis tax and the state's 6.35% sales tax. (Cannabis for palliative use is exempt from all three taxes under the act.) It requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to allocate the account funds to state agencies for specified purposes.

The act establishes penalties for various actions, such as (1) consumers possessing cannabis in excess of the possession limit, (2) underage individuals possessing cannabis or attempting to buy it, (3) retailers selling cannabis to customers under age 21, and (4) property owners allowing persons under age 21 to possess cannabis at the property. The act also makes it illegal to use cannabis while driving or as a passenger in a motor vehicle.

The act makes certain other changes to the state's medical marijuana laws, such as allowing DCP to add to the list of qualifying medical conditions without adopting regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various dates for various provisions of the act.

[Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202](#) AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 This emergency certified public act contains many and varied provisions that provide implementer language for funding provisions in the state's biennial budget: **[Special Act No. 21-15 H.B. No. 6689](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND MAKING DEFICIENCY AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021.** The act also makes revisions to various public and special acts that were passed during the 2021 regular legislative session. **[Public Act 21-2 JSS](#)**, as amended by Senate Amendment A and House Amendments A, G, and H, is 790 pages and has 497 sections.

- **Sections 3, 4 & 5** broadens the categories of written information that an employer must provide to certain domestic workers when they are hired including: (1) The rate of remuneration, hours of

employment and wage payment schedules; (2) the job duties and responsibilities; (3) the availability of sick leave, days of rest, vacation, personal days and holidays, whether such days are paid or unpaid and the rate at which such days accrue; (4) whether the employer may charge any fees or costs for board and lodging, and, if so, the amount of such fees or costs; and (5) how to file a complaint for a violation of the domestic worker's rights. Sections 3-5 specifically exclude personal care attendants who are employed with funding from the DDS individual and family support waiver program, or the DDS comprehensive waiver program.

- **Section 67** requires the DDS commissioner to annually report specified waiting list information, which is currently posted to the DDS website, to the Public Health and Appropriations Committees.
- **Section 68** establishes a 19-member Level of Need Assessment System Advisory Committee to advise the DDS commissioner on the department's level of need assessment system. The committee shall meet quarterly and report annually on its activities to the Public Health Committee.
- **Section 81** requires the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) to oversee a study of equity in state government programs and actions; the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) must, in consultation with CHRO and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), hire a consultant to conduct the study on equity in state government with respect to race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability; specifies the study's required components and requires its submission to the GAE Committee by February 15, 2023.
- **Section 86** specifies that requirement for the legislature to approve American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) allocations applies to both partial and final allocations; and requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to notify the Appropriations Committee when it is determined that such an approval is not allowable under federal guidance.
- **Sections 89 through 124** and **sections 126 through 144** make various and wide-ranging changes to voter registration and state and municipal election law. Those sections concerning voters and elections that may have a direct impact on persons with disabilities include:
 - **Section 95** eliminates the prohibition on mentally incompetent people being admitted as electors.
 - **Section 102** makes permanent the use of drop boxes for returning absentee ballots.
 - **Section 102** expands who is eligible to return absentee ballots on behalf of a voter as an immediate family member, sibling, or designee.
 - **Section 103** makes electors suffering from a long-term illness, as well as persons with a permanent physical disability, eligible for permanent absentee ballot status.
 - **Section 109** requires the Secretary of the State to provide electors who are unable to appear at their polling place because of a visual impairment with an electronic absentee ballot.
 - **Section 110** allows any elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be given assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the elector's employer, (2) an agent of such employer, (3) an officer or agent of the elector's union, or (4) a candidate for any office on the ballot, unless the elector is a member of the immediate family of such candidate. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting booth at the polling place or the location designated for election day registration.
- **Section 145** requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide to any person who has received a COVID-19 vaccination, or, if such person is a minor child, such person's parent or guardian, information that was provided by a COVID-19 vaccination provider to the department regarding such person's COVID-19 vaccination status upon request by such person, parent or guardian. DPH shall not disclose such person's COVID-19 vaccination status to any other person or entity unless such person, parent or guardian authorizes such disclosure.

- **Sections 147 through 154** makes various changes to public meeting requirements, freedom of information (FOI) appeals process, and the use of electronic equipment to access and participate in public meetings. Specific sections concerning public meetings, FOI, and access and participation to meetings electronically that may impact persons with disabilities include:
 - **Sections 147 & 149** authorizes public agencies to conduct meetings using electronic equipment until April 30, 2022 and establishes requirements and procedures for doing so.
 - **Sections 148, 150, & 151** allows public agencies to provide meeting notice by electronic transmission; and requires agencies to post certain notices of adjournment on their websites.
 - **Section 148** allows the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) to electronically send certain documents to parties in an appeal before the commission.
 - **Sections 152 & 153** allows public agencies and town meetings to deny disorderly individuals access to meetings by electronic equipment and allows the members of the public agency to terminate such person's or group of persons' attendance by electronic equipment until such time as such person or group of persons conforms to order or, if need be, until such meeting is closed.
 - **Section 154** requires Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) to study the implementation of these sections' provisions.
- **Sections 185 & 186** requires the Governor to annually designate and proclaim new days, weeks, and months in recognition of various causes such as the second week of February as "Kindness Week" and the second Sunday of June as "Connecticut Race Amity Day."
- **Section 189** establishes an interbranch task force to study the state workforce and retiring employees. Such study is required to include an examination of adequate succession planning for state employees in order to recruit and maintain the best talent in the state workforce, as well as a review of barriers to managerial recruitment.
- **Section 190** requires the Commissioner of Administrative Services to (1) compile and update a list of companies domiciled in this state that during the COVID-19 public health and civil preparedness emergencies changed the company's business model to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) to respond to COVID-19, and (2) post the list to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) website. The act requires any state agency purchasing personal protective equipment to make reasonable efforts to purchase not less than twenty-five per cent of such PPE from companies on the DAS list.
- **Section 193** requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to adopt regulations that establish green building construction standards for certain state-funded building projects by reference to a nationally recognized model for sustainable construction codes that promotes constructing high-performance green buildings.
- **Section 194** requires, rather than allows, the Commissioner of Administrative Services to give unclassified or non-union state employees in the executive and judicial branches the same rights and benefits provided by state employee collective bargaining agreements.
- **Section 259** requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish the CTpass program to allow certain individuals of eligible organizations, including a state or municipal agency, or a public or nonprofit social service provider, to use specified public transit services for free or at a reduced cost.
- **Section 270** requires employers subject to the state's unemployment law to report certain data about each employee in their quarterly wage reports to DOL beginning in (1) the third quarter of 2024 for employers with 100 or more employees; (2) the third quarter of 2026 for employers with 50 to 99 employees; and (3) the third quarter of 2028 for employers with 49 or fewer employees. The data to be

collected includes employee's gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, disability status, highest education completed, home address, address of primary work site, occupational code under the standard occupational classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, hours worked, days worked, salary or hourly wage, employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable, employment end date. The act also allows for a waiver option and exempts employers' identifying information and employees' personally identifying information from disclosure under FOIA, with certain exceptions.

- **Sections 275 through 281** make several changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) Insurance Program and its appeals process.
 - **Sections 275 & 276** allows, rather than requires, the Labor Commissioner to conduct a hearing for people aggrieved by a denial of paid family and medical leave benefits or the imposition of certain anti-fraud penalties; and removes a requirement that appeals in these cases proceed under the UAPA.
 - **Sections 277 & 278** removes a provision that explicitly excludes the State from being an employer covered by the FMLA.
 - **Sections 279, 280 & 281** requires complaints for FMLA violations to go through additional procedural steps before proceeding to a hearing.
- **Section 289** establishes the Essential Workers COVID-19 Assistance Program to provide benefits through June 30, 2024, for lost wages, out-of-pocket medical expenses, and burial expenses to qualifying essential employees who could not work due to contracting COVID-19.
- **Section 290** prohibits employers from deliberately misinforming employees about or dissuading them from filing a claim for benefits from workers' compensation claims or the Connecticut Essential Workers COVID-19 Assistance Program.
- **Sections 306 & 307** adjusts American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations made in the biennial budget bill (Section 41 of Special Act 21-15); and allocates ARPA funds for specified broadband and technology projects in the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).
- **Section 308** adjusts certain carryforwards of unexpended balances of funds from the biennial budget bill (Section 29 of Special Act 21-15).
- **Sections 317 & 318** increases from \$60 to \$75 per month, the personal needs allowance provided to certain long-term care facility residents including persons residing in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs).
- **Section 319** requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish acuity-based rates for nursing homes beginning with FY 23 and establishes related requirements and criteria; requires DSS to determine a facility's certified bed utilization at a minimum of 90% of capacity for computing minimum allowable patient days; and prohibits inflationary rate increases for nursing homes for FYs 22 and 23 unless authorized under DSS's case-mix adjustments.
- **Sections 320** makes several changes to cost-based rate-making provisions that apply to (1) nursing homes for FY 22 and (2) residential care homes and, in subsection (h) of section 17b-340 CGS, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IIDs); and allows certain fair rent increases for residential care homes and ICF-IIDs for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. The section also requires the Commissioner of Developmental Services, effective July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, and within available appropriations, to increase rates for the purpose of wage and benefit enhancements for employees of intermediate care facilities. ICF/IIDs that receive a rate adjustment for the purpose of wage and benefit enhancements but do not provide increases in employee salaries on or before July 31,

2021, and July 31, 2022, respectively, may be subject to a rate decrease in the same amount as the adjustment by the Commissioner.

- **Section 325** requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner to increase the minimum per diem, per bed rates for ICF-IDs to \$501 for FYs 22 and 23.
- **Section 331** requires Medicaid to cover acupuncture and chiropractic services.
- **Section 334** establishes deadlines for insurers and other legally liable third parties to (1) act on claims DSS submits for covered health care items and services and (2) request refunds from DSS when they determine they are not liable for a claim for which they reimbursed DSS.
- **Section 337** prohibits state agencies from reducing future contract amounts with, or demanding reimbursement from, nonprofit providers that obtain or retain funds through certain federal loan forgiveness programs. For purposes of this section "loan forgiveness" means forgiveness of any paycheck protection program loan, in whole or in part, provided under the CARES Act, P.L. 116-136, or the Paycheck Program Flexibility Act of 2020, P.L. 116-142. "Paycheck protection program loan" means a loan offered to a business or nonprofit organization during the COVID-19 pandemic under the CARES Act.
- **Section 338** allocates \$5 million for FYs 22 and 23 to fund an increase in the reimbursement rate for certain Medicaid-funded home and community-based programs including (A) the Money Follows the Person Program, (B) autism home and community-based waiver services, (C) personal care assistant services in home and community-based waiver programs and services; and the state-funded Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly.
- **Section 339** expands and makes permanent an incentive program for nonprofit human services providers that realize savings in the state-contracted services they deliver (see [Public Act No. 21-65 H.B. No. 6319 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT RECOVERIES AND INCENTIVES UNDER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS](#)). The section adds the requirement that any nonprofit provider of human services allowed to retain savings under the incentive program shall submit a report to the Secretary of Policy and Management on how excess funds were reinvested to strengthen quality, invest in deferred maintenance and make asset improvements.
- **Section 340** increases Medicaid reimbursement rates by 10% for emergency and nonemergency ambulance services and by \$3 for transports beginning in Fiscal Year 2022.
- **Section 341** requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to allocate funds to increase DDS-contracted service providers' wages and benefits for FY 2022 and FY 2023.
- **Sections 387, 388 & 389** require the State Department of Education (SDE) to (1) establish a commission to analyze and provide recommendations about remote learning for K-12 public school students; (2) develop a plan to create and implement a K-12 statewide remote learning school; and (3) audit public school boards' provision of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Sections 419, 420 & 421** generally expands the Birth-to-Three program by changing the definition of eligible children to include certain children who turn age three during the summer break to conform with section 28 of Public Act No. 21-46; and make conforming changes to extend certain group and individual health insurance coverage to such children.
- **Section 430** increases the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 23% to 30.5% of the federal credit.

- **Section 453** requires the state comptroller to transfer specified federal ARPA funds to the General Fund for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.
- **Sections 454 through 458** expands restrictions for placing liens to recover public assistance and deems additional previously filed claims released as of FY 22; and adds a notification requirement and filing deadline to the process of administering certain small estates to recover state claims.
- **Sections 469 through 474** modify various state general obligation bond authorizations for FY 22 and FY 23 that were included in Public Act No. 21-111 of the regular session.
- **Section 475** revises section 112 of Public Act No. 21-111 that established the Community Investment Fund 2030. It allows the Department of Economic Development (DECD) Commissioner, for Fiscal Years 2022 to 2024 and in coordination with the Office of Policy and Management Secretary, to use bond funds, ARPA funds, and available resources to provide grants for selected major projects to implement the state's Economic Action Plan.
- **Section 477** requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to base Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 rates on Fiscal Year 2021 rates adjusted for inflation for (1) private residential facilities and other facilities serving individuals with certain disabilities and (2) community living arrangements (CLAs) and residential care homes that have their rates determined on a flat rate basis; and allows DSS to provide fair rent increases in certain circumstances.
- **Section 488** eliminates provisions in Public Act No. 21-111 requiring that a portion of the funds available for the state's Economic Action Plan be reserved for projects meeting specified criteria; requires the Community Investment Fund 2030 board established in Public Act No. 21-111 to review and provide comments to DECD on projects to implement the state's Economic Action Plan (see section 475).
- **Sections 490 through 497** repeal various sections in state statute and various sections in public acts.

SENATE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

S.B. No. 5 AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING, SAFE AND SECURE IN-PERSON VOTING, VOTER REGISTRATION AND CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION The bill, as amended, would have made various changes to voting and election statutes, including (1) requiring DMV, voter registration agencies, and public higher education institutions to use a secretary of the state-approved and NVRA-compliant electronic system to automatically transmit voter registration applications for qualified applicants to registrars of voters unless an applicant declines to apply for admission; (2) requiring the secretary of the state to implement an e-signature system for most elections-related forms and applications; (3) requiring employers to give an employee two hours of unpaid time off for state elections and certain special elections if he or she requests it in advance; (4) eliminating the prohibition on mentally incompetent people being admitted as electors; (5) expanding who is eligible to return absentee ballots on behalf of a voter as an immediate family member or designee; (6) making permanent the use of drop boxes for returning absentee ballots; (7) making electors suffering from a long-term illness eligible for permanent absentee ballot status; (8) limiting disclosure of certain voter registration information; (9) requiring the secretary of the state to provide electors who are unable to appear at their polling place because of a visual impairment with an electronic absentee ballot; (10) specifying that electors may receive voting assistance in voting booths at designated EDR locations; and (11) requiring the secretary of the state and various agencies to study the capabilities of state agencies in providing an electronic system that distributes mail voter registration applications.

In sections 10, 11 and 12 of the original committee bill, persons with developmental disabilities were singled out in how they would be allowed to register to vote when “At the time of such application, any such citizen who has a developmental disability, as determined by a licensed physician who specializes in primary care, or the citizen's legal representative, shall certify under oath that the citizen meets each other qualification” [to be a voter]. These sections were removed in subsequent amendments. [S.B. No. 5](#) **died on the House Calendar.** See [Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.** Sections 89 through 124 and sections 126 through 144 make various and wide-ranging changes to voter registration and state and municipal election law.

[S.B. No. 167](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF THE FORMER SEASIDE SANATORIUM FACILITY** The bill would have required the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to consult with the Governor, the Departments of Economic and Community Development, Administrative Services, the Office of Policy and Management, and the Town of Waterford to develop and issue a request for information (ROI) for low-impact, residential uses for the former Seaside Sanatorium facility. Any request for information issued would have required responses to such request provide for (1) the repair and preservation of any seawall on said property; (2) the improvement and maintenance of the current residential facility operated by the state for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and (3) the requirement that any proceeds from the sale of the property be used to support the persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. [S.B. No. 167](#) **died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.**

[S.B. No. 183](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE MEETINGS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT** This bill would have allowed public agencies to hold meetings remotely through conference call, videoconference, or other technology thereby codifying Executive Order 7B, which the governor issued on March 14, 2020, effective for the duration of the declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies. The bill specified that public agency meetings held remotely in compliance with its requirements satisfy the Freedom of Information Act’s (FOIA’s) requirement that these meetings be open to the public. It also would have allowed public agencies to go into executive session during a remote meeting for the same reasons that they may do so for an in-person meeting (e.g., to discuss pending litigation). [S.B. No. 183](#) **died on Senate Calendar.** See [Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.** Sections 147 through 154 makes various changes to public meeting requirements, freedom of information (FOI) appeals process, and the use of electronic equipment to access and participate in public meetings.

[S.B. No. 328](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE STATE** This bill, as amended, would have made various changes related to the provision of social services and services to individuals with intellectual disability. Principally, it would have: (1) required the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to develop a strategic plan to reduce the wait time for DDS services and report the plan and any legislative recommendations to the Public Health Committee; (2) required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to consult with all relevant stakeholders before implementing any plan to close a DDS facility; (3) required the DDS commissioner to provide notice to each person with intellectual disability, or his or her legal representative, before the person’s eligibility for state services ends; (4) authorized the Department of Social Services (DSS) to contract with hospitals and nonprofit organizations to provide social services and referrals for these services to frequent users of hospital services; and (5) established a nine-member task force to study DDS’s level of need assessment system and requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee. [DDS Testimony Before the Public Health Committee on S.B. No. 328](#) [S.B. No. 328](#) **died on Senate Calendar.** See [Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER**

ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Section 67 requires the DDS commissioner to annually report specified waiting list information to the Public Health and Appropriations Committees and **Section 68** establishes a 19-member Level of Need Assessment System Advisory Committee to advise the DDS commissioner on the department's level of need assessment system.

S.B. No. 385 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE INCLUSION OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO VETERAN STATUS ON STATE AGENCY FORMS The bill would have required the Commissioners of Veteran Affairs and Administrative Services to conduct a study of the utility of including questions relating to veteran status, that may assist in the identification of and the offering of assistance to veterans, on state agency forms that are to be completed by members of the public. **S.B. No. 385 died in the Veteran Affairs Committee.**

S.B. No. 418 AN ACT INCREASING THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS AND AUTHORIZING A DEDUCTION FOR CONSERVATOR EXPENSES FROM THE AMOUNT OF INCOME A MEDICAID RECIPIENT APPLIES TO THE COST OF CARE This bill would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to increase, from \$60 to \$72.75 per month, the personal needs allowance (PNA) provided to long-term care facility residents who receive Medicaid or certain other federal or state assistance. The bill also would have required DSS to amend the Medicaid state plan to allow the deduction of certain conservator expenses when calculating a Medicaid-eligible nursing home resident's applied income. In general, these residents are required to spend any income they have on their care, except for certain allowances (i.e., applied income). The bill also would have: (1) required DSS to increase a nursing home's Medicaid payment by the amount of the reduced applied income; (2) required DSS to annually notify the probate court administrator of the total conservatorship expenses deducted from the applied income in the preceding fiscal year; (3) requires the probate court administrator to annually transfer from the Probate Court Administration Fund to DSS an amount equal to half of such conservatorship expenses for Medicaid-eligible nursing home residents for that year; (4) required the DSS to deduct a baseline of \$125 in conservatorship expenses from a nursing home resident's applied income and approve deductions that exceed this amount under certain conditions; and (5) prohibited DSS from treating any probate court-approved conservator or fiduciary fees as an improper asset transfer for purposes of imposing a penalty period. **S.B. No. 418 died in the Appropriations Committee.**

S.B. No. 568 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO THE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT This bill was the Senate version of **Public Act No. 21-6** **H.B. No. 6423** **AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS.** It would have eliminated the religious exemption from immunization requirements for individuals attending (1) public and private schools, including higher education institutions, and (2) child care centers and group and family day care homes. The bill would have grandfathered in individuals enrolled in 7th grade or higher who submitted a religious exemption prior to the bill's passage. **S.B. No. 568 died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 572 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE TEAMS, REENTRY CENTERS AND POLICE OFFICER TRAINING This bill would have required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to administer grants to municipalities that form community response teams to work with certain mobile crisis teams. The bill also would have required the Department of Correction (DOC) to administer grants to municipalities that establish a reentry center to help transition offenders from incarceration to the community by connecting them with support services and programs. Finally, the bill would have required the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to study the current police basic and review training curriculum conducted by the State Police or POST relative to (1) interactions with people with a mental, intellectual, or physical disability; (2) mental health awareness; and (3) de-escalation practices and techniques.

POST also would have had to have made recommendations to expand opportunities for state and local police officers to receive crisis intervention team patrol specialist training. [S.B. No. 572](#) died in the Appropriations Committee.

[S.B. No. 764](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID PROVIDERS** This bill would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make changes under the state's Medicaid program to include services provided by licensed acupuncturists and licensed chiropractors as covered Medicaid services. It also would have required DSS to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates so that (1) licensed nurse-midwives would have received the same rates as licensed obstetrician-gynecologists for performing the same services or procedures and (2) licensed podiatrists would have received the same rates as licensed physicians for performing the same services or procedures. Under the bill, DSS would have had to amend the Medicaid state plan to integrate services provided by peer support specialists into care teams funded under the medical assistance program and provide Medicaid reimbursement for these services. [S.B. No. 764](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 765](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME CARE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** This bill would have limited participation in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Persons with Disabilities to those who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicaid waivers. Under existing law, the state-funded pilot serves up to 100 people with disabilities who (1) are age 18 to 64, (2) are inappropriately institutionalized or at risk of becoming so, and (3) meet certain asset limits. [S.B. No. 765](#) died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 842](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT** This bill would have required the state comptroller to establish a fully insured group health insurance and pharmacy plan for multiemployer plans, nonprofit employers, and smaller employers. Under the bill, a "small employer" is an employer with 50 or fewer employees; it excludes nonstate public employers (i.e., municipalities). Coverage offered under the bill generally would have had to comply with all existing state insurance laws and health insurance benefit mandates. The bill would have established the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange account (CT-HIE) as a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund. It would have been funded in part by money generated from a fee on health insurers the bill imposed. The Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and Access Health CT ("the exchange") would have had to make a plan to use money in the account to: (1) reduce the cost of qualified health plans offered through the exchange, including by eliminating premiums for people at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL); (2) provide up to \$25 million annually for premium and cost-sharing subsidies for individuals ineligible for qualified health plans (QHPs) (e.g., undocumented immigrants); and (3) apply for and implement a Section 1332 waiver to (a) reduce the cost of health insurance coverage, including premiums and cost sharing, and (b) make health insurance coverage available to people who are ineligible for QHPs. The bill also would have required the Department of Labor to inform people applying for unemployment assistance of potential health care subsidies and refer them to the exchange. Under the bill, the exchange would have been required to enroll these individuals in assistance if eligible. The bill also would have increased the income eligibility for Husky A Medicaid assistance for parents and caretakers from 155% of FPL to 201% of FPL. [S.B. No. 842](#) died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 845](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE SAFETY CODES, MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODE TRAINING AND EDUCATION BOARD OF CONTROL, APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY FIRE MARSHAL AND REPORTS FILED AFTER A FIRE, EXPLOSION OR OTHER FIRE EMERGENCY** This bill would have made several unrelated changes in laws affecting fire codes, fire marshals, and related committees, boards, and reports. It would have aligned certain provisions in the state Fire Prevention Code with the state Fire Safety Code and establishes each code's applicability. The bill applied the Fire Prevention Code to all buildings and structures constructed before January 1, 2006, generally conforming to current practice. Additionally, the bill would have applied the Fire

Safety Code to buildings and adjacent areas constructed on or after January 1, 2006, and generally expanded existing coverage to include structures and areas adjacent to structures. It required the Fire Safety Code to be based on nationally recognized model life safety codes, in addition to nationally recognized model fire codes required under existing law. The bill would have required the Fire Safety Code to include provisions for smoke detectors and warning equipment that use any power source permitted under the code for certain new residential buildings and other residential buildings installing or replacing equipment. It also eliminated references to regulations established in or under the code and provisions establishing required capabilities and certain technical specifications for smoke and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment. **S.B. No. 845 died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 868 AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF COMMUNITY RESIDENCES This bill, which would have amended section 8-3e of the Connecticut General Statutes, specified that community residences (i.e., certain group homes for adults with disabilities) do not include health care facilities that (1) are private and for-profit or (2) receive no Department of Mental Health and Addition Services (DMHAS) funding. By law, zoning regulations may not treat community residences differently than single-family homes. The bill would have defined “health care facilities” to include mental health, substance abuse treatment, and other facilities that may require a Certificate of Need (CON), including their parent companies and subsidiaries. In doing so, the bill would have allowed zoning regulations to impose more restrictive requirements on these facilities than they impose on community residences or single-family homes. By law, any resident of a municipality in which a community or child-care residence is located may petition, with the municipal legislative body’s approval, certain state agencies to revoke the residence’s license (or funding, in the case of community residences) for not operating in compliance with statutes or regulations. The bill would have expanded this authorization to cover entities that were initially established as a community residence or child-care residential facility, provided the resident’s petition is based on noncompliance with laws applicable at the time of the petition (e.g., entities established as community residences that are health care facilities under the bill, but only if they are noncompliant with relevant health care facility laws or regulations). **S.B. No. 868 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 942 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ON-TIME PAYMENT OF WAGES This bill would have required certain state-contracted fiscal intermediaries that provide payroll services for paying state-funded personal care attendants (PCAs) to meet certain payroll-related requirements. It would have applied to fiscal intermediaries that provide payroll services funded in whole or in substantial part by state funds to pay personal care attendants (PCAs) (i.e., DDS direct support professionals (DSPs)). PCAs covered by the bill are persons who provide personal care assistance under a state-funded program, such as the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders and DDS self-directed services. The bill specified that fiscal intermediaries do not include the individuals who receive PCA services. In the definition section of the bill, it defined “employer” as being the fiscal intermediary, which would be in direct conflict with the Medicaid waiver requirements for self-directed services where the individual receiving the PCA services or the individual’s family member or legal representative is the employer of record. The bill required the fiscal intermediaries acting as the employer to pay the PCAs weekly or bi-weekly on a regular pay day designated in advance by the fiscal intermediary. As under the payroll law that applies to all employers and employees, they must do so by cash, check, direct deposit (upon the employee’s request), or payroll card. The bill further required the fiscal intermediaries to provide clear and timely communication directly to each PCA about payment confirmation, a change in payment status, or any pay discrepancy. If there were a pay discrepancy or issue with a PCA’s time records that would impact how much pay the PCA would receive on his or her regular pay day, the fiscal intermediary’s communication would have been required to (1) contain specific information about the discrepancy or issue and (2) give the PCA enough time and a specific and accessible way to respond and try to fix the problem before the regular pay day. If the problem had not been resolved at least 24 hours before the regular pay day, the fiscal intermediary would have had to provide a way for the PCA to receive his or her pay between payroll cycles and within 48 hours after the problem had been resolved. The bill would have subjected violators to a \$100 fine per

violation, per day, until the violation was corrected. If the labor commissioner imposed the fine, the fine would have been remitted to the PCA who was subjected to the violation within 30 days after the fine was collected. [DDS Testimony Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee on S.B. No. 942](#) [S.B. No. 942](#) died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 980](#) **AN ACT ELIMINATING INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS FOR THE MED-CONNECT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** This bill would have eliminated the income and asset limits for Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED-Connect). By law, unchanged by the bill, enrollees must (1) be engaged in substantial and reasonable work effort as determined by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and as permitted by federal law and (2) pay a premium based on their countable income over 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). [S.B. No. 980](#) died in the Appropriations Committee.

[S.B. No. 1002](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING MATTERS** This bill would have made various changes to existing labor and public health law much of which was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill's various provisions would have: (1) prohibited employers from deliberately misinforming employees about or dissuading them from filing a workers' compensation claim; (2) required employers or insurers to file a notice of controversy when there is a disputed request for medical or surgical aid or hospital and nursing services; (3) established the conditions under which employees must be presumed to have contracted COVID-19 in the course of their employment; (4) established a \$20,000 benefit for burial expenses for an employee who dies due to contracting COVID-19; (5) expanded eligibility for workers' compensation post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) benefits to include emergency medical services personnel, DOC employees, 9-1-1 emergency dispatchers, and under certain circumstances related to COVID-19, health care providers; (6) required employers to offer available jobs to their laid-off employees who (A) held the same or similar position when they were most recently separated from service with the employer or (B) can be qualified for the position with the same training as a new employee; (7) required the Commissioner of Public Health to procure PPE to create two stockpiles and establish priorities for stockpile use during a public health emergency; (8) required the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to establish a process to evaluate, distribute, and approve PPE for use during public health emergencies; (9) required health care providers and long-term care providers to maintain enough new PPE for 90 days of surge consumption during a state of emergency; (10) required hospitals and nursing homes to collect and post certain data related to their COVID-19 cases; (11) established a grant program and required employers to apply for grants that they must use to provide additional pandemic pay to their essential employees (\$5 per hour) and specialized risk employees (\$10 per hour.) for their hours worked mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 emergency between March 20, 2020, and April 30, 2021; (12) required private-sector employers to provide their employees with up to 80 hours of additional COVID-19 paid sick leave that they can use for certain purposes related to COVID-19; and (13) required state agencies to consider using project labor agreements (PLAs) when they contract for a public works project worth at least \$10 million and required contractors bidding on those contracts to be prequalified by DAS. [S.B. No. 1002](#) died in the Judiciary Committee. See [Public Act No. 21-107](#) [S.B. No. 660](#) **AN ACT EXPANDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS SUFFERED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN CONNECTION WITH COVID-19** that enacted the expanded eligibility for workers' compensation post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) benefits.

[S.B. No. 1022](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH** This bill would have modified requirements for the delivery of telehealth services and insurance coverage of these services, codifying provisions temporarily enacted by [Public Act No. 20-2](#) of the 2020 July Special Session. Among other things, it would have: (1) expanded the types of health providers authorized to provide telehealth services; (2) allowed certain telehealth providers to provide services using audio-only telephone; (3) allowed certain telehealth providers to use additional information and communication technologies in accordance with federal requirements (e.g., certain

third-party video communication applications); (4) authorized the Department of Public Health (DPH) to temporarily modify, waive, or suspend certain regulatory requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19; (5) established requirements for telehealth providers seeking payment from uninsured and underinsured patients; (6) required insurance coverage for telehealth services and prohibited providers reimbursed for services from seeking payment from an insured patient beyond cost sharing; and (7) prohibited (a) insurance policies from excluding coverage for a telehealth platform selected by an in-network provider and (b) carriers from reducing reimbursement to a provider because services are provided through telehealth instead of in-person. **S.B. No. 1022 died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.** See **Public Act No. 21-9 H.B. No. 5596 AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH** that was enacted and contains various provisions of S.B. No.1022.

S.B. No. 1056 AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE This bill would have raised the income limit for eligibility for public medical assistance (e.g., Medicaid) to 200% of the federal poverty level, except where existing law establishes higher limits. In doing so, it would have raised income limits for the following Medicaid coverage groups: (1) HUSKY A for children under age 19 (currently 196% of FPL); (2) HUSKY A for parents and caretaker relatives (currently 155% of FPL); and (3) HUSKY D for low-income adults ages 18 to 64 (currently 133% if FPL). It also would have raised the income limit to 200% of FPL for HUSKY C, which provides Medicaid coverage for people who are 65 years old or older, blind, or living with a disability. Under current law, HUSKY C income limits are based on Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefit levels, and they vary by region. They are generally less than 100% FPL for 2021, depending on the types of income excluded (“disregarded”) for eligibility determinations, though higher for institutionalized individuals. **S.B. No. 1056 died in the Appropriations Committee.**

S.B. No. 1067 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF CERTAIN HOUSING IN THE TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR The bill would have required the Department of Developmental Services to conduct a study concerning the establishment of housing units in the town of South Windsor for individuals served by the Manchester chapter of the Arc of Connecticut (MARC, Inc.). The study would have included an examination of (1) the number of such individuals for whom housing may be required, and (2) the ability for such provider to effectively provide services to such individuals. A report on the study’s finding and recommendations would have been submitted to the Public Health and Planning and Development Committees by January 1, 2022. **S.B. No. 1067 died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 1073 AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT The bill would have required the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), to issue a request for proposals to hire a national consultant with expertise in qualitative and quantitative research to conduct a study to provide recommendations to assist state agencies in assessing equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability. When the contracted consultant had conducted the study, DAS, OPM, and CHRO would have been required to submit the findings of the study and any provide recommendations for legislative action to the Government Administration and Elections Committee. **S.B. No. 1073 died on the House Calendar.** See **Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202 AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.** **Section 81** requires the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) to oversee a study of equity in state government programs and actions; the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) must, in consultation with CHRO and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), and hire a consultant to conduct the study on equity in state government with respect to race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability.

S.B. No. 1074 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATED TO GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND COVID-19 This bill would have codified parts of five different executive orders

issued by the governor during the COVID-19 pandemic related to government administration. Among its various provisions, the bill would have allowed public agencies to hold meetings remotely through conference call, videoconference, or other technology. It specified that public agency meetings held remotely in compliance with its requirements satisfy the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA's) requirement that these meetings be open to the public. It allowed public agencies to go into executive session during a remote meeting for the same reasons that they may do so for an in-person meeting (e.g., to discuss pending litigation). It also would have allowed executive branch agency heads to modify or suspend any of their agency's regulatory requirements as they deem necessary to protect the public health and reduce COVID-19's spread. In addition, the bill would have allowed notaries public and Superior Court commissioners to perform notarial acts electronically until December 31, 2021. **S.B. No. 1074 died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 1075 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYROLL SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS The bill would have required responders to a request for proposals (RFP) to provide payroll services for certain personal care attendants (PCAs) to demonstrate their ability to provide these services in a timely manner. To qualify, responders would have had to demonstrate that they could: (1) provide clear and timely direct communication to the PCA about pay discrepancies, payment confirmation, or a change in consumer status, including: (A) sufficient notice prior to his or her date of payment (i.e., pay day) with specific information about any problem with the submitted time records that would impact the amount of pay the PCA will receive on pay day, and (B) a specific and accessible method for PCAs to address any problems in sufficient time to correct them and receive the correct amount on pay day; (2) provide a timely method (i.e., within 48 hours after resolving the pay discrepancy) for PCAs to receive pay between payroll cycles when a pay discrepancy has been resolved at least 24 hours after pay day; and (3) uses an expanded telephonic and computer-based in-home scheduling, tracking, and billing system capable of showing whether a PCA's timesheet has been approved or there is a problem with it. These requirements apply to PCAs employed by a consumer in the following state-funded programs: (1) Medicaid Acquired Brain Injury Waiver Program; (2) Medicaid PCA Waiver Program for adults with disabilities; (3) Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders; (4) Connecticut Home Care Program for Disabled Adults Pilot Program; (5) Individual, Family Support, and Comprehensive Medicaid waivers administered by the Department of Developmental Services; and (6) any other state-funded program that provides PCA services. The bill did not specify if the chosen payroll services provider (i.e., fiscal intermediary) would act as an employer or in lieu of an individual or individual's family member or legal representative as the employer of record. **S.B. No. 1075 died on the Foot of the Senate Calendar.**

HOUSE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

H.B. No. 5011 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT WITH A HAND-HELD SCANNER The original bill would have reduced or eliminated fees for copying public records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and set the new fee structure. The bill as amended would have prohibited public agencies from charging individuals a fee to copy public records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) using a handheld scanner (e.g., mobile phone or camera). **H.B. No. 5011 died on the Senate Calendar.**

H.B. No. 5125 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ENTITIES THAT HAVE OPERATED PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC The bill would have provided that no entity in the state could be held liable for any loss, damage, injury or death arising from exposure to or transmission of COVID-19 on the premises of the entity during the time period of the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that the entity substantially complied with applicable health and safe operation guidelines contained in the executive orders issued by the Governor and guidance issued by the Department of Public Health applicable to the entity and its premises,

unless such loss, damage, injury or death is caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the entity. [H.B. No. 5125](#) died in the Judiciary Committee.

[H.B. No. 5320](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESSIBILITY TO VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CERTAIN DISABILITIES** The bill would have established a task force to conduct a study of accessibility to voting for electors and election day registration applicants with disabilities. The study would have included an examination of nonvisual accessibility for electors and election day registration applicants who are blind or visually impaired. The bill also would have required that each polling place have one or more voting devices equipped for individuals with disabilities that comply with the provisions of the Help America Vote Act in complete working order. The bill did not specify what type of disabilities would be covered under the provisions of the bill. [H.B. No. 5320](#) died the Government Administration and Elections Committee. See [Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.** Sections 89 through 124 and sections 126 through 144 make various and wide-ranging changes to voter registration and state and municipal election law.

[H.B. No. 5654](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UPDATING OF STATE FORMS AND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE A NONBINARY GENDER OPTION** The bill would have required each state agency to submit to their committee of cognizance a report summarizing (1) the results of the agency's assessment of what changes would be needed to update all of the agency's printed and electronic forms and applications used by the public that require the individual who is filling out such form or application to indicate a sex or gender to include a nonbinary gender option and estimate the cost of such update, and (2) any request to an applicable federal agency for approval to update agency processes or forms to include a nonbinary gender option if such approval is required under federal law. The bill also would have required the state agencies to provide in the report (1) a cost estimate for changing the forms and other documents, (2) any changes that have been made to agency processes or forms to permit individuals to indicate a nonbinary gender, (3) any modernization efforts within the agency that are related to such update, and (4) the status of any request made to a federal agency for approval of any changes. [H.B. No. 5654](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[H.B. No. 5879](#) **AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN CONTACT INFORMATION FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT** This bill would have added to the list of documents that are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) any portion of a contact information list containing an individual's residential or mailing address, email address, or phone number, if the list is (1) created or modified by a legislator or his or her staff for the legislator's public office purposes and (2) in the legislator's or staff person's custody or control. [H.B. No. 5879](#) died on the House Calendar.

[H.B. No. 6103](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PROPERTY USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES** This bill would have: (1) expanded the type of housing owned by federally tax-exempt, charitable organizations that is exempt from property tax; (2) specified government payments for the treatment, support, or care of individuals housed in a property do not constitute government housing subsidies that disqualify the property for a tax exemption; (3) required assessors to record their reasons for denying property tax exemptions for certain nonprofit organizations; and (4) required assessors to post on their website the form that organizations must file every four years to claim a property tax exemption. Concerning the expansion of the type of housing exempted from property tax, the bill would have eliminated the provision restricting the exemption to just "temporary" housing for such purposes, thus expanding the exemption to include all such housing regardless of the length of stay. [H.B. No. 6103](#) died on the House Calendar.

[H.B. No. 6211](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER AND RACIAL DIVERSITY ON CERTAIN STATE APPOINTIVE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS AND AN ONLINE SYSTEM FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE**

DEPARTMENT This bill would have required appointing authorities, beginning January 1, 2025, in cooperation with one another, to ensure that the appointed membership, except ex-officio members, of each state board, commission, committee, and council having members appointed by the governor or members of the General Assembly would be qualified and reflect the state’s gender and racial diversity according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau Equal Employment Opportunity Tabulation. [H.B. No. 6211](#) died on the House Calendar. See [Public Act No. 21-49 S.B. No. 883](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS** for similar appointment provisions for state boards, commissions, committees, and councils.

[H.B. No. 6217](#) **AN ACT INCREASING TRANSPARENCY FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS** This bill would have required Department of Consumer Protection (DCP)-registered charitable organizations, when soliciting, to disclose (1) their registration number and (2) the percentage of funds they collected in the prior calendar year that directly funded their charitable purpose. This information would have had to have been provided upon anyone’s request. The bill also required registered charitable organizations to conspicuously display their registration number on printed advertisements. Charitable organizations (whether a person or a legal entity) receiving at least \$50,000 in donations annually generally must register with DCP. [H.B. No. 6217](#) died on the House Calendar.

[H.B. No. 6317](#) **AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCHARGES FROM NURSING HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES TO TEMPORARY OR UNSTABLE HOUSING** This bill would have prohibited nursing homes and residential care homes from involuntarily transferring or discharging a resident to a homeless shelter or to a temporary or unstable housing situation. Under the bill, a “temporary or unstable housing situation” included: (1) a hotel, motel, or similar lodging for less than 30 days; (2) housing in which the resident does not have a legal right of occupancy; and (3) housing where the resident’s health needs could not be met in accordance with his or her discharge plan. For nursing home discharges, temporary or unstable housing would also include housing where there was no available and willing designated caregiver in accordance with the resident’s discharge plan. [H.B. No. 6317](#) died on the House Calendar.

[H.B. No. 6381](#) **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE REGARDING THE STATE WORKFORCE AND RETIRING EMPLOYEES** The bill would have established a twenty-member task force to study the state workforce and retiring state employees. The study would include an examination of adequate succession planning for state employees in order to recruit and maintain the best talent in the state workforce, as well as a review of barriers to managerial recruitment. The task force would have only included legislative appointees. [H.B. No. 6381](#) died on the Senate Calendar. See [Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.** Section 189 establishes an interbranch task force to study the state workforce and retiring employees. Such study is required to include an examination of adequate succession planning for state employees in order to recruit and maintain the best talent in the state workforce, as well as a review of barriers to managerial recruitment.

[H.B. No. 6425](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS** This bill would have allowed terminally ill adults, under specified conditions, to obtain and use prescriptions to self-administer lethal medications. To request aid in dying, the bill would require that a patient voluntarily expresses his or her wish to receive the medication by making two oral requests (at least 15 days apart) and a written request to his or her attending physician (i.e., the physician with primary responsibility for the patient’s medical care and treatment of the patient’s terminal illness). To be eligible, the patient would be required to be: (1) a competent adult (age 18 or older), (2) a Connecticut resident, and (3) determined by his or her attending physician to have a terminal illness (i.e., the final stage of an incurable condition that the attending physician anticipates, within reasonable medical judgment, will produce death within six months). Also, a consulting physician would have to examine the patient and confirm the attending physician’s diagnosis and confirm that

the patient is competent and acting voluntarily. Among other provisions, the bill would have: (1) required two witnesses for a written request for aid in dying to be valid; (2) allowed only patients themselves, and not anyone acting on their behalf (e.g., agents under a living will or conservators), to request aid in dying; (3) required the attending or consulting physician to refer the patient for counseling if they determine that the patient may be suffering from a condition causing impaired judgment; (4) established several procedural and recordkeeping requirements for attending physicians when they received a request for aid in dying and when they determine the patient qualified; (5) allowed patients to rescind an aid in dying request at any time and in any manner; (6) prohibited health care facilities from requiring their providers to participate in providing aid in dying medication; and (7) made someone guilty of murder for certain fraudulent acts in connection with an aid in dying request, such as willfully altering or forging a request or coercing or exerting undue influence on a patient to complete a request. [H.B. No. 6425](#) died in the Judiciary Committee.

[H.B. No. 6440](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE JOBSCT TAX REBATE PROGRAM This bill, in all its complexity, would have established the JobsCT tax rebate program under which companies in specified industries could earn rebates against the insurance premiums, corporation business, and pass-through entity (PE) taxes for reaching certain job creation targets. The rebate would have been based on (1) the number of new full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) the business creates and maintains, (2) these FTEs' average wage, and (3) the state income tax that would be paid on this average wage for a single filer. Separately, the bill would have required the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), when awarding economic development financial assistance, to prioritize applicants that demonstrate a willingness to make jobs available to unemployed individuals, low-income individuals, dislocated workers, individuals training for nontraditional employment, veterans, and individuals with disabilities to the extent consistent with any state or regional economic development strategy. [H.B. No. 6440](#) died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

[H.B. No. 6446](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES This bill, as amended, would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to implement acuity-based Medicaid rates for nursing homes beginning on October 1, 2021, replacing current law's cost-based rates. It would have established categories and limits for allowable cost components for acuity-based rates and required DSS to establish peer groupings of facilities for calculating certain allowable costs. The bill also would have eliminated certain hearing and reporting requirements for cost-based rate determinations for residential care homes and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF-IDs). It would have allowed DSS to provide certain fair rent increases to (1) ICF-IDs and residential care homes for FYs 22 and 23 and (2) nursing homes for the final nine months of FY 22. Additionally, the bill would have established deadlines for insurers and other legally liable third parties to (1) act on claims DSS submits for covered health care items and services and (2) request refunds from DSS when they determine they are not liable for a claim for which they reimbursed DSS. The original bill was the Governor's bill to implement his Human Services budget. [H.B. No. 6446](#) died in the Appropriations Committee. See [Public Act 21-2 JSS S.B. No. 1202](#) AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

[H.B. No. 6448](#) AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE MODERNIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PROVISION OF OUTDOOR DINING Among this bill's several provisions, it would have (1) authorized public agencies to conduct meetings using electronic equipment until April 30, 2022, and established requirements and procedures for doing so; (2) allowed public agencies to provide meeting notice by electronic transmission and required agencies to post certain notices of adjournment on their websites; (3) allowed the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) to electronically send certain documents to parties in an appeal before the commission; (4) allowed public agencies and town meetings to deny disorderly

individuals access to meetings by electronic equipment; and (5) made changes to how municipalities conduct business. [H.B. No. 6448](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[H.B. No. 6471](#) **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER COST-EFFECTIVE HUMAN SERVICES AND DETER FRAUD** The bill would have established a public-private partnership advisory council for the delivery of human services that would have studied and made recommendations concerning how to deliver human services in a cost-efficient manner, and deterred fraud in the delivery and receipt of human services. The report of the council to various legislative committees would have included recommendations concerning state-administered human services that may be directly provided by a public-private partnership on a more cost-efficient basis. [H.B. No. 6471](#) died in the Human Services Committee.

[H.B. No. 6474](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING COLLATERAL EMPLOYMENT CONSEQUENCES OF A CRIMINAL RECORD** This bill would have generally made it a discriminatory practice for employers with at least three employees to deny employment to someone solely because of their “criminal history record information” (i.e., criminal records). It similarly would have made it a discriminatory practice for state licensing agencies to deny an occupational license, permit, certificate, or registration to someone solely because of their criminal records. The bill would have allowed employers and licensing agencies to deny employment or a license if an individualized assessment shows that the denial is consistent with business necessity because (1) there is a substantial nexus between the circumstances of the person’s criminal records and prospective employment or license; (2) there is substantial evidence that the person has not been rehabilitated; and (3) insufficient time has passed since the acts underlying the criminal records. The bill also would have exempted certain positions, such as those in law enforcement agencies and those for which a law specifically disqualifies someone because of a prior criminal conviction. The bill also would have made it a discriminatory practice for any professional or trade association, board, or other organization representing a profession, trade, or occupation that requires a state license to refuse to accept someone as a member because of his or her criminal records. The bill would have established a 10-member Council on the Elimination of Occupational License Collateral Consequences and required it to identify state laws that create barriers for someone to obtain an occupational license based on their criminal records. The bill also required several state agencies to report certain information about their practices and procedures for performing background checks. [H.B. No. 6474](#) died on the House Calendar. See [Public Act No. 21-32](#) [S.B. No. 1019](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION AND CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES** for information on eliminating discriminatory practices based upon criminal history record information.

[H.B. No. 6536](#) **AN ACT REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYEES WORKING FROM HOME CERTAIN EQUIPMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN NECESSARY EXPENDITURES** This bill would have required an employer to reimburse an employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee within his or her scope of employment and directly related to services performed for the employer. An employer is considered to be any person engaged in business who has one or more employees, including the state and its political subdivisions (e.g., municipalities). “Necessary expenditures” would have included expenditures the employer requires of the employee to perform his or her work duties that primarily benefit the employer (e.g., equipment, technology, and office supplies), but it would have excluded certain expenditures, such as those an employee agrees to incur before being assigned to work from home. [H.B. No. 6536](#) died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 6537 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF PAID SICK DAYS AND DOMESTIC WORKER COVERAGE The bill, as amended, would have expanded the state’s paid sick leave law in numerous ways. It also would have established a new paid sick leave requirement for leave specifically related to COVID-19. The bill would have expanded the law to: (1) cover all private-sector employers and employees under it; (2) broaden the types of family members for whom an employee may use the leave; (3) increase the rate at which employees accrue leave and remove the waiting period before they could use it; and (4) broaden the reasons employees may use the leave to include things such as the employer’s closure due to a public health emergency. The bill also would have created a new requirement for all private-sector employers to provide additional COVID-19 sick leave to their employees. It would have required employers to provide at least 80 hours of this leave to their regular full-time employees and a prorated amount of leave for other employees. Under the bill, employees could have used the COVID-19 sick leave for various reasons related to COVID-19, such as complying with a COVID-19 quarantine order; caring for a family member subject to a quarantine order; caring for a child whose school was closed due to COVID-19; or having a health condition that may increase the employee’s susceptibility to COVID-19. In the bill under the definition of what entities would be considered “employers”, the bill established that the Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council would act on behalf of the employers of all personal care attendants. Depending on Medicaid’s interpretation of what “act on behalf of” meant, this bill could have jeopardized Medicaid funding for DDS self-directed services. **H.B. No. 6537 died in the Appropriations Committee.**

H.B. No. 6560 AN ACT CONCERNING TIMELY PAYMENTS AND TRAINING FOR PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS The bill would have required fiscal intermediaries (i.e., payroll service providers) to provide timely payments (i.e., on a regular payment date or within 48 hours after resolving any issue delaying payment) to personal care attendants (PCAs) employed by an individual in a state-funded program including Individual, Family Support, and Comprehensive Medicaid waivers programs administered by DDS. It would have required a fiscal intermediary to provide clear and timely communication to PCAs about payment discrepancies, payment confirmation, or a change in the individual receiving services’ status that might affect timely payment to them, including: (1) sufficient notice to allow a PCA to address any issue with submitted time records to receive correct payment on his or her regular payment date; (2) a specific and accessible means to address an issue that might affect payment in time to receive the correct payment on the PCA’s regular payment date; and (3) a method for a PCA to receive the correct payment within 48 hours after a payment discrepancy has been resolved. The bill would have subjected a fiscal intermediary that failed to make timely payments to a PCA in violation of the bill’s provisions to a fine by the state agency administering the program of \$25 for each day timely wage payment was delayed. Depending on Medicaid’s interpretation of what the fiscal intermediaries’ duties were and whether those duties made the fiscal intermediary an “employer of record” in place of an individual, or the individual’s family member or legal representative, this bill could have jeopardized Medicaid funding for DDS self-directed services. **DDS Testimony Before the Human Services Committee on H.B. No. 6560 H.B. No. 6560 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 6595 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR MATTERS RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING ISSUES This bill was the House version of **S.B. No. 1002 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING MATTERS.** This bill would have made various changes to existing labor and public health law much of which was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill’s various provisions would have: (1) prohibited employers from deliberately misinforming employees about or dissuading them from filing a workers’ compensation claim; (2) required employers or insurers to file a notice of controversy when there is a disputed request for medical or surgical aid or hospital and nursing services; (3) established the conditions under which employees must be presumed to have contracted COVID-19 in the course of their employment; (4) established a \$20,000 benefit for burial expenses for an employee who dies due to contracting COVID-19; (5) expanded eligibility for workers’ compensation post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) benefits to include emergency medical services personnel, DOC employees, 9-1-1 emergency

dispatchers, and under certain circumstances related to COVID-19, health care providers; (6) required employers to offer available jobs to their laid-off employees who (A) held the same or similar position when they were most recently separated from service with the employer or (B) can be qualified for the position with the same training as a new employee; (7) required the Commissioner of Public Health to procure PPE to create two stockpiles and establish priorities for stockpile use during a public health emergency; (8) required the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to establish a process to evaluate, distribute, and approve PPE for use during public health emergencies; (9) required health care providers and long-term care providers to maintain enough new PPE for 90 days of surge consumption during a state of emergency; (10) required hospitals and nursing homes to collect and post certain data related to their COVID-19 cases; (11) established a grant program and required employers to apply for grants that they must use to provide additional pandemic pay to their essential employees (\$5 per hour) and specialized risk employees (\$10 per hour.) for their hours worked mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 emergency between March 20, 2020, and April 30, 2021; (12) required private-sector employers to provide their employees with up to 80 hours of additional COVID-19 paid sick leave that they can use for certain purposes related to COVID-19; and (13) required state agencies to consider using project labor agreements (PLAs) when they contract for a public works project worth at least \$10 million and required contractors bidding on those contracts to be prequalified by DAS. [H.B. No. 6595](#) died on the House Calendar. See [Public Act No. 21-107](#) [S.B. No. 660](#) **AN ACT EXPANDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS SUFFERED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN CONNECTION WITH COVID-19** that enacted the expanded eligibility for workers' compensation post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) benefits.

[H.B. No. 6597](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCREDITATION, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, MENTAL HEALTH, BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT, DATA STORAGE SERVICES, TRAINING AND HIRING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS** The bill, as amended, would have made several changes affecting law enforcement and related agencies, including the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), and law enforcement units. Among its various provisions, the bill would have (1) extended existing employment protections to certain police officers who seek or receive mental health care services after undergoing a required behavioral health assessment; (2) required the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to issue a request for proposal (RFP) for purchasing body-worn recording equipment (i.e., body cameras), dashboard cameras with a remote recorder (i.e., dashboard cameras), and camera-related digital data storage devices and services to support law enforcement units and police officers in complying with state law's camera use requirements; (3) replaced police basic and review training on handling incidents involving individuals affected with a serious mental illness with a training curriculum on interacting with people who have mental or physical disabilities; and (4) modified statutes concerning the hiring and certification of police officers who were dismissed for malfeasance or serious misconduct. [H.B. No. 6597](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[H.B. No. 6662](#) **AN ACT DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON RACIAL EQUITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH** The bill, as amended, would have (1) declared that racism constitutes a public health crisis in this state and would continue to constitute a public health crisis until the goals set forth in the bill were attained; and (2) established a twenty-seven-member legislative Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health, to document and make recommendations to decrease the effect of racism on public health. The bill would have required the Department of Public Health to study a recruitment and retention program for healthcare workers who are persons of color. The bill also would have required the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to conduct an assessment of racial equity within its environmental health quality programs. [H.B. No. 6662](#) died on the House Calendar. See [Public Act No. 21-35](#) [S.B. No. 1](#) **AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN**

RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC for information on the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health and other provisions of this bill.

PROPOSED BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

P.S.B. No. 79 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DIVERSION OF PERSONS FROM THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES The proposed bill would have required that any person in the care and custody of the Department of Developmental Services be diverted at the time of an arrest from the judicial system back to the direct custody of the Department of Developmental Services. **P.S.B. No. 79 died in the Judiciary Committee.**

P.S.B. No. 329 AN ACT CONCERNING A STRATEGIC PLAN TO ENHANCE SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY The proposed bill would have required (1) the Commissioner of Developmental Services to develop a strategic plan to ease the wait time for services, (2) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to consult with stakeholders on a plan to close facilities operated by the Department of Developmental Services, and (3) advance notice when eligibility for state-assisted care of an individual with intellectual disability will expire. **DDS Testimony Before the Public Health Committee on S.B. No. 329 P.S.B. No. 329 died in the Public Health Committee.** The concepts from this bill were amended to **S.B. No. 328 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE STATE** that died on the Senate Calendar.

P.S.B. No. 333 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SEEKING TO RECEIVE AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT The proposed bill would have prohibited discrimination against an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability who is seeking to become a recipient of an organ in the organ transplant process. **P.S.B. No. 333 died in the Public Health Committee.**

P.S.B. No. 397 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' LEVEL OF NEED ASSESSMENT The proposed bill would have established a task force to study the Department of Developmental Services' level of need assessment system, including: (1) an examination of the instrument, policies, procedures, training and education materials related to the department's level of need assessment system and the diverse behavioral and medical issues assessed by such system, and (2) the development of recommendations for improvement and greater consistency in the administration and results of such system. **DDS Testimony Before the Public Health Committee on S.B. No. 397 P.S.B. No. 397 died in the Public Health Committee.** The concepts from this bill were amended to **S.B. No. 328 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE STATE** that died on the Senate Calendar.

P.S.B. No. 566 AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN THE RATIONING OF HEALTH CARE IN A PUBLIC HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY ON THE BASIS OF A PERSON'S DISABILITY STATUS The proposed bill would have prohibited a health care provider from discriminating against any person in a public health emergency on the basis of such person's disability status by rationing health care to persons without disabilities. **P.S.B. No. 566 died in the Public Health Committee**

P.S.B. No. 682 AN ACT CONCERNING A UNIVERSAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES The proposed bill would have authorized (1) the Commissioner of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, to develop a universal assessment system for programs offering services to persons with intellectual disability or developmental disabilities, and (2) the establishment of an

advisory committee to determine the level of needs of persons receiving services from such programs that shall meet and make recommendations for at least three years after development of a universal assessment system. [P.S.B. No. 682](#) died in the Public Health Committee.

[P.S.B. No. 684](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF REMOVABLE WINDSHIELD PLACARDS TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS The proposed bill would have required the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue a removable windshield placard to each parent or guardian of any person who is blind or any person with disabilities, regardless of the person's age. [P.S.B. No. 684](#) died in the Transportation Committee.

[P.S.B. No. 688](#) AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF CAMERA VIDEO SYSTEMS INSIDE SCHOOL BUSES AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES USED TO TRANSPORT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS The proposed bill would have required the installation of camera video systems inside any school bus or student transportation vehicle used to transport children with special needs. [P.S.B. No. 688](#) died in the Education Committee.

[P.S.B. No. 772](#) AN ACT CONCERNING UNDUE INFLUENCE The proposed bill would have defined "undue influence" and criminalized the use of such influence to persuade a vulnerable person to act against their own interest. [P.S.B. No. 772](#) died in the Judiciary Committee.

[P.H.B. No. 5154](#) AN ACT CONCERNING CLASSIFICATION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING ENERGY CONSUMPTION The proposed bill would have established a working group to evaluate the energy consumption classification procedure for nonprofit organizations. [P.H.B. No. 5154](#) died in the Energy and Technology Committee.

[P.H.B. No. 5386](#) AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL REVIEW OF BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS FILED BY CERTAIN GROUP HOMES The proposed bill would have permitted a municipal planning commission, zoning commission, combined planning and zoning commission or inland wetlands agency to review a building permit application filed by a group home that wishes to expand an existing facility from which a high volume of emergency and police calls originate, in order to determine the best interests of the residents of such group home and the municipality in which the group home is situated. [P.H.B. No. 5386](#) died in the Planning and Development Committee.


[P.H.B. No. 5563](#) AN ACT ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO ASSESS FEES ON CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL SERVICES The proposed bill would have permitted a municipality to assess a fee on certain nonprofit organizations located in the municipality for certain services provided by such municipality. [P.H.B. No. 5563](#) died in the Planning and Development Committee.

[P.H.B. No. 5648](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERSONAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR ABLE ACCOUNT DEPOSITS The proposed bill would have established a personal income tax deduction for deposits made by a taxpayer to an achieving a better life experience (ABLE) account. [P.H.B. No. 5648](#) died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

[P.H.B. No. 6265](#) AN ACT CONCERNING COURT AUTHORITY TO ENTER AN ORDER OF SUPPORT FOR AN ADULT CHILD WHO IS TWENTY-ONE OR OLDER AND HAS AN INTELLECTUAL, MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY The proposed bill would have provided that the court may, based upon a party's financial circumstances, make appropriate orders of support of an adult child with an intellectual, mental or physical disability. [P.H.B. No. 6265](#) died in the Judiciary Committee.

P.H.B. No. 6303 AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN STATE BUILDINGS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES The proposed bill would have required the State Building Code be amended to require any building leased to the state by a private entity for use as a state facility and any state-owned building that is being renovated, to add accessible equipment for persons with disabilities to be compliant with the United States Access Board Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines, including wheelchair ramps, power-assist doors and accessible restrooms and elevators. **P.H.B. No. 6303 died in the Public Safety and Security Committee.**

P.H.B. No. 6358 AN ACT REQUIRING BUSINESSES RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO EMPLOY PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER OR INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES The proposed bill would have required that any business receiving financial assistance from the Department of Economic and Community Development make good faith efforts to employ persons with autism spectrum disorder or intellectual and developmental disabilities. **P.H.B. No. 6358 died in the Commerce Committee.**

We hope that this end of session summary is helpful. Copies of, or additional information on, any of the above mentioned or any other bills from this session can be found online at www.cga.ct.gov. Enter the bill number in the  **Quick Bill Search** at the bottom of the page and then click on “go”. This will bring you to the bill history page where you can see end results of any bills from the session including: if it passed both chambers, any amendments that passed, was it signed by the Governor, and any public act numbers that have been assigned. As always, please contact us at Rod.OConnor@ct.gov or Kevin.Bronson@ct.gov with any questions.