

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 20-1—HB 5518**

*Emergency Certification*

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, AND CONCERNING MUNICIPAL REPORTS ON CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, VALIDATION OF A REFERENDUM AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS.**

**SUMMARY:** This act authorizes up to \$1.55 billion for FY 20 and \$1.52 billion for FY 21 in state general obligation (GO) bonds for state capital projects and grant programs, including school construction, housing development and rehabilitation programs, and municipal aid. It also cancels or reduces approximately \$3.4 million in GO bond authorizations.

The act authorizes up to \$777.6 million for FY 20 and \$782.4 million for FY 21 in special tax obligation (STO) bonds for transportation projects. It makes various other changes, including:

1. adjusting the annual bond caps under the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) 2020 and UConn 2000 infrastructure programs and extending the CSCU 2020 program by one year to FY 21;
2. modifying the projects authorized under the five-year transportation capital improvement program, commonly known as Let's Go CT; and
3. establishing a competitive grant program to reimburse eligible nonprofit organizations for security infrastructure improvements.

The act also makes technical corrections (§§ 79 & 80).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage for FY 20 bond authorizations; July 1, 2020, for FY 21 authorizations. Other sections are effective upon passage unless otherwise noted.

**§§ 1-38, 57 & 82 — NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE AGENCY PROJECTS AND GRANTS**

The act authorizes new GO bonds for FY 20 and FY 21 for the state projects and grant programs listed in the table below. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years.

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

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**GO Bond Authorizations for State Projects and Grant Programs**

<b>§</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>FY 20</b>	<b>FY 21</b>
<b>STATE CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>				
2(a)	Office of Legislative Management	State Capitol Complex: replace, repair, and repave roads and sidewalks	\$1,800,000	\$0
		State Capitol: alterations, renovations, and restoration, including interior and exterior restoration and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance	15,000,000	0
		Old State House: exterior masonry repairs and window replacement	1,700,000	0
2(b), 21(a)	OPM	Information technology capital investment program	70,000,000	70,000,000
2(c), 21(b)	Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Remove or encapsulate asbestos and hazardous materials in state-owned buildings	10,000,000	10,000,000
		Alterations, renovations, and improvements in compliance with the ADA	0	1,000,000
2(d)	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)	Design and implement the Criminal Justice Information Sharing System	8,900,000	0
2(e), 21(c)	Military Department	State matching funds for anticipated federal reimbursable projects	1,000,000	1,000,000
2(f), 21(d)	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)	Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program: recreation, open space, and resource protection and management	1,000,000	0
		Dam repairs, including state-owned dams	0	5,500,000
		State buildings: (1) energy services projects that result in increased efficiency measures or (2) renewable energy or combined heat and power projects	0	20,000,000
2(g), 21(e)	Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA)	XL Center: alterations, renovations, and improvements, including acquisition of abutting real estate and rights of way	27,500,000	37,500,000
2(h), 21(f)	Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	Fire, safety, and environmental improvements, including (1) improvements in compliance with current codes, (2) site improvements, (3) roof repair and	3,000,000	0

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§	Agency	For	FY 20	FY 21
		replacement, and (4) other building renovations and demolition		
		Design and install sprinkler systems in direct care patient buildings	0	5,500,000
2(i), 21(g)	Department of Transportation (DOT)	Construction, repair, or maintenance of highways, roads, bridges, or bus and rail facilities and equipment	200,000,000	200,000,000
21(h)	State Department of Education (SDE)	Technical Education and Career System: alterations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including new and replacement equipment, tools, and supplies necessary to update curricula, vehicles, and technology at all regional vocational-technical schools	0	5,000,000
2(j), 21(i)	CSCU	All colleges and universities: new and replacement instruction, research, or laboratory equipment	6,000,000	6,000,000
		All colleges and universities: system telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements, and expansions	2,000,000	2,000,000
		All colleges and universities: advanced manufacturing and emerging technology programs	3,000,000	3,000,000
		All community colleges: deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements	14,000,000	14,000,000
		All universities: deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements	7,000,000	7,000,000
		Naugatuck Valley Community College: design for Kinney Hall renovation	6,000,000	0
		2(k), 21(j)	Judicial Department	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds at state-owned and maintained facilities
		Technology Strategic Plan Project implementation	2,000,000	2,000,000
		Mechanical system improvements at the Superior Court courthouse in Stamford	2,250,000	0
		Alterations and improvements in compliance with the ADA	2,000,000	5,000,000

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§	Agency	For	FY 20	FY 21
		Security improvements at various state-owned and maintained facilities	2,000,000	2,000,000
		Upgrades to and installation of sound amplification equipment in court and hearing rooms	1,300,000	0
82	Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority	Capitalization	0	45,000,000
<b>HOUSING PROJECTS</b>				
9, 28	Department of Housing (DOH)	Housing development and rehabilitation, including improvements to various kinds of state-assisted affordable housing and housing-related financial assistance programs; requires DOH to (1) prioritize areas of the state with low homeownership rates; (2) use up to \$30 million in each FY to revitalize moderate rental housing units in the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's (CHFA) state housing portfolio; and (3) use up to \$170,000 in FY 20 to conduct planning and data analysis on state housing needs, subsidized housing inventory, and tenant-based subsidy usage for various DOH statutory reporting requirements	100,000,000	75,000,000
<b>GRANTS</b>				
13(a), 32(a), 57	OPM	Grants to private, nonprofit, tax-exempt health and human service organizations that receive state funds to provide direct services to state agency clients: alterations, renovations, improvements, additions, and new construction, including (1) health, safety, ADA compliance, and energy conservation improvements; (2) information technology systems; (3) technology for independence; (4) vehicle purchases; and (5) property acquisition	25,000,000	25,000,000
		Grants for capital purposes to municipalities eligible for the	7,000,000	7,000,000

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§	Agency	For	FY 20	FY 21
		distressed municipalities property tax reimbursement program (§ 32-9s)		
		Grants to state agencies and political subdivisions for equipment, facilities, and supplies to respond to emerging public health concerns	5,000,000	0
		Community engagement training to law enforcement units in towns with a population greater than 100,000 and adjacent towns (see § 90 below)	0	3,000,000
		Grants to municipalities for the Town Aid Road program (specifies the grant amounts for each municipality)	76,000,000	76,000,000
13(b), 32(b)	DAS	Grants to priority school districts for projects (including expenditure reimbursements) that are ineligible for school building project grants	30,000,000	25,000,000
		Grants to alliance districts to help pay for general school building improvements	0	6,000,000
13(c), 32(c)	Department of Labor	Workforce Training Authority Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000
13(d)	DEEP	(1) Performing testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pollution, (2) providing potable water to people affected by PFAS pollution, and (3) buying back aqueous film-forming firefighting foam with PFAS	2,000,000	0
13(e), 32(d)	Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization program: for FY 20 requires DECD to provide a grant of up to \$7 million to Preston for remediation regardless of the law on remedial action and redevelopment municipal grants that caps (1) administrative expenses at 5% of any grant award and (2) total grant amounts at \$4 million	30,000,000	17,000,000
		Small Business Express program	5,000,000	0
		Grants to nonprofits for operating cultural and historic sites	0	5,000,000
13(f), 32(e)	DOH	Grant to CHFA to capitalize the Down Payment Assistance	4,500,000	4,500,000

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§	Agency	For	FY 20	FY 21
		Program, including providing financial assistance to those with incomes up to 120% of the area median income; DOH must use up to \$500,000 in each FY for the Mortgage Assistance Program for certain teachers		
13(g), 32(f)	CRDA	Grant to East Hartford for general economic development activities, including (1) redevelopment, (2) riverfront improvements and infrastructure, (3) housing unit creation through rehabilitation and new construction, and (4) vacant building demolition or redevelopment	10,000,000	10,000,000
		Grant for projects outside the authority's boundaries, to encourage economic development according to CRDA's statutory purposes	0	10,000,000
13(h), 32(g)	Department of Public Health	Grants to public water systems for drinking water projects	4,000,000	20,000,000
		Grants to remediate lead in school drinking water systems	5,000,000	0
13(i), 32(h)	DOT	Grants to municipalities for the Town Aid Road program	30,000,000	30,000,000
32(i)	State Library	Grants to public libraries for construction, renovations, expansions, energy conservation, and handicapped access	0	2,500,000
13(j), 32(j)	Connecticut Port Authority	Grants for deep water port improvements, including dredging	65,000,000	25,000,000
13(k), 32(k)	Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority	Grants to capitalize the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund	25,000,000	25,000,000

§§ 39-50 — TRANSPORTATION BONDS

The act authorizes new STO bonds for DOT projects in amounts up to \$777.6 million in FY 20 and \$782.4 million in FY 21, as shown in the table below.

**STO Bond Authorizations for DOT Projects**

<i>Authorized Program Areas</i>	<i>FY 20</i>	<i>FY 21</i>
<b><i>Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations</i></b>		
Interstate highway program	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000
Urban systems projects	16,750,000	16,750,000

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<b>Authorized Program Areas</b>	<b>FY 20</b>	<b>FY 21</b>
Intrastate highway program	44,000,000	44,000,000
Environmental compliance, soil and groundwater remediation, hazardous material abatement, demolition, salt shed construction and renovation, storage tank replacement, and environmental emergency response at or near state-owned properties or related to DOT operations	9,925,000	9,925,000
State bridge improvement, rehabilitation, and replacement	33,000,000	33,000,000
Capital resurfacing and related reconstruction	106,500,000	106,500,000
Fix-it-First bridge repair program	110,000,000	110,000,000
Fix-it-First road repair program	75,000,000	75,000,000
Local Transportation Capital Program	67,000,000	67,000,000
Grants to municipalities for the Town Aid Road Program	30,000,000	30,000,000
Local bridge program	10,000,000	10,000,000
Highway and bridge renewal equipment	16,000,000	16,000,000
Purchase of signs that flash a warning when they detect a vehicle wrongly entering a road (i.e., wrong-way signs) and installation on accident-prone interstate highway ramps (see § 89 below)	1,000,000	0
<b>Bureau of Public Transportation</b>		
Bus and rail facilities and equipment, including rights-of-way, other property acquisition, and related projects	236,000,000	236,000,000
<b>Bureau of Administration</b>		
Department facilities	9,440,000	15,200,000

§§ 51-53, 56, 58, 60, 66-69 & 74 — BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATUTORY PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

The act increases bond authorizations for various statutory grants and purposes and authorizes new bonding for these purposes for FYs 20 and 21, as shown in the table below.

**Statutory Bond Authorizations for FYs 20 and 21**

<b>§</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Purpose/Fund</b>	<b>FY 20</b>	<b>FY 21</b>
51	OPM	Urban Action (economic and community development project grants)	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000
52	OPM	Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)	0	30,000,000
53	OPM	Capital Equipment Purchase Fund	0	27,000,000
56	OPM	Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	30,000,000	30,000,000
58	DOH	Housing Trust Fund	30,000,000	0
60	DAS	School construction projects (see § 60 below)	437,000,000	419,000,000
66	DOT	Commercial rail freight lines	10,000,000	0
67	DEEP	Clean Water Fund grants	75,000,000	75,000,000
68	DEEP	Clean Water Fund loans (revenue bonds)	0	84,000,000
69	DEEP	Connecticut bikeway, pedestrian	3,000,000	0

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§	Agency	Purpose/Fund	FY 20	FY 21
		walkway, recreational trail, and greenway grant program		
74	DESPP	School security infrastructure competitive grant program; requires DESPP to use at least \$5 million for school security projects involving multimedia interoperable communications systems (see § 60 below)	15,000,000	0

**§§ 54 & 77 — BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

The act extends the body-worn recording equipment grant program by two years, through FY 21. By law, the program reimburses municipalities up to 50% of the cost of, among other things, purchasing body cameras for use by sworn members of municipal police departments.

The act also modifies an existing \$12 million bond authorization for body-worn equipment grants by (1) increasing the amount earmarked for the state police, from \$2 million to \$5 million, and (2) decreasing the amount earmarked for local law enforcement officers, from \$10 million to \$7 million.

**§ 55 — LOCIP**

LoCIP, administered by OPM, reimburses municipalities for the cost of eligible local capital improvement projects, such as road, bridge, and public building construction activities. The act expands the list of projects eligible for LoCIP funding to include hazardous tree removal or trimming for nonutility-related hazardous branches, limbs, and trees on municipal property or in a municipal right-of-way.

**§ 59 — SCHOOL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR ALLIANCE DISTRICTS**

The act specifies that the types of equipment upgrades eligible for alliance district school building improvement grants include cabinets, computers, laptops, and related equipment and accessories purchased on or after November 1, 2017.

By law, these bond-funded grants are for general school building improvements that are not normally reimbursable by state school construction grants. The program is open to alliance districts (i.e., the 30 lowest-performing districts in the state).

**§ 60 — SCHOOL SECURITY PROJECTS INVOLVING MULTIMEDIA INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

The act eliminates a provision earmarking, for certain school security projects, up to \$5 million of the existing authorization for school construction grants. The

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projects are those administered by the School Safety Infrastructure Council that involve multimedia interoperable communication systems.

§§ 61, 71-72 & 75-76 — BOND CANCELLATIONS AND REDUCTIONS

The act cancels or reduces, by a total of \$3.376 million, all or part of prior bond authorizations for the projects and grants shown in the table below.

**Cancellations and Reductions**

<b>Act §</b>	<b>Agency and Purpose</b>	<b>Prior Authorization</b>	<b>Amount Cancelled</b>
61	SDE: school construction interest subsidy grants	\$371,900,000	\$2,100,000
72	DESPP: design and construct a firearms training facility and vehicle operations training center, including land acquisition	3,576,000	876,000
76	DAS: development of a supplier diversity data management system	400,000	400,000

§ 62 — SMART START COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM EXPANSION

Prior law authorized bonds (including \$10 million per year for FYs 20 through 24) for the smart start competitive grant program, which provides capital to local and regional boards of education establishing or expanding preschool programs. (The program also provides operating grants from an appropriated account in the General Fund.)

The act expands the purposes for which this existing authorization may be used to include the following:

1. school readiness programs (i.e., non-religious, state-funded education programs that provide a developmentally appropriate learning experience of at least 450 hours and 180 days for children ages three to five who are too young to enroll in kindergarten);
2. state-funded day care centers;
3. the Even Start program (i.e., grants to establish or expand local family literacy programs that provide literacy services for children and their parents or guardians);
4. programs administered by local and regional boards of education; and
5. expansion of child care services to infants and toddlers where a demonstrated need exists, as determined by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC).

Under the act, these grants must be used for facility improvements and minor capital repairs. Eligible applicants may apply to OEC for capital grants of up to \$75,000 per classroom for renovation-related costs.

§§ 63-65 — CSCU 2020 AND UCONN 2000

*Annual Bond Limits*

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The act adjusts the annual bond caps under the CSCU 2020 and UConn 2000 infrastructure programs as shown in the table below. It also extends the CSCU 2020 program by one year to FY 21.

**Annual Bond Limits for CSCU 2020 and UConn 2000**

<b>Bond Program</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Prior Limit</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>New Limit</b>
CSCU 2020	20	\$126,000,000	(\$46,000,000)	\$80,000,000
	21	0	46,000,000	46,000,000
UConn 2000	20	291,600,000	(94,400,000)	197,200,000
	21	186,200,000	73,800,000	260,000,000
	22	101,400,000	89,100,000	190,500,000
	23	98,000,000	27,100,000	125,100,000
	24	85,000,000	(300,000)	84,700,000
	25	70,100,000	(14,100,000)	56,000,000
	26	63,600,000	(49,600,000)	14,000,000
	27	40,600,000	(31,600,000)	9,000,000

*Addendum to CSCU 2020*

By law, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) must submit annually by March 1 to the governor, state treasurer, and OPM secretary the amount of bonds required for the program for the ensuing fiscal year. The governor has 30 days to approve or disapprove the amount in whole or in part; if he does not act within 30 days after the submission, the whole amount is deemed approved. Under the act, if the legislature authorizes new bonds after March 1 for the fiscal year beginning on July 1 of that year, BOR may submit an addendum for the amount of the increased authorization. Existing law allows BOR to do so if the legislature increases a bond limit that the governor already approved.

Under the act, BOR must submit the addendum by April 11, 2020. The governor has 30 days from BOR's submission to approve or disapprove it in the manner described above.

**§ 70 — GRANT TO HAMDEN AND HAMDEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR STRUCTURALLY DAMAGED HOMES**

The act earmarks up to \$4 million of an existing bond authorization for a grant to Hamden for structurally damaged homes. The existing authorization provides \$17.5 million for DEEP grants to contain, remove, or mitigate identified hazardous waste disposal sites. Under the act, up to \$4 million of this amount must be provided to DECD for a grant to Hamden and the Hamden Economic Development Corporation to fund the reasonable costs related to the purchase, rehabilitation, structural repair, and demolition of homes in the town's Newhall Street neighborhood that suffered severe structural damage due to historic fill.

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§ 73 — SCHOOL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

By law, DESPP may award competitive grants to reimburse certain school security infrastructure expenses incurred by towns, regional educational service centers, state charter schools, the state technical high school system, state-approved endowed high schools or academies functioning as a town’s public high school, and private schools, including licensed child care centers or preschools that have received threats. The act excludes family child care providers from grant eligibility.

Prior law earmarked 10% of the program’s available funds for grants to private schools. The act specifies that licensed childcare centers and private preschools are included in this earmark and are eligible for a grant equal to 50% of the eligible project costs. It limits the grant amount for private schools, including licensed childcare centers and private preschools, to \$50,000 each.

For FYs 20 and 21, the act requires that grants for public and private schools be prioritized based on greatest need for security infrastructure if there are not sufficient funds to provide grants for all applicants.

§ 78 — LET’S GO CT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The act modifies the projects for which DOT may use the existing bonds authorized under the five-year capital improvement program commonly known as Let’s Go CT, as shown in the table below.

**Let’s Go CT Project Changes**

<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>New Authorization</i>
<b><i>For the Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations</i></b>	
Design and engineering for I-84 widening between exits 3 and 8	I-84 widening between exits 3 and 8
Design and engineering for I-84 viaduct replacement in Hartford	I-84 safety and operational improvements in Hartford
Design and engineering for I-84 and Route 8 interchange improvements in Waterbury	I-84 and Route 8 interchange improvements in Waterbury
Design and engineering for I-91, I-691, and Route 15 interchange improvements	I-91, I-691, and Route 15 interchange improvements
Design and engineering for I-95 widening between Bridgeport and Stamford	I-95 improvements to reduce congestion between New Haven and New York state line
Design and engineering, including rights-of-way for I-95 widening between the Baldwin Bridge and the Gold Star Bridge	I-95 improvements to reduce congestion between New Haven and the Rhode Island state line
Design and engineering for Route 9 improvements in Middletown	Route 9 improvements in Middletown
<b><i>For the Bureau of Public Transportation</i></b>	
Bus rolling stock for service expansions	Bus rolling stock
Design, engineering, and construction of a	Replace the WALK Moveable Bridge,

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<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>New Authorization</i>
new dock yard on the Danbury branch line	including a New Universal Interlocking at CP243 and improve the Danbury branch line dock yard
Design and construction of the Orange, Barnum, and Merritt 7 stations on the New Haven Line and Danbury branch line	Station improvements on the New Haven Line and Danbury branch line
Design and construction of a parking deck and pedestrian bridge in New Haven on the New Haven Line	Parking structure and pedestrian bridge in New Haven on the New Haven Line
Design and construct a pedestrian bridge in Stamford on the New Haven Line	Parking structure and pedestrian bridge in Stamford on the New Haven Line
Improvements on New Canaan branch line to increase frequency and enhance service to and from the main line, including siding, platform, and improvements to the Springdale Station	Improvements on the New Canaan branch line

§ 81 — CONNECTICUT INNOVATIONS, INC. GRANT TO WOMEN’S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN STAMFORD

For each year of FYs 20 to 22, the act requires Connecticut Innovations, Inc. to provide a \$350,000 grant to the Women’s Business Development Council in Stamford.

§§ 83 & 84 — NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The act requires DESPP to administer a competitive grant program to reimburse eligible nonprofit organizations for security infrastructure improvements and authorizes up to \$5 million in GO bonds for the program.

Under the act, an “eligible nonprofit organization” is a 501(c)(3) organization that the DESPP commissioner determines is at heightened risk of being the target of a terrorist attack, hate crime, or violent act. The grants are for certain expenses these organizations incurred on or after July 1, 2019, for (1) developing or improving security infrastructure; (2) training personnel to operate and maintain the infrastructure; and (3) buying portable entrance security devices, such as metal detectors.

*Eligibility Criteria*

The act requires the DESPP commissioner, by May 1, 2020, to develop eligibility criteria for awarding the grants. The criteria must conform to industry standards for building security infrastructure and, at a minimum, address the following areas:

1. entryways to eligible buildings and rooms, such as reinforcement of entryways, ballistic glass, solid core doors, double door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, remote locks on all entrances and exits, and

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- buzzer systems;
- 2. camera use throughout the building and at all entrances and exits, including closed-circuit television monitoring;
- 3. penetration resistant vestibules; and
- 4. other security infrastructure improvements and devices as they become industry standards.

By May 1, 2020, the commissioner must also develop a checklist for applicants to use in assessing their buildings' safety and security for grant eligibility purposes. The checklist must include measures to assess (1) eligible buildings, (2) communications systems, (3) building access control and surveillance, (4) utility systems, (5) mechanical systems, and (6) emergency power.

### *Eligible Expenses*

Under the act, the grants are for expenses the eligible nonprofit organization incurred on or after July 1, 2019, for the following purposes:

- 1. developing or improving the security infrastructure of eligible nonprofit buildings, based on the security assessments described above;
- 2. training personnel to operate and maintain the security infrastructure; and
- 3. buying portable entrance security devices, including metal detector wands, screening machines, and related training.

Eligible infrastructure expenses include installing surveillance cameras, penetration-resistant vestibules, ballistic glass, solid core doors, double door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, entry door buzzer systems, scan card systems, panic alarms, real time interoperable communications and multimedia sharing infrastructure, or other systems.

### *Application Process*

Eligible nonprofit organizations that own buildings in the state may apply to DESPP for grant funds from May 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020.

The DESPP commissioner prescribes the application process. As part of this process, he must require applicants to submit information demonstrating that they are at a heightened risk of being the target of a terrorist attack, hate crime, or violent act. The commissioner must (1) evaluate this information based on neutral criteria applied equally to all eligible applicants, (2) determine which expenses are eligible under the program, and (3) approve or deny an application based on the eligibility criteria and his determination that the applicant is at heightened risk.

### *Grant Amounts*

The grants are capped at \$50,000 for each eligible organization. The organization receives half of its grant amount when it presents to the commissioner a contract for eligible security infrastructure improvements and the other half when it demonstrates to the commissioner that it has incurred all of the

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eligible expenses pursuant to the contract.

To receive a grant, an organization must show that it has conducted a uniform assessment of its buildings, including any security infrastructure, using the checklist developed by the DESPP commissioner. The assessment may be carried out under the supervision of the local law enforcement agency.

### *Second Round of Grant Applications*

If the aggregate amount of grants the commissioner approves is less than \$5 million, eligible applicants may apply for a grant for eligible expenses incurred on or after February 1, 2021. The same application process requirements described above apply to this second round of grant applications.

### § 85 — REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE SPECIFIED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION DATA TO OPM

The act requires municipal assessors to annually certify to the OPM secretary the amount of the following property tax exemptions they approved for the most recently completed assessment year:

1. five-year, 80% exemption for qualifying machinery and equipment in a distressed municipality, targeted investment community, enterprise zone, or airport development zone (with certain narrow exceptions) (CGS § 12-81(60));
2. five-year, 50% exemption for qualifying machinery and equipment in a distressed municipality, targeted investment community, or enterprise zone acquired as part of a technological upgrading of a manufacturing process (CGS § 12-81(70));
3. five-year, 100% exemption for qualifying new and newly acquired machinery and equipment used in manufacturing, biotechnology, or recycling (effective for the 2002 through 2010 assessment years) (CGS § 12-81(72)); and
4. 100% exemption for qualifying machinery and equipment used in manufacturing or biotechnology (applies as of the 2011 assessment year) (CGS § 12-81(76)).

Assessors must provide the certification annually by May 1 on OPM-prescribed forms. The certification must also include (1) the number of taxpayers with approved claims under each exemption, (2) copies of applications filed by the taxpayers, and (3) any other supporting information the OPM secretary requires.

### § 86 — REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 19 REFERENDUM VALIDATION

The act validates a Regional School District No. 19 referendum held on December 10, 2019, that was otherwise valid but for the failure to properly publish notice of the referendum in Mansfield. It also validates, as of the date

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taken, all otherwise valid acts, votes, and proceedings of Regional School District No. 19 officers and officials pertaining to or relying on the referendum.

In the referendum, voters (1) approved an appropriation to install a photovoltaic system at E.O. Smith High School and for related equipment and work and (2) authorized bonds and the acceptance of grants to finance the appropriation.

### § 87 — APPRENTICESHIP CONNECTICUT INITIATIVE

Existing law earmarks \$50 million in Manufacturing Assistance Act bonds for the Apprenticeship Connecticut initiative that develops workforce pipeline programs for training qualified entry-level workers for jobs with manufacturers and other employers in workforce shortage areas. The act requires that \$10 million of these earmarked bonds be used for the initiative as follows:

1. \$5 million for the workforce development board in Bridgeport serving the southwest region (i.e., the Workplace, Inc.), which must distribute the money in proportion to population and need and
2. \$5 million for the workforce development board in Hartford serving the north central region (i.e., Capital Workforce Partners).

### § 88 — SEWER AND UTILITY SERVICE GRATES

The act requires that certain state and municipal road repair contracts include a provision requiring that sewer and utility service grates be made reasonably flush with the road. Under the act, the DOT commissioner and municipal chief executive officers must require the following:

1. that bids for projects to pave, repave, or repair roads that are financed in whole or part by state funds include a provision that all of the road's sewer and utility service grates be made reasonably flush with the road's surface when the project is complete and
2. that each contract entered into as a result of these bid requests also include this provision.

Under the act, these requirements apply regardless of any statutes, public or special act, charter, or ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2020

### § 89 — DOT REPORT ON SEWER AND UTILITY SERVICE GRATES AND WRONG-WAY SIGN INSTALLATION

The act requires the DOT commissioner, annually beginning by January 1, 2021, to report to the legislature on (1) compliance with the sewer and utility service grate requirements described above (§ 88) and (2) the installation of wrong-way signs on accident-prone interstate highway ramps (§ 40 authorizes \$1 million in STO bonds for the signs in FY 20). The report must include the number of signs purchased, where they were installed, and any data on their effectiveness in reducing motor vehicle accidents. The commissioner must submit the report to

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

the Transportation and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees and the Finance Committee's transportation bonding subcommittee.

### § 90 — REPORT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

The act requires the OPM secretary, annually beginning by January 1, 2021, to report to the legislature on the content of law enforcement community engagement training in towns with a population exceeding 100,000 and adjacent towns (§ 32 authorizes \$3 million in GO bonds for this training in FY 21). She must also provide data on the number of trainings provided and number of police officers trained and submit her findings to the Public Safety and Security and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees and the Finance Committee's general bonding subcommittee.

### § 91 — REMEDIAL ACTION AND REDEVELOPMENT MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

The act increases the frequency with which DECD must award brownfield remedial action and redevelopment grants from once a year to at least twice a year. As under existing law, the DECD commissioner may increase the frequency of application requests and awards depending on the number of applications and available funding.

The act also explicitly allows municipalities to submit more than one application in response to an application request and prohibits the DECD commissioner from rejecting an application solely for this reason.

By law, DECD makes these grants to municipalities, municipal and nonprofit economic development agencies, and state-certified brownfield land banks for remediating brownfields they own or control. It also makes grants to these entities and regional councils of government for preparing comprehensive brownfield remediation and development plans.