AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY STATUTE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 15-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2020):

(a) There is hereby established and created a body politic and corporate, constituting a public instrumentality and political subdivision of the state of Connecticut established and created for the performance of an essential public and governmental function, to be known as the Connecticut Port Authority. The authority shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the state.

(b) The powers of the authority shall be vested in and exercised by a board of directors, which shall consist of [fifteen] sixteen voting members as follows: (1) The State Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee,
the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, [and] the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, and the chief elected official of the city of New London, all of whom shall serve ex officio; (2) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives for a term of four years; (3) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives for a term of two years; (4) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives for a term of two years; (5) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate for a term of four years; (6) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate for a term of two years; (7) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate for a term of four years; and (8) four appointed by the Governor, two for a term of four years and two for a term of two years. Thereafter, said members of the General Assembly and the Governor shall appoint members of the board to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member so appointed shall hold office for a period of four years from the first day of July in the year of his or her appointment. Appointed members shall include: (A) Individuals who have experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas: (i) International trade; (ii) marine transportation; (iii) finance; (iv) auditing; or [(iv)] (v) economic development; (B) one member or employee of a local port authority; (C) one elected or appointed municipal official from a coastal municipality with a population not greater than one hundred thousand; and (D) one elected or appointed municipal official from a coastal community with a population not greater than fifty thousand. The [board of directors] Governor shall select the chairperson from among the members of the board, [who shall serve for a term of two years.] The board of directors shall select a vice-chairperson from among its members and such other officers as it deems necessary.

(c) No appointed member of the board of directors may designate a representative to perform his or her respective duties under this section
in such member's absence. Any appointed member who fails to attend
three consecutive meetings of the board or who fails to attend fifty per
cent of all meetings of the board held during any calendar year shall be
deemed to have resigned from the board. Any vacancy occurring other
than by expiration of term shall be filled not later than thirty days
following the occurrence of such vacancy in the same manner as the
original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term. The
appointing authority for any member may remove such member for
inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office after giving the
member a copy of the charges against the member and an opportunity
to be heard, in person or by counsel, in the member's defense, upon not
less than ten days' notice. If any member shall be so removed, the
appointing authority for such member shall file in the office of the
Secretary of the State a complete statement of charges made against such
member and the appointing authority's findings on such statement of
charges, together with a complete record of the proceedings.

(d) The members of the board of directors shall appoint an executive
director of the authority who shall not be a member of the board and
shall serve at the pleasure of the board and receive such compensation
as shall be fixed by the board. The executive director shall: (1) Be the
chief administrative officer of the authority and direct and supervise
administrative affairs and technical activities in accordance with [the]
applicable laws and regulations, authority policies and directives of the
board; (2) approve all accounts for salaries, allowable expenses of the
authority or of any employee or consultant thereof, and expenses
incidental to the operation of the authority in a manner consistent with
applicable laws and regulations and authority policies; (3) perform such
other duties as may be directed by the board in carrying out the
purposes of this section; and (4) attend all meetings of the board, keep a
record of the proceedings of the authority and maintain and be
custodian of all books, documents and papers filed with the authority
and of the minute book or journal of the authority and of its official seal.
The executive director may cause copies to be made of all minutes and
other records and documents of the authority and may give certificates
under the official seal of the authority to the effect that such copies are true copies, and all persons dealing with the authority may rely upon such certificates.

(e) Each member of the board of directors shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for such member's actual and necessary expenses incurred during the performance of such member's official duties.

(f) Members of the board of directors may engage in private employment, or in a profession or business, subject to any applicable laws, rules and regulations of the state regarding official ethics or conflict of interest.

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, it shall not constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner or officer of any person, firm or corporation, or any individual having a financial interest in a person, firm or corporation, to serve as a member of the board of directors of the authority, provided such trustee, director, partner, officer or individual shall comply with all applicable provisions of chapter 10.

(h) Nine members of the board of directors of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the authority. For the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the authority, and except as otherwise provided in this section, the authority may act by a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.

(i) The board may delegate to nine or more members such board powers and duties as it may deem necessary and proper in conformity with the provisions of this section and its bylaws.

(j) The initial members of the board may begin service immediately upon appointment, but shall not serve past the sixth Wednesday of the next regular session of the General Assembly unless qualified in the
manner provided in section 4-7. Thereafter, all appointments shall be made with the advice and consent of both houses of the General Assembly, in the manner provided in section 4-19.

(k) The board shall establish written procedures, in accordance with the provisions of section 1-121, necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and section 15-31b. Such procedures shall include, but not be limited to, procedures for (1) adopting an annual budget and plan of operations, including a requirement of board approval before the budget or plan may take effect; (2) hiring, dismissing, promoting and compensating employees of the authority, including an affirmative action policy and a requirement of board approval before a position may be created or a vacancy filled; (3) acquiring real and personal property and personal services, including a requirement of board approval for any nonbudgeted expenditure in excess of five thousand dollars; (4) contracting for financial, legal, bond underwriting and other professional services, including a requirement that the authority solicit proposals at least once every three years for each such service it uses; (5) issuing and retiring bonds, bond anticipation notes and other obligations of the authority; (6) awarding loans, grants and other financial assistance, including eligibility criteria, the application process and the role played by the authority's staff and board of directors; and (7) using surplus funds to the extent authorized under this chapter or other provisions of the general statutes.

([(k)] (l) On or before December fifteenth of each year, the board shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, commerce and the environment, summarizing the authority's activities, disclosing operating and financial statements and recommending legislation to promote the authority's purposes.

([(l)] (m) The board shall annually contract with a firm of certified public accountants to undertake an independent financial audit of the authority in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
Such audit shall be completed not later than six months after the end of
the fiscal year, unless the board approves an extension of such deadline.
Not later than seven days after receiving [an audit of the authority
conducted by an] the audit report from the independent auditing firm,
the board shall submit a copy of the report, in accordance with the
provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
appropriations, commerce, the environment and transportation. [a copy
of each such audit.]

The board shall: (1) Develop and recommend to the
Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
having cognizance of matters relating to transportation a maritime
policy for the state; (2) advise the Governor and such committee
concerning the state's maritime policies and operations; (3) support the
development of the state's maritime commerce and industries,
including its ports and harbors; (4) recommend investments and actions,
including dredging, required in order to preserve and enhance maritime
commerce and industries; and (5) conduct studies and present
recommendations concerning maritime issues.

At least once each year, the board shall hold a public hearing
for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of the state's maritime
policies, facilities and support for maritime commerce and industry.

On or before January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
board of directors shall submit, in writing, to the Governor (1) a list of
projects which, if undertaken by the state, would support the state's
maritime policies and encourage maritime commerce and industry; (2)
recommendations for improvements to existing maritime policies,
programs and facilities; and (3) such other recommendations as the
board considers appropriate. Copies of such report shall be submitted
to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
cognizance of matters relating to transportation, in accordance with the
provisions of section 11-4a.
This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | July 1, 2020 | 15-31a |

**Statement of Purpose:**
To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]