CONNECTICUT
Developmental Services

2026 Legislative Session Overview
June 1, 2026

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Budget, Bonding and Deficiency Appropriations

Public Act 26-1
SB 298

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REALLOCATION OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES AND WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS.

Section 64 includes the annual rate adjustments to section 17b-340.

Effective upon passage

Language from the bill:
.....For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the department shall determine facility rates based upon 2024 cost report filings subject to the provisions of this section, adjusted to reflect any rate increases provided after the cost report ending June 30, 2024. Additionally, the facility shall receive a rate that is [one] three and four tenths per cent greater than the calculated rate, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2025, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2025. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, there shall be no minimum per diem, per bed rate for a residential facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability. There shall be no increase to rates based on any inflationary factor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, each facility shall receive a rate that is [two] five and eight-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2026, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2026, than the rate for the period ending June 30, 2027, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2026. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, each facility shall receive a rate that is [three] six and three-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending June 30, 2027, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective July 1, 2027, than the rate for the period ending June 30, 2027, due to

interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective July 1, 2027. Effective January 1, 2028, each facility shall receive a rate that is [three] six and three-tenths per cent greater than the rate in effect for the period ending December 31, 2027, except that any facility that would have been issued a lower rate effective January 1, 2028, than the rate for the period ending December 31, 2027, due to interim rate status, or agreement with the department, shall be issued such lower rate effective January 1, 2028. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, a facility may receive a rate increase for a capital improvement approved by the Department of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, for the health or safety of the residents during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, only to the extent such rate increases are within available appropriations. Any facility that has a significant decrease in land and building costs shall receive a reduced rate to reflect such decrease in land and building costs. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2012, June 30, 2013, June 30, 2014, June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016, June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022, June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services may provide fair rent increases to any facility that has undergone a material change in circumstances related to fair rent and has an approved certificate of need pursuant to section 17b-352, 17b-353, 17b-354 or 17b-355.

Public Act 26-68

SB 1

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET.

Overview of sections that impact DDS:

DDS Budget:

"Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, in section 1 of public act 25-168, regarding the GENERAL FUND are amended to read as follows:

T326	DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES		
T327	Personal Services	224,654,418	
T328	Other Expenses	21,019,245	
T329	Housing Supports and Services	1,400,000	
T330	Family Support Grants	3,700,840	
T331	Clinical Services	[2,337,724]	2,437,724
T332	Behavioral Services Program	12,857,593	

T333	Supplemental Payments for Medical Services	2,558,132	
T334	ID Partnership Initiatives	2,528,138	
T335	Emergency Placements	5,980,932	
T336	Rent Subsidy Program	5,262,312	
T337	Employment Opportunities and Day Services	407,451,072	
T338	Community Residential Services	938,815,100	
T339	AGENCY TOTAL	[1,628,565,506]	1,628,665,506

T688 - Workers Compensation Claims (Administrative Services)

T696	Claims – Department of Developmental Services	12,073,417	12,073,417

Sec. 472. (*Effective from passage*) The amounts appropriated to the following

agencies in section 1 of public act 25-168 are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026:

T2918	DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES	
T2919	Personal Services	500,000
T2920	Behavioral Services Program	1,100,000
T2921	Supplemental Payments for Medical Services	300,000

Other items of interest:

Section 202. establishes a taskforce to study and provide recommendations on the establishment of heat safety standards for workplaces.

Effective upon passage.

The study includes:

- Best practices to prevent employee exposure to the risk of heat illness
- Laws and regulations governing heat safety standards implemented in other states
- Members are legislatively appointed – no state agency appointments
- Members are required to report to the Labor and Public Employees Committee by January 1, 2027, at which time the taskforce terminates.
- DDS will review the report and recommendations, to determine if there will be an impact on agency employees who may be required to work in an environment where they are exposed to heat.

Section 332 provides DDS 12,000,000 for improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities. Language below.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 332. Subsection (i) of section 21 of public act 25-174 is amended to read as follows:

(i) For the Department of Developmental Services: Fire, safety and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for client 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 facilities, not exceeding [$7,000,000] $12,000,000.

Section 457 establishes a safety-net mitigation working group that is in place to advise, monitor and coordinate the state's response to significant changes in federal law or policy that impact public health, social services, or other safety net programs.

Effective upon passage.

Work group members include:

- Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
- Commissioners of Social Services, Revenue Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Services, Public Health, Insurance and Labor or their designees.
- The Chairpersons of the Appropriations, Human Services, Housing, Insurance and Real Estate Committees (who jointly choose the chair of the working group) and
- Access Health Connecticut

The working group is required to convene within 90 days of the effective date of the bill and shall:

- Review significant changes in federal law or policy that impact public health, social services or other safety net programs
- Consider regulatory, administrative or legislative measures to mitigate adverse programmatic procurement or service outcomes and recommend them to OPM and the Appropriations, Human Services, Housing, Insurance and Real Estate Committees
- Solicit input from stakeholders, including municipal governments and community-based providers and independent experts such as academic researchers and policy organizations as necessary.
- The Human Services Administrator provides administrative support to the working group.

The working group is required to submit a report beginning on February 1, 2027 and annually through February 1, 2029 to the Appropriations, Human Services, Housing, Insurance and Real Estate Committees. The legislation outlines the requirements of

the report. The working group terminates on the date that it submits its final report on February 1, 2029, whichever is later.

Section 458 requires the Department of Social Services to identify parameters for an effective assessment of "medical frailty" for Medicaid participants or applicants. DDS will watch this development to determine if there will be an impact on our population.

Section 463 appropriates the Department of Housing $250,000 for their Rental Assistance Program for the FY ending on June 30, 2027. Funding will be made available for inspections of housing units for compliance with state and local health, housing, building and safety codes.

Effective upon passage.

Section 468 approves a memorandum of agreement between Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Workforce Council and the New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199, SEIU submitted to the General Assembly for approval on May 1, 2026. This results in a net cost to the Department of Social Services of $5.5 million for FY 26-27 and $12.1 million when annualized as well as a gross cost to the Department of Developmental Services of $3.4 million for FY 26-27 and $7.4 million when annualized, with corresponding revenue gains of $1.9 million and $4.1 million, respectively.

Effective upon passage.

Public Act 26-76
SB 477

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS AND A MUNICIPAL OPTION TO ABATE DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES ON CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND.

Sections that impact DDS:

Section 51 requires the Governor, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management, Commissioners of Social Services, Public Health and any other department head or stakeholder to develop a state-wide language access implementation plan for state agencies. The plan is designed to improve access to public programs, hearings, meetings, appeals, workforce development, licensure, identification documents and other governmental opportunities by January 1, 2027. The Governor is required to update the plan every 2 years.

Effective upon passage.

The plan will ensure a person with limited-English proficiency has access to the agency's public-facing documents.

The plan will include:

- Access the language access needs of individuals with limited-English proficiency in the state using the most recent American Community Survey published by the US Census Bureau and any available relevant state agency service data
- Identify the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by individuals with limited-English proficiency in the state
- Inventory or require the inventory of public-facing printed and electronic forms, applications, notices, internet websites, public meetings, hearings, appeals, complaint processes, application processes, workforce development programs and other civic or governmental interactions and service delivery points used by state agencies
- Identify and prioritize high-priority, public-facing documents and interactions for phased translation and interpretation, including identification of hearings, meetings, complaint processes and workforce development programs for

which live interpretation or sign language access is necessary, and designate a limited number of high-priority, public facing documents and interactions for phase one implementation of the plan

- Establish a phased implementation schedule for state agencies, including designation of state agencies, documents, interactions and service delivery points should be included in the phase one implementation of the plan in a manner that maximizes administrative efficiencies and minimizes unnecessary costs by using, where practicable centralized procurement of translation and interpretation services, shared language access services, templates and glossaries across state agencies, existing personnel, technology-assisted translation tools with appropriate review by state agency personnel for accuracy, accessibility and public use and other strategies identified by the Governor
- Establish recommended standards for translation services, interpretation services, sign language access, accessibility, plain language notices, of available translation services and interpretation services and agency reporting
- Identify any legislation, appropriation, administrative action or procurement change necessary to implement the plan and recommendations for expansion.
- Not later than February 1, 2027, each agency is required to:
    - Designate an existing employee as a language access coordinator who will serve as the agency's liaison to the Governor to implement the plan
    - Complete any inventory required by the plan
    - Use any applicable criteria of the plan to identify the agency's high priority public facing documents, interactions and service points and submit the information to the Governor's office.
    - Each state agency who has been designated in the plan for phase one implementation is required to begin the implementation by July 1, 2027

Section 69 unclassified Agency Legal Director positions with the exception of the Department of Revenue Services and Office of Policy and Management Legal Directors.

Effective upon passage.

DDS' 2026 BILLS

Public Act 26-54
HB 5239

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE INDEPENDENT MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD AND FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

Section 1 makes technical revisions to the statute regarding requirements for the Department's Mortality Review Board by removing specific references to the Mortality Review Board along with the outdated Executive Order.

Effective upon passage.

Section 2 establishes a new section of statute that is dedicated to the Mortality Review Board. The bill outlines the members of the board along with the case review requirements.

Effective upon passage.

The Department is required to refer a case to the Department's Independent Mortality Review Board for review of the death of an individual for the following reasons:

- Any allegation of abuse or neglect
- When the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has accepted jurisdiction
- When the death was sudden and unexpected
- Or when there are questions regarding appropriateness of care

Members of the Independent Mortality Review Board include:

- The Department's Director of Quality and Systems Improvement
- The Department's Director of Investigations
- The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- A medical Doctor
- The Commissioner of Public Health
- The Executive Director of Disability Rights CT
- A private provider representative

- Any additional members who would be beneficial to the investigation as recommended by the Department. These members are based on the needs of the investigation and may be permanent or situational.

Public Act 26-29
HB 5240

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUTES.

All sections are Effective upon passage.

Section 1 makes a technical change that will allow the Department to provide rent subsidy payments directly to a recipient's landlord.

Section 2 revises the definitions related to the Department's Community Residential Facility Revolving Loan Fund program to mirror current practice and remove outdated language.

Section 3 revises the section of statute that outlines the different Community Residential Facility Revolving Loan Funds provided by the Department to mirror current practice, remove redundant and confusing terminology and increase loan amounts the Department can provide as follows:

- Subsection (a) allows the Department to make a community residential facility loan to an organization for the construction of a facility in the amount up to 100% of the total property development cost of the product. This section also removes outdated language from December 1983.
- Subsection (b) allows the Department to make a community residential facility loan to an organization for the purchase and renovation of a facility in the principal amount up to 100% of the total property development cost. However, the renovation costs cannot exceed $100,000.
- Subsection (d) allows the Department to make a community residential facility loan to an organization who has an existing facility for repairs and improvements in an amount between $3,000 to $100,000.
- Subsection (e) mandates the organization who receives the loan to be licensed or certified as a Qualified Provider for the period of the loan.

Sections 4, 5 and 6 make technical revisions to the Community Residential Facility Revolving Loan Funds programs regarding contracts for funding to mirror the updated definitions and loan language in sections 1-3.

Bills that impact DDS

Public Act 26-12
House Bill 5003

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE STATE

Sections that impact DDS:

Section 16 outlines requirements for the Departments of Developmental Services and Social Services to provide access to an employee who is facing disciplinary action due to evidence provided as a result of virtual monitoring.

Effective upon passage.

The Department is required to implement policies and procedures in regulation format regarding access to virtual documentation by July 1, 2027. The Department will post the policies and procedures on the eRegulations system not later than 20 days after implementation. Upon implementation, the Department will develop and implement regulations.

Section 17 requires the Department of Social Services and via statutory requirement, the Departments of Developmental Services and Aging and Disability Services, to file quarterly reports with the Human Services and Labor Committees regarding payments to personal care attendants by the state's Fiscal Intermediary.

Effective upon passage.

The reporting requirements include the following:

- Payroll Error rate for PCAs and number of days until payment after correction
- Average number of days it takes the FI to onboard a new employee in order for them to use the payroll system
- Average response time for answering phone calls and email
- Number of electronic verification ticks and the average time taken by the FI to resolve it
- Average number of hours the FI's mobile application was inoperable or offline

Public Act 26-50
HB 5143

AN ACT REQUIRING TRAINING FOR HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCY EMPLOYEES.

The bill outlines training for homemaker-companions. Each homemaker-companion agency is required to provide eight paid hours of initial training and annual continuing education training.

Effective upon passage.

As part of this bill, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection is required to consult with the Departments of Public Health, Social Services, Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services to develop a list of approved homemaker-companion agency employee training programs.

Training programs include:

- Communication
- Maintenance of a clean and safe environment (best practices for dressing, bathing and toileting assistance)
- Identification and reporting of abuse and neglect
- Identification and reporting changes in the client's condition and services needs
- Differentiation between medical and nonmedical care
- Providing nonmedical care for a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia
- Any other topic that the agencies determine would be appropriate.

Special Act 26-11
HB 5163

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS AND PROGRAMS FOR IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.

Section 1 (Effective upon passage) establishes a taskforce to:

- Study methods and programs for improving the affordability of the state for children, families and young professionals,
- Analyze the efficacy of the methods and programs and provide recommendations for the implementation of the programs/ study systemic barriers that prevent improvements to affordability,
- Study ways in which inflation and regional costs differences impact affordability across the state
- Develop a method for tracking improvements in income, home ownership, job retention and other markers of economic mobility in areas of the state with low affordable
- Study the availability of educational, employment and childcare programs in areas of the state with low affordability and analyze gaps in the availability to determine where and how to meet the need for the programs
- Identify any policies and programs that may be implemented in the short term to improve affordability and structural reforms necessary to improve affordability into the future
- Identify funding sources for programs that may improve affordability
- Identify ways in which state agencies may collaborate to create efficiencies in the delivery of programs and services to improve affordability.

Membership of the task force includes the Commissioners of Social Services, Children and Families, Early Childhood, Developmental Services, Public Health and Education. The chairpersons of the Children, Human Services and Appropriations. Ten members appointed by the co-chairpersons of the task force who have specialized expertise.

The task force is required to submit a preliminary report on their findings and recommendations by June 1, 2027.

The taskforce is required to hold a public forum by July 1, 2027, where they present the preliminary report and solicit public comment.

The task force is required to submit a final report of their findings and recommendations to the Children, Human Services and Appropriations Committees by June 1, 2028. Upon submission of the report, the task force will terminate.

Public Act 26-140
HB 5343

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF ADVERTISING PURCHASED BY THE STATE

Effective July 1, 2026.

Section 1 of the bill requires each state agency to provide a summary of all advertising purchased by the agency in the prior fiscal year to the Commissioner of Administrative Services not later than November 1, 2026. DAS will provide each Agency with a template for providing the information.

Public Act 26-58
HB 5401

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING, REVISING AND AMENDING THE STATE BUILDING CODE AND REQUIRING RELATED TRAINING

Effective October 1, 2026

This bill extends the time period between the revision to the building, fire safety, and fire prevention codes and allowing the State to adopt the revisions of the code made by the author (In this case the International Code Council) to be adopted. Then forces a review before 2030 on how the approach to updating code is effective.

DDS will need to ensure we review any changes made to the code by the code author to ensure there are no adverse revisions for DDS. DDS will continue to check in with the current Codes and Standards Committee to ensure DDS can represent safety for the individuals supported by the Department.

Public Act 26-62
HB 5447

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONCERNING TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.

Section that impact DDS:

Effective upon passage.

Section 3 requires the Commissioner of Social Services, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Children and Families, Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services along with the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults between the ages of fourteen and twenty one who have intellectual or developmental disabilities.

DSS is required to file a report of their findings by July 1, 2027 to the Children's, Human Services and Appropriations Committees.

Public Act 26-70
HB 5476

AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE USE OF CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS HOTLINES AT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

All impacted sections are Effective July 1, 2026

Section 1 requires the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the Office of Policy and Management to evaluate the coordination of efforts among state agencies and law enforcement agencies to prevent human trafficking in the state and develop a comprehensive plan for how activities and programs of the agencies and other multidisciplinary partners should be coordinated to combat human trafficking.

All state agencies are required to provide assistance, information or data needed to formulate the plan. OPM is required to provide the Government Oversight, Judiciary and Appropriations Committees with a copy of the plan and any recommendations for legislation by January 1, 2027.

Section 2 adds the Secretary of the State or their designee to the Trafficking in Persons Council, which DDS is already a member of.

Section 14 requires the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of OPM to advise and provide assistance to the state concerning the development of coordination of trafficking prevention efforts among state agencies and other multidisciplinary partners.

Special Act 26-12
HB 5485

AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING.

Effective upon passage.

This bill defines terminology related to supported decision-making. The bill also creates a working group to study and make recommendations concerning supported decision-making.

The working group is comprised of the following:

- Two representatives each from organizations who represent the interests of financial institutions and hospitals.
- One representative of nursing homes
- One designee of the Probate Court Administrator
- One person who represents physicians in private practices
- Six people who may benefit from the use of supported decision-making agreements in making financial, health or other decisions.
- The House and Senate chairpersons of the Human Services Committee shall appoint a chairperson of the working group among its members.

The working group is required to submit a report with its recommendations by December 31, 2026, with the Human Services, Government Oversight, Banking, Judiciary and Public Health Committees. Once the report is submitted, the working group terminates.

Public Act 26-145
HB 5491

AN ACT CONCERNING CENTRALIZATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION.

Effective October 1, 2026

The bill requires the Department of Labor to create an informational webpage that can serve as a central repository of information, resources and materials including links to external sources regarding:

- Job training, career counseling and workforce development organizations and opportunities available
- Regional sector partnerships
- Other topics relevant to workforce development

The webpage is required to be active by January 1, 2027, and updated semi-annually.

Public Act 26-13
HB 5514

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES

Section that impacts DDS:

Effective October 1, 2026

Section 37 repeals the statute that caps the salary for Facility Directors who provide support and services to individuals with intellectual disability.

Public Act 26-151
HB 5557

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Section 1 (Effective upon passage) requires DDS to produce a plan with recommendations on developing a standard definition of intellectual disability. The definition is required to be consistent with generally accepted professional standards, including the standards recognized by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Furthermore, the bill outlines measures for determining the definition. The plan is required to include the following:

- A recommendation for a timeline for the transition to a new definition of intellectual disability.
- Any approvals required from the federal government.
- Estimates of the one-time costs of making the transition along with the recurring costs of utilizing the new definition on the Departments of Developmental Services, other state agencies and school districts impacted by the change in definition.

The Department is required to submit a report on the plan to the Appropriations, Human Services and Public Health Committees July 1, 2027.

Section 2 is related to teacher certification standards for American Sign Language instruction.

Section 3 is related to Medicaid reimbursement for non-emergency transportation.

Public Act 26-39
HB 5558

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS

Section 1 (effective upon passage) revises the language that currently allows access to original or evaluation reports regarding abuse and neglect with additional language regarding release of the reports to a parent, guardian or other legal representative upon request to the applicable regional office of the Department. Current and new language does not allow the release of information if the parent, guardian or other legal representative is the alleged or substantiated perpetrator of the abuse or neglect. This is effective upon passage.

Section 2 (effective July 1, 2026) revises the statute regarding annual individual planning meetings for individuals receiving support and services from the Department. The new language requires the Department to provide access to the latest version of the Department's "Guide for Individuals and Legal Representatives when an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect has Been Made" during the annual meeting. This is effective July 1, 2026

Section 3 (effective July 1, 2026) revises the section of statute regarding reporting of abuse and neglect. The revisions include language that ensures all department staff are trained in requirements for confidentiality and sharing of information regarding abuse and neglect complaints under section 17a-247d and 46a-11c.

Section 4 (effective July 1, 2026)revises the Department's annual report regarding abuse and neglect reports to add the following components:

- Number of complaint substantiations by role of the perpetrator, roles include:
    - Family member
    - Day program provider
    - Direct care staff
    - Other residential care staff
- Number of complaint substantiations by the type of settings as follows:
    - Private homes
    - Day programs

    - State-licensed community living arrangements
    - State-run residential programs
    - Healthcare facilities
- The percentage of investigations that produced recommendations
- The percentage of recommendations that were confirmed to be completed by providers not later than 90 days after issuance of the recommendations
- The number of regulatory citations that were issued by the Department for failure to ensure detection and reporting of abuse and neglect
- The number of regulatory citations that were issued by the department for failure to implement a corrective action requirement.
- The number of abuse or neglect allegations that were reported for individuals who died and if applicable findings, recommendations or administrative action that was taken by the department.
- Any systemic agency actions and recommendations to ensure the safety of individuals receiving support and services from the department and prevent and respond to concerns of abuse and neglect.

Additionally, section 4 requires the Human Services and Public Health Committees to conduct an annual hearing and review of the report and compliance by the Departments of Social Services and Developmental Services with federal Medicaid requirements concerning the safety of and quality of care for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are receiving services funded by Medicaid home and community-based waiver programs. The annual hearing will include information on how the departments continue to address audit findings and recommendations made by the Inspector General for DHHS and the Auditors of Public Accounts concerning prevention of abuse and neglect of the persons, timely reporting of abuse and neglect concerns and timely implementation of corresponding corrective actions related to abuse and neglect of the persons.

Lastly, section 4 requires DDS to ensure that all materials related to the prevention, occurrence of and response to abuse and neglect of individuals receiving support and services from the Department are disseminated through consumer-friendly and easily accessible website.

Public Act 26-72
HB 5562

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES

Sections that include the Department:

Section 5 makes a technical revision to the Long-Term Care Planning Committee to fix outdated language regarding the Commissioner's designee on the committee and adds new requirements regarding workforce and insufficient federal funding.

Effective July 1, 2026

Section 14 adds members to the Wheelchair Repair Advisory Committee.

Effective July 1, 2026

Section 15 requires an authorized wheelchair dealer to notify the consumer of their rights to timely repairs, including repairs at the consumer's home upon their request, and any other rights outlined in the statute.

Effective July 1, 2026

Section 16 requires the Commissioner of Social Services, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Children and Families, Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services along with the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults between the ages of fourteen and twenty one who have intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Report is due on July 1, 2027

Effective upon passage

Public Act 26-102
SB 87

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NONPROFIT PROVIDER ADVISORY BOARD, PROHIBITING AUTO INSURANCE PENALTIES ON VOLUNTEER DRIVERS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND REDUCING THE TIME PERIOD IN WHICH INSURERS MAY RECOUP PAYMENTS FROM PROVIDERS.

Section 1 establishes, within the Office of Policy and Management, a Nonprofit Provider Advisory Board to advise the Governor and OPM on the following:

- Areas to improve access and delivery of services by nonprofit providers
- Opportunities for collaboration across state agencies that promote effectiveness and efficiency of nonprofit providers and streamline state processes including opportunities to adjust state agency processes and contract expectations to achieve beneficial outcomes for nonprofit providers and residents.
- Recommend short and long-term strategies for enhancing the financial viability of nonprofit organizations including payment reform models based on best practices.
- Recommend a standardized workforce data collection system for nonprofit organizations to measure and compare impact across private provider services.
- Short and long-range opportunities, issues and gaps pertaining to nonprofit providers that may result from changes in federal funding or federal policies.

Membership includes the following state agency commissioners or their designees with the Governor designating an appointee to serve as the chairperson:

- Secretary of OPM
- Children and Families
- Corrections
- Developmental Services
- Housing
- Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Public Health

- Aging and Disability Services
- Social Services
- Early Childhood
- Labor
- Executive Director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch

Effective upon passage

Public Act 26-85
SB 383

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

This bill makes technical revisions to the Office of Workforce Strategy statutes.

Effective July 1, 2026

Revisions include the following:

- Requires the Chief Workforce Officer to determine the greatest needs for human services providers to serve the needs of persons in the state with an intellectual disability, developmental disability, physical disability, cognitive impairment or a behavioral health disorder and elderly persons in the state.
- Requires the Chief workforce Officer to identify additional training opportunities that may be added or removed from training providers.
- Removes outdated sections of the statute and revises the reporting requirements.

Public Act 26-88
SB 429

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION.

Effective July 1, 2026

This bill increases Medicaid reimbursement for emergency medical services ambulance transportation by allowing the Department of Social Services to redefine how the out of district mileage is calculated. The bill outlines the requirements for submitting reimbursement by emergency medical services providers.

This bill does not currently have a direct impact on DDS.

Public Act 26-150

SB 430

AN ACT CODIFYING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

Effective July 1, 2026

This bill requires state agencies, local departments, and other public entities to administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities who are eligible to receive them. Under the bill, public entities are (1) executive, legislative, and judicial branch state agencies, including any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, higher education constituent unit, or technical education and career school; or (2) local governments or departments, agencies, special purpose districts, or other local government instrumentalities. An integrated setting is one that enables people with disabilities to interact with nondisabled people as described in federal regulations that set similar requirements.

Under the bill, violations are a discriminatory practice and anyone aggrieved by an alleged violation may file a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). Under existing state law, it is a discriminatory practice to deprive someone of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by Connecticut or federal laws or constitutions, or cause such a deprivation, because of various characteristics, including mental or physical disability, and CHRO may receive, initiate, investigate, and mediate discriminatory practice complaints.

Public Act 26-137
SB 449

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

Section that may impact DDS:

Effective October 1, 2026

Section 4 requires OPM to collaborate with each state agency having custody or control of real property belonging to or held in trust to the state to identify all the property that is farmland, forest land, open space land or maritime heritage land.

Once the land has been identified, the Secretary of OPM will notify the assessor where the property is located to classify the property accordingly, value the property, and add the property to the grand list of the municipality.

Public Act 26-91
SB 468

AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND PAYMENT OF NONPROFIT HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS

This bill revises the statute that requires the Office of Policy and Management to establish uniform policies and procedures for state agencies who contract with a private provider to provide health and human services. The revision includes developing policies and procedures to ensure that a private provider organization receives payment for any services provided under a purchase of service contract not later than 45 days after the receipt of a properly completed claim of receipt for the services or the services are provided, whichever is later.

Effective July 1, 2026

This report contains information regarding legislation passed during the 2026 legislative session that directly impacts or is of interest to the Department of Developmental Services.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Jill Kennedy at jill.kennedy@ct.gov or Kevin Bronson at kevin.bronson@ct.gov.