



State of Connecticut  
Office of Governor Ned Lamont

BILL NOTIFICATION 2025-1

March 3, 2025

Governor Lamont signed and line-item vetoed the following legislation of the 2025 Regular Session, IN THE ORIGINAL, on March 3:

HB 7066                    AN ACT CONCERNING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, THE PURCHASE AND OPERATION OF CERTAIN DRONES, GRANTS TO CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND STUDENT ATHLETE COMPENSATION THROUGH ENDORSEMENT CONTRACTS AND REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENTS.

*Sections 9, 10, and 11 have been line-item vetoed. The line-item veto message can be found on page 2 of this document.*

HB 7067                    AN ACT CONCERNING AN EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TRANSFERS OF OWNERSHIP OF HOSPITALS THAT HAVE FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION, THE ASSESSMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR PROPERTY TAXATION, A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WHO ARE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED AND FUNDING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION EXCESS COST GRANT.

*Section 7 has been line-item vetoed. The line-item veto message can be found on page 4 of this document.*

As of this date, the governor has signed and line-item vetoed two bills of the 2025 Regular Session.



**Ned Lamont**

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Stephanie Thomas  
Secretary of the State  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

Attached hereto is House Bill 7066, *AN ACT CONCERNING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, THE PURCHASE AND OPERATION OF CERTAIN DRONES, GRANTS TO CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND STUDENT ATHLETE COMPENSATION THROUGH ENDORSEMENT CONTRACTS AND REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENTS.*

I have signed House Bill 7066, however, pursuant to Article Fourth, Section 16 of the Connecticut Constitution, I am exercising my authority to line-item veto the sum of \$2,887,500 appropriated from the General Fund to the Judicial Department – Other Expenses and the Department of Public Health – Community Health Services for the purposes outlined in Section 9, Section 10, and Section 11 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Sections 9, 10, and 11 of House Bill 7066 collectively appropriate \$2,887,500 from the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to a variety of organizations. While the missions of these organizations are undoubtedly valuable to their communities, the process by which these funds were allocated raises significant concerns.

Our state operates under a constitutional spending cap, designed to ensure fiscal discipline and safeguard taxpayer dollars. The appropriations outlined in these sections circumvent the established budget process, allocating funds without the rigorous scrutiny typically applied to state expenditures. This not only undermines the transparency of our fiscal operations but also sets a precedent for bypassing budgetary controls.

By adhering to the spending cap, we maintain a balanced budget that prioritizes essential state services, including education, public safety, and healthcare. Every dollar spent must be justified through a transparent, strategic budgeting process that reflects the needs of all residents. These sections do not meet that standard.

The allocation of funds in Sections 9, 10, and 11 of House Bill 7066 appears arbitrary, with no clear criteria for determining the recipients or the amounts granted. For example:

Section 10 distributes \$2,087,500 across 33 organizations with identical grant amounts, regardless of each organization's size, scope, or community impact. This "one-size-fits-all" approach lacks strategic prioritization and accountability.

Section 11 directs \$800,000 to a single organization without explanation as to why this entity is prioritized over others providing similar services.

The arbitrary nature of these allocations not only raises questions about fairness but also about effectiveness. Taxpayer dollars should be allocated based on demonstrable need and measurable outcomes, not on political considerations or geographic distribution.

I am committed to supporting community organizations that provide essential services to our residents. However, this must be done through a transparent and accountable process that includes clear criteria for funding decisions, and competitive grant processes to ensure fairness and effectiveness.

I urge the legislature to revisit these appropriations through the standard budgetary review process, ensuring all expenditures align with state priorities, fiscal constraints, and the highest standards of accountability.

The Connecticut Constitution, under Article Fourth, Section 16, grants the Governor authority to disapprove specific items within any appropriations bill while allowing the remainder to become law. Sections 9, 10, and 11 are distinct and specific allocation of funds for a singular purpose and severable from the rest of the Bill and therefore subject to this authority.

For these reasons, I am vetoing Sections 9, 10, and 11 of House Bill 7066. This action is not a reflection on the value of the organizations listed but a necessary step to uphold the integrity of our state's budget process and spending cap. I look forward to working with the legislature to develop a more equitable and accountable framework for community funding.

Sincerely,



Ned Lamont  
Governor



**Ned Lamont**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Stephanie Thomas  
Secretary of the State  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

Attached hereto is House Bill 7067, *AN ACT CONCERNING AN EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TRANSFERS OF OWNERSHIP OF HOSPITALS THAT HAVE FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECT, THE ASSESSMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR PROPERTY TAXATION, A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WHO ARE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED AND FUNDING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION COST GRANT.*

I have signed House Bill 7067, however, pursuant to Article Fourth, Section 16 of the Connecticut Constitution, I am exercising my authority to line-item veto the \$40,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Education as outlined in Section 7 of House Bill 7067 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Let me be unequivocally clear: I fully support increasing funding for special education. Every child deserves access to resources that they need to thrive, and our schools must be equipped to meet those needs. That's why my budget proposal increases our commitment to special education by an additional \$40,000,000 and asks the legislature to establish the High-Quality Special Education Incentive Grant program, backed by a \$14,000,000 investment--a \$54,000,000 increase in total--and is more than double the \$25,000,000 increase we made in the last biennium budget.

However, I cannot in good conscience approve a \$40,000,000 appropriation. Our state operates under a constitutional spending cap, designed to ensure fiscal discipline and safeguard taxpayer dollars. The appropriations outlined in these sections circumvent the established budget process, allocating funds without the rigorous scrutiny typically applied to state expenditures. This not only undermines the transparency of our fiscal operations but also sets a precedent for bypassing budgetary controls. This line-item veto is about ensuring that we provide for our children without jeopardizing their financial future and the financial future of our state.

Including this \$40,000,000 would push the budget well over the spending cap, creating a fiscal imbalance that could force cuts to critical programs or lead to higher taxes for hard working Connecticut families.

In addition, this \$40,000,000 appropriation was introduced outside the established budget process, by passing the scrutiny and prioritization exercised by the Appropriations Committee. I cannot endorse an appropriation that follows a dangerous precedent of fiscal irresponsibility. We cannot afford to make budget decisions based on short-term political considerations at the expense of long-term fiscal health.

We all agree on the need to support our students, especially those with special needs. But we must do so in a way that is strategic, sustainable, and fiscally responsible. My proposed budget does this by increasing special education funding within the spending cap.


My administration remains committed to working with the General Assembly to find responsible solutions, within the normal budget process, that address the needs of students without compromising the state's financial stability.

The Connecticut Constitution, under Article Fourth, Section 16, grants the Governor authority to disapprove specific items within any appropriations bill while allowing the remainder to become law. Section 7 is a distinct and specific allocation of funds for a singular purpose and severable from the rest of the Bill and therefore subject to this authority.

This veto is not just an exercise of executive authority – it is an obligation to protect the fiscal integrity of Connecticut.

We owe it to our students to get this right. Let's fund education without mortgaging our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gov Ned Lamont".

Ned Lamont  
Governor