

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 23-205—HB 6942
Emergency Certification

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING CERTAIN GRANT AND FINANCING PROGRAMS, STATE CONSTRUCTION RELATED THRESHOLDS, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS, THE VALIDATION OF CERTAIN ACTIONS TAKEN BY CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES, CAPITAL CITY PROJECTS, CERTAIN CONSUMER AGREEMENTS, CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS TO MUNICIPAL CHARTERS AND PETITIONS FOR CERTAIN TOWN REFERENDA, ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE, CERTAIN CASES BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET

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Expands the conditions under which the Superior Court may authorize the Housing Receivership Revolving Fund's use; increases, from \$200,000 total to \$1 million per year, the amount that may be spent from the fund in any single municipality

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Modifies all or part of prior bond authorizations for specified projects and grants; changes the purposes of existing bond authorizations

§§ 90 & 91 — HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND AND RETROFIT PILOT PROGRAM

Requires the DEEP commissioner, in collaboration with the DOH commissioner, to start a pilot program to finance qualifying retrofitting projects in multi-family homes located in environmental justice communities or alliance districts; funds the financing through a new Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan Fund and authorizes \$125 million in GO bonds to capitalize it

§ 93 — BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

Authorizes up to \$15 million in GO bonds for DECD grants to eligible BIDCOs

§§ 95-98 — BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR IDD-RELATED PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER PA 23-137

Authorizes GO bonds for IDD-related programs and purposes established under PA 23-137

§§ 101-104 — BONDING PROGRAM FOR HIGH POVERTY-LOW OPPORTUNITY CENSUS TRACTS

Principally requires DECD to create a grant program to fund certain eligible projects in “high poverty-low opportunity” census tracts, such as housing, infrastructure, and workforce development; authorizes up to \$50 million of GO bonds per year for FYs 24-29 for the program; requires OPM to compile a list of qualifying census tracts

§§ 105-111 — CAPITAL PROJECT THRESHOLDS

Increases the maximum cost of (1) capital projects that CSCU, the Military Department, the Judicial Department, and state agencies generally may administer and (2) a construction consultant services contract for which DAS must select the consultant using a selection panel process

§ 112 — DAS STATUS REPORT ON SPECIFIED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Requires DAS to submit quarterly reports to the General Assembly on the status of specified capital improvements to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner’s facilities and the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center

§ 113 — USE OF BOND PREMIUMS

Delays by two years, from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2025, the requirement that the state treasurer direct bond premiums on GO and credit revenue bond issuances to an account or fund to pay for previously authorized capital projects

§ 114 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT COMMITMENTS

Authorizes 22 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$736.45 million toward total estimated project costs of \$1.16 billion; reauthorizes two projects with an additional state grant commitment of \$37.6 million

§ 115 — SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Adds two ex-officio members to the council

[§ 116 — REIMBURSEMENT GRANT RATE FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION](#)

Increases the state reimbursement percentage range for new construction projects for grant applications made on and after June 1, 2024

[§§ 117-119 — FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL BUILDING AND HVAC PROJECTS](#)

Eliminates the requirement that the state subtract federal funds received by a town from the project costs before calculating the state reimbursement grant for school building projects; allows any town to use federal funds to finance its local share of a school building or HVAC project

[§§ 120-139 & 194 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, MODIFICATIONS, AND A REPEAL](#)

Exempts 28 school construction projects from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow these projects to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher grant reimbursement percentages, or have their projects reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost; also repeals a prior project authorization

[§§ 140-147 & 157 — PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION DEADLINE WAIVERS](#)

Allows taxpayers in nine municipalities to claim a property tax exemption for specified property and grand lists even though they missed the applicable filing deadline

[§ 148 — CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN MANCHESTER AND THE EIGHTH UTILITIES DISTRICT](#)

Validates an agreement and consolidation plan between Manchester and the Eighth Utilities District

[§ 149 — VALIDATION OF PROPERTY TAX-RELATED ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS IN NORWALK](#)

Validates certain property tax-related actions and proceedings in Norwalk

[§ 150 — WINDHAM RESUBMISSION OF TAX STATEMENTS](#)

Allows Windham to update the FY 23 mill rate and tax levy statements it filed with OPM for purposes of the motor vehicle property tax grant

[§ 151 — TRANSFER OF FY 24 APPROPRIATION FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REMEDIATION](#)

Redirects \$5 million in FY 24 for flood damage remediation from DEEP to the state comptroller

[§ 152 — FIXED ASSESSMENTS FOR ADRIAEN'S LANDING AND CAPITAL CITY PROJECTS](#)

Extends, from 15 to 20 years, the maximum term of fixed assessments on specified developments in Hartford and eliminates the requirement that a project have at least \$5 million from CRDA to qualify

[§ 153 — ARPA ALLOCATION FOR KENT COMMONS](#)

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Authorizes \$100,000 of the ARPA funds allocated to DECD in FY 23 for Emery Park to be used for a grant to Kent for Kent Commons; allows funds previously issued to Kent for Emery Park to be used at Kent Commons

§§ 154, 160 & 163 — FY 23 FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AND TRANSFERRED

Carries forward \$460,000 in unspent funds appropriated in FY 23 to the state comptroller for fringe benefits and transfers them for specified purposes to DECD and DCP

§ 155 — COG GRANT FORMULA AMENDMENT

Amends the COG funding calculation established in PA 23-204, § 93, for FYs 24 and after

§ 156 — MODIFICATION TO LAW ON AUTOMATIC RENEWAL AND CONTINUOUS SERVICE PROVISIONS

Modifies PA 23-191, § 1, to specify that both global and national audiovisual services agreements are exempted from the law's requirements on automatic renewal or continuous service provisions

§ 158 — MUNICIPAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Limits the changes that municipalities may make to their charters

§ 159 — HEALTHY HOMES FUNDS FOR CERTAIN CONDOMINIUMS IN HAMDEN

Allows the Healthy Homes Fund to be used to support owners of owner-occupied condominium units in Hamden with structurally deficient foundations

§ 161 — TAX CREDIT FOR DONATIONS TO ELIGIBLE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Creates a tax credit available for the 2024 and 2025 income and tax years against the personal income and corporation business tax for individuals and businesses making cash contributions to certain youth development organizations

§ 162 — RESERVED AMOUNT FROM SDE APPROPRIATION

Reserves \$3 million from the FY 24 line item appropriation for SDE for Magnet Schools to give interdistrict magnet school program tuition assistance to Hartford's board of education

§§ 164-165 — MINORITY REPRESENTATION

Clarifies political party status for unaffiliated persons for the purposes of minority representation

§§ 166-169 — REGIONAL ELECTION ADVISORS

Makes various changes to the regional election monitor program including replacing monitors with regional election advisors, providing state funding for the program, and changing contracting requirements for advisors

§ 170 — ELECTION ADMINISTRATION STAFFING TASK FORCE

Establishes a 17-person task force to study election administration staffing

§§ 171-178 — EXPENDITURES BY LEADERSHIP AND CAUCUS COMMITTEES

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Allows legislative leadership and caucus committees to aggregate their maximum organization expenditure amounts for legislative candidates, subject to specified requirements; modifies the types of events and services for which these expenditures may be made; allows committees to pay or reimburse other committees for the pro rata share of certain expenses

§ 179 — CEP GUBERNATORIAL GRANT AMOUNT

Increases primary and general election grant amounts for gubernatorial candidates participating in the CEP; sets the base amounts at \$3,227,500 for a primary and \$15,492,000 for a general election and updates the reference date for inflation adjustments to January 1, 2022

§§ 179-185 — CEP CONVENTION CAMPAIGN GRANT

Allows major party gubernatorial candidates participating in the CEP to apply for and receive a “convention campaign grant” before the party’s nominating convention, equal to one-fourth of the primary grant; sets the grant amount at \$806,875 and requires that it be adjusted for inflation since January 1, 2022

§§ 186-188 — CEF FUNDING

Beginning in FY 26, (1) requires that the deposit of unclaimed property funds into the CEF in any fiscal year before the fiscal year of a gubernatorial election be the amount deemed necessary by SEEC to pay grants to CEP candidates and (2) moves back the deadline for SEEC to make related determinations in gubernatorial election years; eliminates a provision in prior law which required that transfers from the unclaimed property fund to the CEF be reduced in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of any corporation business tax revenue deposited in the CEF

§ 189 — QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CEP LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN 2024 ELECTION

For the 2024 election only, freezes the aggregate QC amounts that legislative candidates must raise at their 2022 amounts (i.e., \$17,300 for state senator and \$5,800 for state representative)

§ 190 — CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEES

Increases the annual limit on contributions by an individual to a state central committee from \$10,000 to \$15,000

§ 191 — TOWN REFERENDUM ON PERMIT DENIAL UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LAW

Creates a process under which an elector or voter in a town with a population of up to 10,000 can petition for a town referendum on the DEEP commissioner’s denial of a facility permit under the environmental justice law

§§ 192 & 193 — CHRO REFERRAL OF SUSPECTED SEX OFFENSES TO CHIEF STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

Allows CHRO, if it believes that a party to a discriminatory practice case committed a sex offense, to refer the matter to the chief state’s attorney’s office; correspondingly requires that office to investigate after receiving the referral as it deems necessary

§§ 1-38, 55, 88-89, 92, 94 & 99-100 — NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE AGENCY PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Authorizes new GO bonds in FYs 24 and 25 for state projects and grant programs

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

This act authorizes up to \$1,493.8 million in new state general obligation (GO) bonds in FY 24 and up to \$1,150.3 million in FY 25 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 that, as a condition of bond authorizations for grants to private entities, each granting agency 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 required repayment is reduced by 10% for each full year that the facility is used for the grant purpose.

GO Bond Authorizations for State Projects and Grant Programs for FYs 24 and 25

§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
STATE CAPITAL PROJECTS				
2(a)	Office of Legislative Management	State Capitol alterations, renovations, and restoration, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance	\$35,000,000	\$0
2(b), 21(a)	Office of Policy and Management (OPM)	Information technology capital investment program	65,000,000	65,000,000
2(c)	Department of Veterans Affairs	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds and land acquisition	3,000,000	0
2(d), 21(b)	Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Remove or encapsulate asbestos and hazardous materials in state-owned buildings	2,500,000	2,500,000
		Infrastructure repairs and improvements, including (1) fire, safety, and ADA compliance; (2) improvements to state-owned buildings and grounds, including energy conservation and off-site improvements; (3) preservation of unoccupied buildings and grounds, including office development, acquisition, renovations for additional parking; and (4) security improvements at state-occupied buildings	30,000,000	25,000,000
		Capital Area System upgrades and modernization	19,000,000	0
		Electric vehicle purchases and charging infrastructure construction and installation at state facilities	35,000,000	0

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§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
2(e), 21(c)	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems, and energy conservation projects	3,500,000	31,500,000
		Alterations, renovations, improvements, and repairs for an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course	5,000,000	0
2(f), 21(d)	Department of Motor Vehicles	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds	2,000,000	2,000,000
2(g), 21(e)	Military Department	State matching funds for anticipated federal reimbursable projects	5,000,000	3,000,000
		Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems, and energy conservation	300,000	200,000
2(h), 21(f)	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)	Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program: recreation, open space, and resource protection and management	3,000,000	3,000,000
		Alterations, renovations, and new construction at state parks and other recreation facilities, including ADA improvements	30,000,000	30,000,000
		(1) Water pollution control projects at state facilities and (2) regional planning agencies' engineering reports	600,000	1,000,000
		Renewable energy or combined heat and power projects in state buildings or projects in state buildings and assets to decrease environmental impacts, including those that (1) improve energy efficiency; (2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from building heating and cooling, including by installing renewable thermal heating systems; (3) expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support charging on state property; (4) reduce water use; and (5) reduce waste generation and disposal	20,000,000	20,000,000
		Flood control improvements, flood	3,000,000	2,500,000

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§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
		repair, erosion damage repairs, and municipal dam repairs; earmarks at least \$500,000 of the FY 24 authorization for alterations, repairs, renovations, or construction at Lake Whitney Dam in Hamden		
		Dam repairs, including state-owned dams	0	2,500,000
		Materials Innovations and Recycling Authority property in Hartford: environmental clean-up and preparation for development	50,000,000	0
2(i), 21(g)	Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA)	Connecticut Convention Center and Rentschler Field: alterations, renovations, and improvements	17,000,000	17,000,000
		Parking garages in Hartford: alterations, renovations, and improvements	5,000,000	5,000,000
		XL Center: alterations, renovations, and improvements, including acquiring abutting real estate and rights-of-way	15,000,000	0
2(j)	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	Facility design, alterations, renovations, additions, and construction, including land acquisition	28,000,000	0
2(k), 21(h)	Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	(1) Fire, safety, and environmental improvements to regional facilities and intermediate care facilities for client and staff needs, including compliance with current codes, and (2) site improvements, handicapped access improvements, utilities, roof repair or replacement, air conditioning, and other building renovations and additions at all state-owned facilities	36,090,000	30,990,000
		Design and install sprinkler systems and related fire safety improvements in direct care patient buildings	12,450,000	0
2(l), 21(i)	State Library	Middletown Library Service Center renovation	400,000	355,000
2(m), 21(j)	UConn	Nursing program facility: design, land acquisition, and construction	30,000,000	0
		Acquisition or leasing of XL Center property and planning, design, and	5,000,000	0

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§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
		construction related to using the property as academic space for the UConn Hartford campus		
		Equipment, library collections, and telecommunications	10,000,000	10,000,000
		Harry A. Gampel Pavilion: renovations, alterations, and improvements	0	10,000,000
2(n), 21(k)	UConn Health Center	Deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements	30,000,000	30,000,000
		Systems telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements, and expansions	3,000,000	3,000,000
		Equipment, library collections, and telecommunications	10,000,000	10,000,000
2(o), 21(l)	Connecticut State Colleges and Universities	System telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, improvements, and expansions	16,450,000	9,000,000
		Advanced manufacturing and emerging technology programs	4,000,000	3,000,000
		All state colleges and universities: security improvements	3,000,000	3,000,000
		All universities: deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements	40,000,000	65,200,000
		All universities: new and replacement instruction, research, or laboratory equipment	26,000,000	20,000,000
		All community colleges: deferred maintenance, code compliance, and infrastructure improvements	54,000,000	27,600,000
		All community colleges: new and replacement instruction, research, or laboratory equipment	24,000,000	18,000,000
2(p), 21(m)	Department of Correction	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to existing state-owned buildings for inmate housing, programming, staff training space, and additional inmate capacity; support facilities; and off-site improvements	55,000,000	55,000,000
2(q), 21(n)	Judicial Department	Alterations, renovations, and improvements to buildings and grounds at state-owned and	10,000,000	10,000,000

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§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
		maintained facilities		
		Security improvements at various state-owned and maintained facilities	2,000,000	2,000,000
		Alterations and improvements in compliance with the ADA	1,000,000	1,000,000
		Technology Strategic Plan Project implementation	2,000,000	2,000,000
88	Secretary of the State	(1) Purchasing and deploying tabulators and related equipment, (2) purchasing equipment and services to implement and integrate the centralized voter registration system, and (3) purchasing equipment and software to improve the business recording system's operation and business services division's functions	30,000,000	3,000,000
92	Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority	Capitalization	60,000,000	0
94	Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	Office of Community Economic Development Assistance's duties	0	50,000,000
99	Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority	Nursing student loan subsidy program	10,000,000	0
HOUSING PROJECTS				
9, 28	Department of Housing (DOH)	Housing development and rehabilitation, including improvements to certain kinds of state-assisted affordable housing and housing-related financial assistance programs, including administrative expenses; requires up to \$30 million in each of FYs 24-25 to be used for revitalizing state moderate housing units of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's state housing portfolio	100,000,000	100,000,000
89		Time to Own program	75,000,000	75,000,000
100		Grants or forgivable loans to Time to	5,000,000	5,000,000

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§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
		Own program participants for capital improvements to residential properties purchased with program assistance		
GRANTS				
13(a), 32(a), 55	OPM	Grants to distressed municipalities	7,000,000	7,000,000
		Grants to private, nonprofit, tax-exempt health and human service organizations that receive state funds to provide direct health or human services to state agency clients: alterations, renovations, improvements, additions, and new construction, including for (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 regional and local improvements and development	20,000,000	20,000,000
		Grants to develop an advanced manufacturing facility in Hartford	15,000,000	0
		Grants to municipalities (§ 55 specifies the amount for each municipality)	91,000,000	91,000,000
13(b)	DAS	Grants for alterations, renovations, and improvements at interdistrict magnet school facilities to support additional preschool and elementary slots	20,000,000	0
13(c), 32(b)	DEEP	Grants to municipalities for open space land acquisition and development for conservation or recreational purposes	10,000,000	10,000,000
		Grants to contain, remove, or mitigate identified hazardous waste disposal sites	19,000,000	17,000,000
		Grants to identify, investigate, contain, remove, or mitigate contaminated industrial sites in urban areas	2,500,000	2,500,000
		Grants to municipalities for (1) testing for pollution from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl	3,000,000	2,000,000

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§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
		(PFAS) substances, (2) providing potable water to people affected by this pollution, (3) remedial action to address this pollution, and (4) buyback of aqueous film-forming foam with PFAS		
		Grants to provide matching funds necessary for municipalities, local and regional boards of education, and school bus operators to submit federal grant applications to maximize federal funding for (1) purchasing or leasing zero-emission school buses and (2) electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure	10,000,000	10,000,000
		Microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program	5,000,000	25,000,000
		Grants to municipalities for renovations and expansion of, and equipment for, solid waste facilities	15,000,000	0
		Grants for water system improvements in West Hartford	30,000,000	0
		Grants for flood damage-related repairs and reconstruction in Bridgeport	17,000,000	25,000,000
13(d), 32(c)	DECD	Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization program	35,000,000	35,000,000
		Small Business Express program; earmarks at least \$11 million in FY 24 for minority business revolving loan funds	36,000,000	25,000,000
		Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund	15,000,000	15,000,000
13(e), 32(d)	Department of Public Health (DPH)	Grants to public water systems for drinking water projects	25,000,000	25,000,000
		Grants to local and regional boards of education to purchase, install, and maintain water bottle filling stations at schools designated to receive services under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act	3,500,000	0

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§	Agency	For	FY 24	FY 25
13(f), 32(e)	State Department of Education (SDE)	Grants to boards of education to help targeted local and regional school districts for alterations, repairs, improvements, technology, and equipment in low-performing schools	5,000,000	5,000,000
		Grants to regional educational service centers for capital expenses at interdistrict magnet schools	8,500,000	12,500,000
13(g), 32(f)	Office of Early Childhood	Grants for constructing, improving, or equipping childcare centers, including paying associated costs for architectural, engineering, or demolition services related to the infant and toddler pilot program	5,000,000	5,000,000
13(h), 32(g)	State Library	Grants to public libraries for construction, renovation, expansion, energy conservation, and handicapped accessibility (see § 60)	5,000,000	5,000,000
13(i), 32(h)	CRDA	Grants to encourage development according to CRDA's statutory purposes	25,000,000	25,000,000
		Grant to East Hartford for general economic development activities, including (1) developing riverfront infrastructure and improvements, (2) creating housing units through rehabilitation and new construction, (3) demolishing or redeveloping vacant buildings, and (4) redevelopment	10,000,000	10,000,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, for FY 24 bond authorizations; and July 1, 2024, for FY 25 authorizations.

§§ 39-50 — TRANSPORTATION BONDS

Authorizes new STO bonds in FYs 24-25 for DOT projects

As shown in the table below, the act authorizes up to \$1,557.7 million in new special tax obligation (STO) bonds in FY 24 and \$1,530.8 million in FY 25 for Department of Transportation (DOT) projects.

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

STO Bond Authorizations for DOT Projects

<i>Authorized Program Areas</i>	<i>FY 24</i>	<i>FY 25</i>
<i>Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations</i>		
Interstate highway program	\$50,346,000	\$15,400,000
Urban systems projects	22,000,000	22,000,000
Intrastate highway program	86,000,000	88,000,000
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	15,350,000	17,065,000
State bridge improvement, rehabilitation, and replacement	57,500,000	58,200,000
Capital resurfacing and related reconstruction	125,000,000	135,000,000
Fix-it-First bridge repair program	51,500,000	62,250,000
Fix-it-First road repair program	152,115,000	180,729,000
Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program	76,000,000	78,000,000
Local bridge program	20,000,000	20,000,000
Highway and bridge renewal equipment	22,513,000	22,513,000
Community connectivity and alternative mobility program	15,000,000	15,000,000
Transportation Rural Improvement Program	10,000,000	10,000,000
Purchase, installation, and implementation of advanced wrong-way driving technology and other wrong-way driving countermeasures	20,000,000	20,000,000
Renovations and improvements to service plazas along highways	10,000,000	0
<i>Bureau of Public Transportation</i>		
Bus and rail facilities and equipment, including rights-of-way, other property acquisition, and related projects	264,250,000	273,450,000
Northeast Corridor Modernization Match Program	398,165,000	438,175,000
<i>Bureau of Administration</i>		
Department facilities	161,960,000	74,990,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, for FY 24 bond authorizations; and July 1, 2024, for FY 25 authorizations.

§§ 51-54, 56-59, 61-64 & 67-68 — BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATUTORY PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

Increases bond authorizations for various statutory grants and purposes and authorizes new bonding for these purposes in FYs 24-25

As shown in the table below, the act increases bond authorizations for various statutory grants and purposes and authorizes new bonding for these purposes in FYs 24 and 25.

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Statutory Bond Authorizations for FYs 24-25

§	Agency	Purpose/Fund	FY 24	FY 25
51	OPM	Urban Action (economic and community development project grants); also makes a technical correction to provisions earmarking bond funds under the program for urban development projects	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000
52	OPM	Small Town Economic Assistance Program	35,000,000	35,000,000
53	OPM	Capital Equipment Purchase Fund	25,000,000	25,000,000
54	OPM	Local Capital Improvement Program	45,000,000	45,000,000
56	DOH	Housing Trust Fund; requires DOH to provide at least \$200 million to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to administer a revolving loan fund for workforce housing projects	200,000,000	200,000,000
57	SDE	Charter school capital expenses	5,000,000	5,000,000
58	DAS	School air quality improvement grants	150,000,000	150,000,000
59	DAS	School construction project grants	0	250,000,000
61	DOT	Commercial rail freight line competitive grant program	10,000,000	0
62	DEEP	Clean Water Fund grants	40,000,000	40,000,000
63	DEEP	Clean Water Fund loans (revenue bonds)	0	25,000,000
64	DEEP	Bikeway, pedestrian walkway, recreational trail, and greenway grant program	10,000,000	10,000,000
67	DOH	Housing Receivership Revolving Fund (see §§ 66 & 67 below)	25,000,000	25,000,000
68	SDE	School security infrastructure competitive grant program	10,000,000	10,000,000

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, for FY 24 bond authorizations; and July 1, 2024, for FY 25 authorizations.

§ 60 — CONSTRUCTION GRANTS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Increases the (1) grant amounts allowed for public library construction projects in distressed municipalities and (2) maximum grant allowed for any public library construction project

Prior law authorized the State Library Board to award grants for public library construction for up to one-half of a project’s total construction costs, subject to a \$1 million per project cap. For project applications submitted on or after July 1, 2023, the act increases the (1) grant amount allowed for projects in distressed municipalities to up to 80% of the total construction costs and (2) maximum grant allowed for any project to \$2 million. As under existing law, the grants are subject to the board’s approval and available funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

§ 65 — MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE ACT

Modifies an MAA earmark for the Technology Talent Advisory Committee

Under prior law, the Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) earmarked \$2 million in bonding per year from FYs 17-21 (\$10 million total) to fund the Technology Talent Advisory Committee's costs. The act instead authorizes up to \$10 million in MAA bonds to be used for this purpose beginning July 1, 2023.

Existing law establishes the Technology Talent Advisory Committee within DECD to identify shortages of qualified employees in specific technology sectors and develop pilot programs to address those shortages.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 66 & 67 — HOUSING RECEIVERSHIP REVOLVING FUND

Expands the conditions under which the Superior Court may authorize the Housing Receivership Revolving Fund's use; increases, from \$200,000 total to \$1 million per year, the amount that may be spent from the fund in any single municipality

Existing law establishes the Housing Receivership Revolving Fund, administered by the DOH commissioner, and authorizes the Superior Court to allow the fund to be used to cover a receiver's expenses. (By law, apartment buildings in serious disrepair may be placed in receivership when the owner fails to comply with an order to abate a nuisance.)

The act expands the conditions under which the court may authorize the fund's use by (1) eliminating a requirement that the building in receivership have no more than 20 units or be a mobile manufactured home park or a space or lot there and (2) increasing, from \$5,000 to \$10,000, the cap on the anticipated per-unit (or space or lot) average expense from the fund. As under existing law, the court may only authorize the fund's use if sufficient sources of money are not otherwise immediately available.

The act also increases, from \$200,000 total to \$1 million per year, the amount that may be spent from the fund in any single municipality.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 69-87 — CHANGES TO EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS

Modifies all or part of prior bond authorizations for specified projects and grants; changes the purposes of existing bond authorizations

Bond Cancellations and Reductions

The act cancels or reduces all or part of the prior bond authorizations for the projects and grants shown in the table below.

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Cancellations and Reductions

§	<i>Agency and Purpose</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>Amount Cancelled</i>
70	DAS: grants to municipalities for a regional school district incentive grant	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
72	DAS: grants to alliance districts for general improvements to school buildings	30,000,000	12,000,000
74	DOT: construction, repair, or maintenance of highways, roads, bridges, or bus and rail facilities and equipment (retains a \$75 million cap on using the funds to help municipalities modernize existing traffic signal equipment and operations)	180,000,000	50,000,000
76	DAS: grants to alliance districts for general improvements to school buildings	6,000,000	6,000,000
82	Connecticut Port Authority: port projects in towns other than Bridgeport, New Haven, or New London	25,000,000 (\$5 million in each year from FYs 22-26)	5,000,000 (\$2.5 million reduction in FYs 24 and 25)

Bond Increases

The act also increases the amounts authorized for the prior bond authorizations shown in the table below.

Increases to Prior Authorizations

§	<i>Agency and Purpose</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>Act's Authorization</i>	<i>Increase</i>
78	Connecticut Port Authority: grants for improvements to deep water ports, including dredging (retains the requirement that at least \$20 million be used for deep water ports outside of New London)	\$90,000,000	\$120,000,000	\$30,000,000
79	DPH: Health Disparities and Prevention Grant Program (increases the amount earmarked for federal qualified health centers by \$5 million)	25,000,000	30,000,000	5,000,000
85	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: construction and equipment for Valley Laboratory additions and renovations	8,000,000	18,000,000	10,000,000

Language Changes

The act changes the purposes of existing bond authorizations, as shown in the

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table below.

Language Changes

§	Amount Authorized	Purpose	Change
80	\$10,000,000	DEEP: for projects in state buildings and assets that decrease environmental impacts	Allows the funds to be used for projects that expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure on state property, rather than for projects that expand electric vehicle charging for state-owned or leased electric vehicles
81	12,000,000	OPM: grant to the Commission on Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention	DPH, in consultation with the commission, for capital grants to community gun violence and prevention programs and to support strategies addressing community gun violence
84	75,000,000	OPM: state matching funds for projects and programs allowed under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	Allows OPM to also use this authorization for state matching funds for projects and programs allowed under the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
86	20,000,000	DEEP: grants for matching funds necessary for municipalities, school districts, and school bus operators to maximize federal funding for purchasing or leasing zero-emission school buses and electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure	Replaces school districts with local and regional boards of education
87	40,000,000	DECD: CareerConneCT workforce training programs	Allocates the bonds to the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) and requires OWS to administer the programs

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except that provisions (1) increasing bond authorizations for the Connecticut Port Authority and DPH and (2) making language changes to authorizations for DEEP and OPM (for state matching funds) are effective upon passage.

§§ 90 & 91 — HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND AND RETROFIT PILOT PROGRAM

Requires the DEEP commissioner, in collaboration with the DOH commissioner, to start a pilot program to finance qualifying retrofitting projects in multi-family homes located in environmental justice communities or alliance districts; funds the financing through a new Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan Fund and authorizes \$125 million in GO bonds to capitalize it

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The act requires the DEEP commissioner, in collaboration with the DOH commissioner, to start a pilot program or programs to finance qualifying retrofitting projects in multi-family homes located in environmental justice communities or alliance districts (see *Background*). The act funds the financing through a new Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan Fund and authorizes \$125 million in state general obligation (GO) bonds to capitalize it (\$50 million for FY 24 and \$75 million for FY 25).

The act requires the DEEP commissioner, or a program administrator that she designates, to begin accepting applications for financing in a form she specifies on July 1, 2024. Additionally, the commissioner must submit a report on the pilot program to the Housing Committee by October 1, 2027, that (1) analyzes its success and (2) recommends whether to establish a permanent program, including any related legislative proposals. Under the act, the pilot program ends on September 30, 2028.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except the bond authorization is effective July 1, 2023.

Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan Fund

The act creates the Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan Fund and allows it to be funded by proceeds from the act's \$125 million bond authorization or any other funds available to the DEEP commissioner or from other sources. The fund must be used to make low-interest loans and pay the reasonable and necessary expenses to administer them. The act allows the commissioner to contract with nonprofits to administer the fund, but she must approve any loan made from it.

Under the act, investment earnings credited to the fund become part of the fund's assets, and any balance remaining at the end of any fiscal year is carried forward to the next year. Principal and interest payments on low-interest loans under the pilot program must be paid to the state treasurer for deposit into the fund.

Qualifying Retrofitting Projects

Under the act, qualifying retrofitting projects must do one of the following:

1. improve a home's energy efficiency (e.g., installing heat pumps, solar power generating systems, improved roofing, exterior doors and windows, improved insulation, air sealing, improved ventilation, appliance upgrades, and any electrical or wiring upgrades necessary for the retrofit);
2. remediate health and safety concerns that are barriers to the retrofit (e.g., mold, vermiculite, asbestos, lead, and radon); or
3. provide services to help residents and building owners access and implement the act's pilot programs or other state or federal programs for energy efficiency retrofitting.

Eligibility Criteria and Priority Financing

To be eligible for pilot program financing, a dwelling unit must be currently occupied by a tenant or will be occupied within 180 days after the commissioner awards the owner financing; it cannot be owner-occupied. (The act requires an owner to repay DEEP all funds he or she receives under the program if this timeframe is not met.)

Under the act, the DEEP commissioner must exclude from the program landlords who have violated their statutory landlord responsibilities, as determined by the DOH commissioner. It also requires the DEEP commissioner to prioritize financing for projects benefitting current or prospective low-income residents (i.e., households with an income of no more than 60% of the state median income or 80% of the area median income, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and adjusted for family size).

Background — Environmental Justice Communities

By law, an “environmental justice community” is (1) any U.S. census block group, as determined by the most recent census, for which at least 30% of the population consists of low-income people who are not institutionalized and have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level or (2) a distressed municipality (CGS § 22a-20a).

DECD annually designates distressed municipalities, based on high unemployment and poverty, aging housing stock, and low or declining rates of job, population, and per capita income growth (CGS § 32-9p).

Background — Alliance Districts

As required by law, the education commissioner designated 36 alliance districts for five years, beginning with FY 23 (CGS § 10-262u). The current designation applies to (1) the 33 school districts with the lowest accountability index scores and (2) three previously designated districts that were no longer among the 33 with the lowest scores.

§ 93 — BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

Authorizes up to \$15 million in GO bonds for DECD grants to eligible BIDCOs

The act authorizes up to \$15 million in GO bonds for DECD grants to business and industrial development corporations (BIDCOs) whose primary purposes are to do the following:

1. provide financing and management assistance to minority- and women-owned small businesses that serve or seek to serve underserved or minority communities,
2. provide education and training to these businesses and communities, and
3. work collaboratively with similar organizations and lenders to promote economic development and growth in these communities.

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Under the act, an entity that has applied to the state Department of Banking for a BIDCO license and meets all but one of the statutory requirements for licensure is also eligible for the grant. Specifically, the entity must (1) have directors and officers of good character who can competently conduct the corporation’s affairs, (2) be likely to comply with the state’s BIDCO laws and regulations, and (3) promote the public convenience and advantage. It does not need to meet the licensure minimum net worth requirement to qualify (i.e., have a net worth of at least \$2.5 million and be able to adequately cover the cost of doing business as a BIDCO).

The act caps the awarded grant amount at \$5 million per BIDCO or applicant for BIDCO licensure. Any BIDCO awarded a grant may use up to 10% of it for operational costs and to fund a loan loss reserve fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 95-98 — BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR IDD-RELATED PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER PA 23-137

Authorizes GO bonds for IDD-related programs and purposes established under PA 23-137

As shown in the table below, the act authorizes GO bonds for specified programs and purposes established under PA 23-137 related to intellectual disability or other developmental disability (IDD).

GO Bond Authorizations for Programs Authorized in PA 23-137

§	Agency	Purpose	FY 24	FY 25
95	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	Local voluntary public safety registration system for residents with IDD (PA 23-137, § 7)	\$800,000	\$0
96	DAS	Funding for private providers to comply with fire regulation requirements for water tanks at group homes (PA 23-137, § 16)	0	200,000
97	Department of Developmental Services	Grant program for supportive housing for people with IDD, including autism spectrum disorder (PA 23-137, § 53)	15,000,000	0
98	DECD	Grants to nonprofits employing people with an IDD; authorizes DECD to keep up to 10% of the proceeds for administrative costs (PA 23-137, § 63)	1,000,000	0

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, for FY 24 authorizations; and July 1, 2024, for FY 25 authorizations.

§§ 101-104 — BONDING PROGRAM FOR HIGH POVERTY-LOW OPPORTUNITY CENSUS TRACTS

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Principally requires DECD to create a grant program to fund certain eligible projects in “high poverty-low opportunity” census tracts, such as housing, infrastructure, and workforce development; authorizes up to \$50 million of GO bonds per year for FYs 24-29 for the program; requires OPM to compile a list of qualifying census tracts

The act requires the DECD commissioner to set up a grant program to fund eligible projects in qualifying census tracts designated as “high poverty-low opportunity (HPLO) census tracts.” Under the act, these are census tracts in which at least 30% of the residents have incomes below the federal poverty level, according to the most recent five-year U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. The act authorizes GO bonds of up to \$50 million per year for FYs 24-29 (\$300 million total) for the program. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years.

Under the act, the OPM secretary must (1) compile a list of these census tracts and the municipalities they are in; (2) submit it to the legislature by July 31, 2023; (3) post it on OPM’s website; and (4) review and update it as necessary and provide any update to the General Assembly.

Additionally, the act requires the (1) State Department of Education (SDE), within available appropriations and for FYs 24 and 25, to direct resources and support to school districts that have one or more HPLO tracts within their boundaries and (2) Office of Early Childhood (OEC), by February 1, 2024, to submit a study to the Committee on Children that includes certain information related to families and children in these tracts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except the OEC study provision is effective upon passage.

Eligible Projects

Under the act, an eligible project must seek to reduce concentrated poverty within the HPLO tract and the poverty’s effects, including (1) lower lifetime income of the tract’s residents and lower lifetime income expectations of its future generations, (2) increased crime and incarceration risk of its residents, and (3) educational deficiencies in the tract.

Eligible projects include the following:

1. building, renovating, or rehabilitating mixed-income rental and owner-occupied housing to retain households of different income levels and increase the rate of owner-occupied housing in the tract;
2. establishing or improving workforce development programs, including programs that (a) partner with organizations to identify unemployed or underemployed people and at-risk youths living in the tracts, (b) identify workforce training opportunities and other resources for them, and (c) link them with appropriate training and resources to increase their skills and earning potential; and
3. building, renovating, or rehabilitating public infrastructure to support and improve private investment opportunities, quality of life, and public safety in the tract.

Application and Review Process

The act allows any municipality in which a HPLO tract is located, starting on January 1, 2024 (and through January 1, 2030), to apply to the DECD commissioner for a grant, as she specifies. The grant application may (1) be for one eligible project or a combination of projects and (2) target one or more HPLO tracts that are geographically contiguous or reasonably near each other. Municipalities may file more than one application for different HPLO tracts or groups of tracts.

By January 1, 2024, the commissioner must set the (1) criteria for awarding the grants; (2) documentation and information requirements for applicants; and (3) deadlines for submitting applications and revised applications, as described below. She must post these criteria, requirements, and deadlines on DECD's website and notify each municipality in which a qualifying census tract is located of the posting. Additionally, the commissioner must promote the grant program in each HPLO census tract.

Criteria for Grant Awards

Under the act, the criteria DECD uses in awarding the grants must include the:

1. likelihood that the proposal will reduce adult or child poverty within a HPLO tract;
2. likelihood that it will reduce the chances of children currently residing there living in poverty as adults;
3. likelihood that after the proposal's end it will produce persistent and meaningful improvements in residents' wealth, financial security, employability, or quality of life;
4. feasibility of its initiatives and the demonstrated or perceived capacity to complete its scope of work, including adequate staffing for the involved entities; and
5. interconnectivity and mutual reinforcement among all of the proposed initiatives in the same HPLO tract area or areas (e.g., providing workforce training programs to parents of children enrolled in a supported early childhood program).

Required Documentation and Information

Under the act, municipalities must, at a minimum, submit the following documents and information with their applications:

1. how the proposal intends to address each type of eligible project and whether any existing projects or programs address them;
2. a description of (a) each initiative within the proposal and how it will meet the criteria described above and (b) sufficient efforts, as determined by the DECD commissioner, to engage the tract's residents in formulating the proposal;
3. for workforce development programs, a description of (a) the municipality's consultations with the applicable regional workforce development board on

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- the project's development and efforts to coordinate it with the board's activities and (b) each participating organization and its commitment to providing continuous, sustained engagement with the tract's residents throughout the project;
4. the entity or organization responsible for coordinating the implementation of each of the application's components and overseeing the various projects and programs;
 5. plans for ongoing engagement with the tract's residents and soliciting feedback on the proposal's progress during its implementation; and
 6. plans for giving the residents opportunities to be involved with the proposal's implementation.

DECD's Review and Evaluation

DECD must review and evaluate each application and work with the applicant to revise it if DECD believes doing so will improve or strengthen it. The department must also help applicants identify and apply for funding under other programs, including Urban Action bonds. For eligible housing-related project proposals, the commissioner must consult with the DOH commissioner in evaluating the proposal and the DOH commissioner must help applicants get funding for their projects through DOH programs.

The DECD commissioner must submit applications that are deemed to satisfy the act's criteria to the governor, who in turn must review them. He may approve or disapprove an application, or return it to the DECD commissioner for changes. In the case of a returned application, the commissioner must work with the municipality to modify it and then submit the revised application to the governor.

Each finalized application the governor approves must be considered at a State Bond Commission meeting within two months after the date the governor approved it.

Grant Awards

For any approved application, the governor must award the grant from the bonds authorized for this new program or other bond proceeds authorized for the general purposes of the eligible projects described above. Each grant awarded under the program must be for three years and be (1) in an amount sufficient to carry out the application's objectives and (2) at least \$500,000.

Evaluation

At the end of the initial three-year period, the DECD commissioner must evaluate the municipality's progress towards reducing the HPLO tract's poverty rate to less than 30%. Her evaluation must consider, among other things, (1) any change in the tract's poverty rate and (2) whether the actions taken during the initial grant period resulted in certain outcomes. Specifically, whether they:

1. may reasonably result in a future reduction in the tract's poverty rate,

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2. have reduced child poverty in the tract or may reasonably do so in the future, or
3. may reasonably decrease the likelihood that children living there will have incomes below the federal poverty level when they are adults.

If she finds that the municipality made reasonable progress, the municipality may apply for additional grants under the program. The act specifies that any subsequent grant applications are subject to the act's application and review process and post-grant evaluation and determination.

Program Reporting Requirement

Annually, starting by August 1, 2024, and ending August 1, 2029, the DECD commissioner must report to the General Assembly on the program and include the following information for the preceding fiscal year:

1. the municipalities that submitted applications and were awarded grants;
2. a description of each purpose and project municipalities awarded grants are undertaking or trying to accomplish;
3. a progress report for each of these purposes or projects, if applicable; and
4. any other information she finds relevant.

Resources to School Districts with HPLO Census Tracts

For FYs 24 and 25, the act requires SDE, within available appropriations, to direct resources and support to school districts that have one or more HPLO tracts within their boundaries. This may include providing the following:

1. individualized education program quality training support, as the education commissioner identifies;
2. free access to the Connecticut Special Education Employment System, including social media advertisement for recruiting special education educators in urban centers;
3. fiscal stipends to implement SDE's Special Education Data System;
4. fiscal stipends for special education recovery activities;
5. reading tutoring for K-grade three students, including in-person or on-camera remote learning; and
6. a special education fiscal risk rubric to help districts with activities related to submitting the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B grant.

The act specifies that this provision does not require SDE to conduct all of these activities in each district with a HPLO tract.

OEC Legislative Report

The act requires the OEC commissioner, by February 1, 2024, to submit a report to the Children's Committee that includes the following:

1. an asset map of currently available services supporting families with young children in the HPLO tracts;

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2. the number of children and families in need of support in these tracts and a plan, including necessary staffing and funding, to assure that each child under age five and their families will have access to early childhood services (e.g., home visits, child care, access to family resource centers, and health care); and
3. a plan to prioritize early childhood services and determine the cost of assuring they are available and accessible in the tracts.

§§ 105-111 — CAPITAL PROJECT THRESHOLDS

Increases the maximum cost of (1) capital projects that CSCU, the Military Department, the Judicial Department, and state agencies generally may administer and (2) a construction consultant services contract for which DAS must select the consultant using a selection panel process

The act increases several caps relating to state capital projects. It (1) increases, from \$2 million to \$3 million, the maximum allowable cost of an individual capital project that the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU), Military Department, and Judicial Department may each administer for themselves and (2) requires that these caps be adjusted annually for inflation beginning July 1, 2028. The act also increases, from \$500,000 to \$1 million, the cost of a capital project that state agencies generally may administer.

Additionally, the act (1) increases, from \$500,000 to \$750,000, the cost of a construction consultant services contract (e.g., for services provided by architects, professional engineers, or accountants) for which DAS must select the consultant using a selection panel process and (2) requires that this threshold be annually adjusted for inflation beginning July 1, 2024.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes (§§ 109-111).
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

Capital Projects (§§ 105 & 106)

Under prior law, DAS generally had charge and supervision of the remodeling, alteration, repair, or enlargement of any real asset if the project cost exceeds \$500,000. The act increases, from \$500,000 to \$1 million, the maximum that most executive branch state agencies may spend to alter, repair, or make additions to public buildings (i.e., capital improvements). It maintains the requirement that these agencies receive approval from DAS before beginning capital improvements (see *Background — State Construction Contracts*). Additionally, the act increases, from \$500,000 to \$1 million, the maximum that state agencies may spend on capital improvements without triggering competitive bidding requirements.

Under prior law, CSCU, the Military Department, and the Judicial Department each had charge and supervision for projects costing up to \$2 million. The act (1) increases each of these thresholds to \$3 million, through June 30, 2028, and (2) beginning July 1, 2028, requires that DAS annually adjust the thresholds for inflation by the percentage change in the Producer Price Index by Commodity: Construction (Partial) (WPU80), not seasonally adjusted, or its successor index, as

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calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor, over the preceding calendar year. DAS must round the adjustment to the nearest multiple of \$100 and post the adjusted thresholds on its website.

The act makes conforming changes to thresholds concerning (1) the use of competitive bidding by CSCU, the Military Department, and the Judicial Department and (2) DAS approval of CSCU and Judicial Department projects. It similarly requires that these conforming changes be adjusted for inflation (see above).

Construction Consultant Services (§§ 107 & 108)

Under prior law, DAS had to establish a selection panel to evaluate consultant services proposals if the estimated cost of those services exceeded \$500,000 (referred to as “projects” in statute and “major projects” by DAS). The act (1) increases this threshold to \$750,000 and (2) requires that it be annually adjusted for inflation beginning July 1, 2024. Under the act, DAS must make the adjustment using the same index that it must use for adjusting the capital project thresholds (see above). DAS must round the adjustment to the nearest multiple of \$100 and post the adjusted threshold on its website.

By law, selection panels consist of three members for projects of less than \$5 million and five members for projects of \$5 million or more. After evaluating the proposals, the panel must submit a list of the most qualified firms to the DAS commissioner, who must negotiate a contract that she determines to be fair and reasonable to the state with the firm that the panel ranks most qualified for compensation (CGS §§ 4b-56 to -58).

Background — Related Act

PA 23-204 (§§ 433-436) increases, from \$500,000 to \$1 million, several thresholds relating to DAS contractor prequalification (e.g., the cost of a capital project for which the contract must be awarded to a prequalified contractor).

Background — State Construction Contracts

By law, with some exceptions, the DAS commissioner is responsible for capital improvements to state buildings that house executive branch agencies or offices, except that agencies may contract to spend up to a specified amount (\$1 million under the act) to repair, alter, or make additions to buildings if they receive the DAS commissioner’s approval.

The commissioner also administers improvements exceeding certain thresholds (see above) to buildings that the judicial branch and CSCU occupy. UConn, the Department of Transportation, and the Legislative Management Committee each have independent authority to contract for capital improvements.

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§ 112 — DAS STATUS REPORT ON SPECIFIED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Requires DAS to submit quarterly reports to the General Assembly on the status of specified capital improvements to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's facilities and the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center

Beginning by October 1, 2023, and until their completion, the act requires DAS to report quarterly to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Government Administration and Elections committees on the status of the (1) design, alteration, renovation, and construction of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's facilities and (2) design, rehabilitation, and construction of the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center's parking garage, surface parking, and related work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 113 — USE OF BOND PREMIUMS

Delays by two years, from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2025, the requirement that the state treasurer direct bond premiums on GO and credit revenue bond issuances to an account or fund to pay for previously authorized capital projects

The act delays by two years, from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2025, the requirement that the state treasurer direct bond premiums on state general obligation (GO) and credit revenue bond issuances to an account or fund to pay for previously authorized capital projects. (A bond premium is the extra, up-front payment investors make in exchange for a higher interest rate on the bonds.) Prior law required the treasurer to direct the bond premiums as follows:

1. until July 1, 2023, bond premiums (as well as accrued interest and net investment earnings on bond proceed investments) were directed into the General Fund after paying bond issuance costs and interest on state debt and
2. beginning July 1, 2023, bond premiums, net of any original issue discount and after paying the issuance costs, were directed to an account or fund to pay for previously authorized capital projects.

The act delays this requirement to July 1, 2025, thus requiring the treasurer to continue directing bond premiums to the General Fund (after paying bond issuance costs and interest on state debt) until then.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 114 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT COMMITMENTS

Authorizes 22 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$736.45 million toward total estimated project costs of \$1.16 billion; reauthorizes two projects with an additional state grant commitment of \$37.6 million

The act authorizes school construction state grant commitments totaling \$736.45 million toward total estimated project costs of \$1.16 billion. It also reauthorizes two projects that have changed substantially in scope and cost with an additional state grant commitment of \$37.6 million.

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Under the state school construction grant program, the state reimburses towns and local districts for a percentage of eligible school construction costs through state GO bonds (with less wealthy municipalities receiving a higher reimbursement). The municipalities pay the remaining costs. For the state-operated Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), also known as the technical high schools, the state pays 100% of the project costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

School Construction Grant Commitments

For each project authorized by the act, the table below shows the district, school, project type, estimates for total cost and state grant commitment, and state reimbursement rate.

2023 School Construction Grant Commitments

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Estimated Project Costs</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
ACES	ACES @ Bassett	Alteration	\$65,533,047	\$52,426,438	80%
ACES	ACES @ Chase	Purchase of facility	69,624,095	55,699,276	80%
ACES	Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School	Purchase of facility	20,180,514	16,144,411	80%
Bristol	Northeast Middle School	New	89,068,965	52,800,082	59.28%
Cheshire	North End Elementary School	New	89,942,900	44,971,450	50%
Cheshire	Norton Elementary School	New	76,656,200	38,328,100	50%
Cromwell	Central administration	New	4,285,000	1,063,537	24.8%
Cromwell	Cromwell Middle School	New	69,114,717	34,308,546	49.64%
Darien	Hindley Elementary School	Extension/alteration	27,550,000	5,705,605	20.71%
Darien	Holmes Elementary School	Extension/alteration	25,600,000	5,301,760	20.71%
Darien	Royle Elementary School	Extension/alteration	29,100,000	6,026,610	20.71%

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<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Estimated Project Costs</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
Hartford	Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School	Alteration	94,571,305	89,842,740	95%
Hartford	McDonough Middle School	Alteration	59,859,491	56,866,516	95%
Hartford	Parkville Community School	Alteration	60,888,341	57,843,924	95%
Madison	Elementary School	New	61,150,000	11,135,415	18.21%
Norwalk	South Norwalk Elementary School	New	76,000,000	45,600,000	60%
Norwich	Greeneville Elementary School	New	60,368,429	48,294,743	80%
Norwich	John B. Stanton Elementary School	New	66,078,262	52,862,610	80%
Regional District 18	Mile Creek Elementary School	Extension/alteration	24,911,028	9,075,088	36.43%
Stamford	Roxbury Elementary School	New	86,000,000	51,600,000	60%
Stratford	Franklin Elementary School	Alteration	521,920	311,273	59.64%
Stratford	Wilcoxson Elementary School	Alteration	400,946	239,124	59.64%
Totals			\$1,157,405,160	\$736,447,248	

Reauthorized Projects

The act also reauthorizes two school construction projects with a change in cost and scope. This results in an additional state grant commitment of \$37,610,051. The table below describes the changes to these projects.

Reauthorized School Construction Projects

District	School and Project	Prior Law		The Act	Reimbursement Rate
Farmington	Farmington High School (New)*	Estimated project costs	\$131,666,047	\$141,366,047	30%
		Estimated state grant	39,499,814	42,409,814	
Stamford	Westhill High School (New)**	Estimated project costs	257,938,824	301,313,888	80%
		Estimated state grant	206,531,059	241,051,110	

*The 2022 priority list (PA 22-118, § 362) authorized a grant of \$24,924,383 (i.e., an 18.93% reimbursement rate); however, § 385 of that same act allowed the project to receive a 30% reimbursement rate.

**The 2022 priority list (PA 22-118, § 362) authorized a grant of \$51,587,765 (i.e., a 20% reimbursement rate); however, § 381 of that same act authorized an 80% rate if Stamford establishes a pathway-to-career regional program at the new school and enrolls students from, and shares services with, surrounding towns to reduce racial isolation in the community.

§ 115 — SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Adds two ex-officio members to the council

The act increases the School Building Project Advisory Council’s size from nine members to 11 by adding the emergency services commissioner and the CTECS board chairperson, or their designees. By law, the membership also consists of three ex-officio members, or their designees, and six gubernatorial appointees.

By law, the council’s duties include (1) reviewing the school safety infrastructure criteria for projects that are awarded state grants (CGS § 10-292r), (2) developing model school building blueprints, and (3) advising the governor and legislature on improvements to the school building processes, among other things.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 116 — REIMBURSEMENT GRANT RATE FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Increases the state reimbursement percentage range for new construction projects for grant applications made on and after June 1, 2024

Under existing law, for approved grant applications made on and after June 1, 2022, the state reimbursement rate for new school construction projects ranges from 10-70%. Beginning with approved grant applications made on and after July 1, 2024, the act increases the state reimbursement percentage ceiling for new construction to 10-80%.

By law and unchanged by the act, if the applicant district shows that new construction is less expensive than a renovation, extension, or major alteration, then the minimum reimbursement rate increases from 10% to 20% with a ceiling of 80%.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 117-119 — FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL BUILDING AND HVAC PROJECTS

Eliminates the requirement that the state subtract federal funds received by a town from the project costs before calculating the state reimbursement grant for school building projects; allows any town to use federal funds to finance its local share of a school building or HVAC project

Project Cost Calculation (§ 117)

Prior law required that any federal funds or other state funds received by a town for a school building project be subtracted from the total project costs before the state calculates the town's state reimbursement grant amount. Beginning July 1, 2023, the act eliminates this requirement as to federal funds, but it retains the requirement to subtract other state funds from these costs.

Local Share for School Construction Projects (§ 118)

The act allows towns to use federal funds to finance all or part of the town's local share of a school construction project. Prior law allowed only the town that is a priority school district with the largest student enrollment as of October 2003 (i.e., Bridgeport) to use federal funds this way.

Local Share for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Projects (§ 119)

The act allows local and regional boards of education and regional education service centers (RESCs) receiving a state grant for certain HVAC or indoor air quality projects to use any federal funds received for the project to cover all or part of the board's or center's local share. This local share option applies to HVAC installation, replacement, or upgrade projects or other improvements to school building indoor air quality. The act replaces provisions in prior law that prohibited boards of education and RESCs from using state HVAC or indoor air quality grant funds to replace local matching requirements for other federal or state funding received for indoor air quality improvement or HVAC projects.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the project cost calculation provision (§ 117) takes effect on July 1, 2023.

§§ 120-139 & 194 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, MODIFICATIONS, AND A REPEAL

Exempts 28 school construction projects from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow these projects to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher grant reimbursement percentages, or have their projects reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost; also repeals a prior project authorization

The act exempts school construction projects in 14 towns and one university-

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operated magnet school from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to, among other things, (1) qualify for state reimbursement grants, (2) receive higher reimbursement percentages for the grants, or (3) have their project reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost. (These exemptions are commonly referred to as “notwithstandings.”) Generally, other than the specific notwithstanding provisions mentioned below, the projects must meet all other eligibility requirements.

Additionally, the act repeals a Hartford project that was eligible to be on the 2022 priority list (§ 194).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Exemptions, Waivers, and Modifications (§§ 120-139)

The table below describes the notwithstandings that the act grants.

Notwithstandings for School Construction Projects

Act §	Town	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
120	Hartford	Bulkeley High School, renovation	Reauthorizes project and allows a change in scope if the cost does not exceed \$210.3 million Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2023 priority list (§ 114) Allows 95% reimbursement rate (previously approved in PA 19-1, July Special Session, § 10)
121	Hartford	Bulkeley High School, central administration facility	Reauthorizes project and allows a change in scope if the cost does not exceed \$34.85 million Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2023 priority list (§ 114) Allows a 95% reimbursement rate, including for any costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of this rate (i.e., 47.5%)
122	Norwich	Stanton Elementary School, new construction	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2023 priority list (§ 114) and grants the project a maximum cost of \$66.08 million if the application is filed before October 1, 2023 Allows an 80% reimbursement rate rather than 67.14% (the 2023 priority list also allows an 80% reimbursement rate) ¹
123	Norwich	Greeneville Elementary School, new construction	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2023 priority list (§ 114) and grants the project a maximum cost of \$60.37 million if the application is filed before October 1, 2023 Allows an 80% reimbursement rate rather than 67.14% (the 2023 priority list also allows an 80% reimbursement rate) ¹
124	New Britain	Holmes	Amends a 2021 notwithstanding for the same

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Act §	Town	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
		Elementary School, renovation	project to (1) increase the maximum project cost from \$55 million to \$70 million and (2) waive standard building space requirements
125 & 126	New Britain	Jefferson Elementary School, renovation	<p>Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2023 priority list (§ 114) for the project with a maximum cost of \$70 million if the application is filed before October 1, 2026</p> <p>Allows a 95% reimbursement rate instead of 78.93%² if (1) New Britain is an educational reform district on June 29, 2023, and (2) the school building committee for the project meets specified membership criteria</p>
127	Glastonbury	Naubuc Elementary School, alteration and code compliance	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2023 priority list (§ 114) and grants the project a maximum cost of \$3.2 million if the application is filed before October 1, 2023
128	Bridgeport	Winthrop Elementary School, renovation and extension /alteration	Waives the filing deadline to be on the 2023 priority list (§ 114) and grants the project a maximum cost of \$75 million if the application is filed before October 1, 2023
129	Windham	Windham High School, central administration facility	Allows a 95% reimbursement rate, including for any costs that would otherwise be reimbursed at one-half of the town's standard rate ² (i.e., 39.82%)
130	Hartford	<p>University High School of Science and Engineering, new construction</p> <p>Capitol Preparatory Magnet School, extension/renovation</p> <p>J. Kinsella Magnet School, extension</p>	<p>Allows the municipality to receive up to \$19.24 million in reimbursements for otherwise ineligible costs for these eight projects but requires it to spend this amount to cover the local share of the costs for the following projects:</p> <p>(1) Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School, alteration</p> <p>(2) Parkville Community School, alteration</p> <p>(3) McDonough Middle School, alteration</p> <p>(4) Bulkeley High School, renovation</p> <p>(5) Bulkeley High School; central administration facility</p>

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Act §	Town	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
		Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, extension/alteration Hartford Public High School, extension Fisher Magnet School, extension/alteration Webster School, extension/alteration Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, new construction	
131	New Haven	Wilbur Cross High School, renovation/extension Davis Street Magnet School, new construction East Rock School, new construction	Waives any audit deficiencies (does not specify amounts)
132	New London	New London High School, renovation	Waives bidding requirements so project is eligible for reimbursement for abatement and demolition work performed from 2020-2023
133	Granby	Granby Memorial High School, roof	Allows replacement of a roof that is less than 20 years old to be eligible for a state reimbursement grant, based on the town's standard rate

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Act §	Town	School and Project	Exemption, Waiver, or Other Change
		replacement	
134	New Fairfield	New Fairfield High School, new construction	Waives the standard building space requirements
135	Cromwell	Cromwell Middle School, new construction	Waives the standard building space requirements
136	Danbury	Danbury Career Academy at Cartus, new construction	Makes \$39.4 million in site acquisition costs eligible for reimbursement Waives requirement that the administrative services (DAS) commissioner approve site selection before construction begins
137	East Hartford (Goodwin University-run Sheff magnet school)	Goodwin University Industry 5.0 Magnet Technical High School, alteration	Reauthorizes the project and increases its allowable cost from \$28.99 million to \$75 million if the application is filed before December 31, 2023
138	Watertown	Judson Elementary School, renovation/extension	Waives any audit deficiencies (does not specify amounts)
139	Watertown	Polk Elementary School, extension/alteration	Waives any audit deficiencies (does not specify amounts)

¹ FY 23 reimbursement rate for new construction (Source: DAS)

² FY 23 reimbursement rate for general construction (Source: DAS)

Repealed Project (§ 194)

The act repeals a Hartford project, the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, which had a maximum cost of \$95.9 million and was eligible for 100% cost reimbursement. It was eligible to be on the 2022 priority list due to a notwithstanding in the 2022 budget and implementer act (PA 22-118, § 405).

§§ 140-147 & 157 — PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION DEADLINE WAIVERS

Allows taxpayers in nine municipalities to claim a property tax exemption for specified property and grand lists even though they missed the applicable filing deadline

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The act allows taxpayers in specified municipalities to claim a property tax exemption for the property and grand lists shown in the table below, despite missing the November 1 filing deadline. It does so by waiving the deadline if the taxpayer files for the exemption by July 31, 2023, and pays the statutory late filing fee. The tax assessor for the respective town must confirm that he or she received the fee, verify the property’s eligibility for the exemption, and subsequently approve the exemption. The municipality must refund any taxes, interest, or penalties paid on the property as if the claim was timely filed.

Exemption Deadline Waivers Under the Act

§	Municipality	Grand List	Exemption
140	Berlin	2022	Machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, biotechnology, and recycling (CGS § 12-81(76))
141	Bloomfield	2022	
142	East Hampton	2022	
144	Thomaston	2019 through 2022	
145	Thompson	2021	
147	West Haven	2021	
143	Middletown	2021 and 2022	Property held for cemetery use (CGS § 12-81(11))
146	West Hartford	2021	Property owned by, or held in trust for, a corporation organized exclusively for scientific, educational, literary, historical, or charitable purposes and used exclusively for these purposes or preserving open space land (CGS § 12-81(7))
157	Meriden	2021	

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 148 — CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN MANCHESTER AND THE EIGHTH UTILITIES DISTRICT

Validates an agreement and consolidation plan between Manchester and the Eighth Utilities District

The act validates the agreement and consolidation plan Manchester and the Eighth Utilities District entered into on March 8, 2023. It does this regardless of a special act provision requiring the district’s legislative body to approve any consolidation with the town before it can take effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 149 — VALIDATION OF PROPERTY TAX-RELATED ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS IN NORWALK

Validates certain property tax-related actions and proceedings in Norwalk

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The act validates the actions and proceedings of Norwalk's officers and officials related to the (1) mailing of the assessment increase notice for the 2022 grand list and (2) assessment appeals hearings held by Norwalk's board of assessment appeals. It does this regardless of the statutory requirements for publishing the grand list, equalizing assessments, notifying property owners of increases or decreases in property valuations, and assessment appeals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 150 — WINDHAM RESUBMISSION OF TAX STATEMENTS

Allows Windham to update the FY 23 mill rate and tax levy statements it filed with OPM for purposes of the motor vehicle property tax grant

The act allows Windham, by July 1, 2023, to update the statements it filed with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary relating to its FY 23 mill rate and tax levy for purposes of the motor vehicle property tax grant.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 151 — TRANSFER OF FY 24 APPROPRIATION FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REMEDIATION

Redirects \$5 million in FY 24 for flood damage remediation from DEEP to the state comptroller

PA 23-204, § 41, transferred \$5 million in FY 24 to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Other Expenses line item for flood damage remediation. The act instead transfers this amount to the State Comptroller's Other Expenses line item for the same purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 152 — FIXED ASSESSMENTS FOR ADRIAEN'S LANDING AND CAPITAL CITY PROJECTS

Extends, from 15 to 20 years, the maximum term of fixed assessments on specified developments in Hartford and eliminates the requirement that a project have at least \$5 million from CRDA to qualify

Existing law allows Hartford to negotiate and fix assessments on improvements for retail, commercial, and residential uses that are either (1) located within the Adriaen's Landing site, including on-site related private developments, or (2) are qualifying projects (i.e., "capital city projects," which include development and redevelopment projects located anywhere in Hartford). The act increases, from 15 to 20 years, the maximum term of the fixed assessments that apply after project completion and eliminates a requirement that a capital city project have at least \$5 million in funding from the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) to qualify for the fixed assessment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

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§ 153 — ARPA ALLOCATION FOR KENT COMMONS

Authorizes \$100,000 of the ARPA funds allocated to DECD in FY 23 for Emery Park to be used for a grant to Kent for Kent Commons; allows funds previously issued to Kent for Emery Park to be used at Kent Commons

The act authorizes \$100,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) in FY 23 for Emery Park to also be available for a grant to Kent for Kent Commons. It also allows any part of the allocation previously issued to Kent for Emery Park to be used at Kent Commons.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 154, 160 & 163 — FY 23 FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AND TRANSFERRED

Carries forward \$460,000 in unspent funds appropriated in FY 23 to the state comptroller for fringe benefits and transfers them for specified purposes to DECD and DCP

The act carries forward \$460,000 of the unspent balance appropriated to the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits, for State Employees Health Service Cost, in FY 23 and transfers it as follows:

1. \$200,000 to DECD for Other Expenses, \$100,000 of which must be available in each of FYs 24-25 for a grant to the Hill-Stead Museum;
2. \$60,000 to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) for Other Expenses, \$30,000 of which must be available in each of FYs 24-25 for the Health Assistance InterVention Education Network (HAVEN) program; and
3. \$200,000 to DECD for Other Expenses, to be available in FY 24 for a grant to Artists Collective, Inc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 155 — COG GRANT FORMULA AMENDMENT

Amends the COG funding calculation established in PA 23-204, § 93, for FYs 24 and after

PA 23-204, § 93, requires the OPM secretary to (1) annually distribute, beginning in FY 24, \$7 million to the regional council of governments (COGs) from the regional planning incentive account and (2) establish a formula for determining the per-COG grant amount. That act also retained existing law's requirement that the per-COG grant amounts equal \$185,000 plus 68 cents per capita. This act limits the per-COG and per capita amount requirement to FYs 22 and 23 to align with PA 23-204's requirement that the OPM secretary establish the formula beginning in FY 24.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

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§ 156 — MODIFICATION TO LAW ON AUTOMATIC RENEWAL AND CONTINUOUS SERVICE PROVISIONS

Modifies PA 23-191, § 1, to specify that both global and national audiovisual services agreements are exempted from the law's requirements on automatic renewal or continuous service provisions

The act expands an exemption in PA 23-191, § 1, concerning consumer agreements with automatic renewal or continuous services provisions. It does so by expanding an exemption for global services largely or predominately consisting of audiovisual content to include the same services offered on a national basis. Thus, consumer agreements for these national audiovisual services do not have to comply with the requirements under PA 23-191, § 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

§ 158 — MUNICIPAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Limits the changes that municipalities may make to their charters

The act limits the changes that a municipality may make to its charter. Under the act, municipalities are prohibited from modifying specified requirements that are governed by title 7 or 8 (i.e., state statutes on municipal powers and planning and zoning matters, among others). Specifically, municipalities cannot modify the following, as set forth in these titles:

1. regulations concerning the planning commission, zoning commission, or combined planning and zoning commission (each referred to herein as “commission”);
2. requirements for filing petitions with the local legislative body or zoning board of appeals to challenge a commission decision (e.g., how signatures are collected, the number of signatures required, or residency requirements for signors);
3. voting requirements to start or complete an eminent domain process, including any public notice or hearing requirements; and
4. voting requirements to dispose of municipal property, including any public notice or hearing requirements.

The act prohibits these charter modifications regardless of any special act, ordinance, or charter provision that states otherwise. Under the act, “municipalities” include towns, cities, boroughs, school districts, and special taxing districts, as well as other municipal corporations and organizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 159 — HEALTHY HOMES FUNDS FOR CERTAIN CONDOMINIUMS IN HAMDEN

Allows the Healthy Homes Fund to be used to support owners of owner-occupied condominium units in Hamden with structurally deficient foundations

The act broadens the purposes for which the Healthy Homes Fund may be used

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to include grants to remediate structurally deficient foundations in owner-occupied condominium units in Hamden or relocate the owners of these units.

Grants for these units or unit owners must come from remittances to the Healthy Homes Fund between May 1, 2022, and April 30, 2023, and may not exceed the actual cost of remediation or relocation. The act requires that the funds be directed to the Department of Housing to administer the grants.

By law, the Healthy Homes Fund is a separate nonlapsing General Fund account used primarily to support the Crumbling Foundations Assistance Fund, which assists homeowners with concrete foundations damaged by pyrrhotite. The fund is capitalized by an annual \$12 surcharge on certain homeowners' insurance policies. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 161 — TAX CREDIT FOR DONATIONS TO ELIGIBLE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Creates a tax credit available for the 2024 and 2025 income and tax years against the personal income and corporation business tax for individuals and businesses making cash contributions to certain youth development organizations

The act establishes a tax credit for cash contributions individuals and businesses make to eligible youth development organizations to fund programs like after-school tutoring, mentoring, and workforce preparedness training. The credit is available for the 2024 and 2025 income and tax years and may be applied against the corporation business or personal income tax, but not the withholding tax. The credit equals 50% of the qualifying contribution, up to a maximum credit amount of \$100,000 per income year for corporation business taxpayers or \$20,000 per tax year for personal income taxpayers. The act caps the total amount of credits that may be reserved for this program at \$2.5 million per fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2024

Eligible Organizations

Under the act, the contribution must be made to a “youth development organization,” which is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization (1) providing evidence-supported interventions to high-risk youth to improve school and family engagement and (2) offering skills development, transitional employment, and job placement and support to help young adults be employed and self-sufficient.

Credit Reservations and Vouchers

To access the credit, the entity or individual must apply to OPM to reserve a credit allocation in the amount of the contribution it intends to make. The OPM secretary must (1) prescribe the application, which must contain the information he deems necessary, and credit reservation process and (2) approve applications on a first-come, first-served basis. He must notify applicants in writing within 30 days after receiving an application of his approval or rejection. Approved entities and

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individuals must make their intended contribution within 120 days after receiving the approval notice.

Once the entity or individual makes the contribution, it may apply to the OPM secretary for a credit voucher. In doing so, it must provide the documentation and independent certification the OPM secretary may require on the contribution amount and certification that it was actually made to the youth development organization. If the OPM secretary determines that the entity or individual is eligible for the voucher, he must (1) enter the allowed credit amount on the voucher and (2) give a copy of the voucher to the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) commissioner if he requests one.

Credit Claims

Taxpayers must claim the credits for the income or tax year in which they made the contribution.

If the contributing taxpayer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, the taxpayer's shareholders or partners may claim the credit. If the contributing taxpayer is a single member limited liability company disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the company's owner may claim the credit, as long it is subject to either the corporation business or personal income tax.

Fraudulent or False Claims

The act imposes a financial penalty equal to the credit amount on any entity or individual that submits information to the OPM secretary that it knows to be fraudulent or false. This penalty is in addition to other penalties provided by law.

Examinations

The act authorizes the OPM secretary and DRS commissioner to examine any books, papers, and records related to the documentation provided with a tax credit voucher application to determine that a credit claim is correct.

Reporting Requirements

The OPM secretary must report to the Commerce and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees on the credit by March 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026. The report must include the following information for the preceding calendar year:

1. number of credit reservation applications received and approved or rejected;
2. number and amount of approved vouchers;
3. number of corporation business and personal income taxpayers whose applications were approved and received a credit voucher, respectively;
4. youth development organizations to which contributions were made; and
5. any other information or data he deems relevant or useful to evaluate the credit's effectiveness.

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§ 162 — RESERVED AMOUNT FROM SDE APPROPRIATION

Reserves \$3 million from the FY 24 line item appropriation for SDE for Magnet Schools to give interdistrict magnet school program tuition assistance to Hartford's board of education

The act reserves \$3 million of the FY 24 line item appropriation for the State Department of Education (SDE) for Magnet Schools in the FY 24-25 budget and implementer act (PA 23-204) to provide interdistrict magnet school program tuition assistance to Hartford's board of education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 164-165 — MINORITY REPRESENTATION

Clarifies political party status for unaffiliated persons for the purposes of minority representation

The state's minority representation law limits the maximum number of members who may belong to the same political party on governmental bodies of the state, municipalities, and other political subdivisions. For purposes of this law, the act deems an unaffiliated person (i.e., a person who is not affiliated with any party at the time of his or her appointment or nomination) as unaffiliated for the entire duration of his or her elected or appointed term. Additionally, it specifies that a person elected as a candidate for a political party is deemed a member of that party even if he or she is not registered with that party. Prior law did not specifically address how unaffiliated individuals were treated for minority representation purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 166-169 — REGIONAL ELECTION ADVISORS

Makes various changes to the regional election monitor program including replacing monitors with regional election advisors, providing state funding for the program, and changing contracting requirements for advisors

The act makes several changes to the prior regional election monitor (REM) program. Specifically, it:

1. replaces REMs acting on the secretary of the state's behalf with regional election advisors (REA) acting on behalf of the regional COGs that appoint them (§ 166),
2. allows COGs to appoint REAs rather than requiring them to contract with REMs (§ 166),
3. changes the program's contracting and memorandum of understanding (MOU) requirements between COGs and the secretary (§ 166),
4. applies certain REM training and instruction requirements to REAs (§ 169), and
5. provides state funding for the REA program (§§ 167 & 168).

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

Regional Election Advisors

Prior law required an REM within each of the state's planning regions to represent, consult with, and act on the secretary of the state's behalf in preparing for and operating each election, primary, recanvass, and audit. It also required each COG to contract with someone to serve as the monitor for its planning region. Under prior law, though REMs acted on the secretary's behalf, they were not considered state employees.

The act eliminates these requirements and instead allows COGs to appoint REAs to (1) represent, consult with, and act on the COG's behalf or on behalf of any combination of COGs or COG member towns seeking the REA's assistance and (2) consult and coordinate with the secretary to help prepare for and operate each election, primary, recanvass, and audit.

As under prior law for REMs, each REA must (1) be a state elector; (2) perform his or her duties in a nonpartisan way; (3) have prior field experience in election administration; (4) be certified by the secretary of the state (see below); and (5) not have been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, (a) a felony for fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement, or bribery or (b) an election-related criminal offense. Additionally, the act allows multiple councils and towns to share an REA, instead of the prior requirement that each council retain its own.

Contracting Requirements

Prior law required each COG, by March 1 of a regular election year, to have (1) contracted with someone to serve as the REM and (2) established an MOU with the secretary of the state on the position and its duties. The act eliminates the contract requirement and limits the MOU requirement to each COG that appointed an REA.

Similar to prior law, the MOU must confirm the following information:

1. the person is eligible to serve,
2. the person has been informed in writing of the position's expectations, and
3. revocation of a person's certification is considered a breach (of the contract under prior law and the MOU under the act).

Under prior law, this breach immediately terminated the contract, but under the act, the breach may result in the termination of the MOU if the COG cannot appoint a new advisor within 30 days after the revocation.

The act also eliminates requirements that the MOU confirm that the (1) position is subject to the secretary's control and direction and (2) person in the position is retained until at least 30 days after the election.

Training Requirements

The act makes conforming changes requiring the secretary of the state to train and certify REAs rather than REMs. As under prior law, an initial certification lasts two years, an abridged recertification process may be used for the certification renewal required every two years after that, and the secretary may revoke a certification at any time.

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Prior law required the secretary of the state to (1) coordinate with REMs to conduct instructional sessions for moderators and alternate moderators, (2) set the number of sessions to be held, and (3) hold at least one session within each planning region at the COG's facilities before each regular election. The act instead requires her to coordinate with REAs and the COGs that appointed them to conduct these instructional sessions in the COG's planning region. It eliminates the requirements for the secretary to hold trainings at specific locations and establish the number of sessions to be held.

State Funding

Under the prior REM program, COGs had to (1) employ and compensate an REM and (2) give the monitor the necessary space, supplies, equipment, and service. The act eliminates these requirements and instead directs the OPM secretary, beginning in FY 24 and within available appropriations, to award grants annually to COGs that have appointed an REA and filed the required MOU. The grants must be for at least \$25,000 and used only to support the REA program.

The act requires (1) the regional planning incentive account to fund the grants and (2) OPM to prioritize using the account's funds for the grants after it funds regional planning organizations (i.e., organizations formed to oversee planning regions) but before it funds the regional performance incentive program. The regional planning incentive account is a nonlapsing account in the General Fund.

§ 170 — ELECTION ADMINISTRATION STAFFING TASK FORCE

Establishes a 17-person task force to study election administration staffing

The act establishes a 17-person task force to study ways to ensure that election administration in each municipality is fully staffed by personnel properly trained in all tasks needed for effective election administration. The study must at least (1) examine regionalizing election administration, including tasks that COGs may perform in a more efficient, higher quality, more cost-effective, or more responsive way; (2) review municipal election official training; and (3) analyze and recommend other voluntary initiatives to facilitate effective election administration in a more efficient, higher quality, more cost-effective, or more responsive way.

The task force consists of the following members:

1. two representatives of the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, with one appointment each for the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore;
2. one information technology (IT) professional with election technology expertise, appointed by the House speaker;
3. one election administration expert admitted to practice law in Connecticut, appointed by the Senate president pro tempore;
4. a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities representative, appointed by the House majority leader;
5. a Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments representative, appointed by the Senate majority leader;

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6. a Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut representative, appointed by the House minority leader;
7. a Connecticut Council of Small Towns representative, appointed by the Senate minority leader;
8. the chairpersons and ranking members of the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, or their designees;
9. the chairpersons and ranking members of the Planning and Development Committee, or their designees; and
10. the secretary of the state, or her designee.

Under the act, all initial appointments must be made by July 29, 2023. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons, who must schedule and hold the first meeting by August 28, 2023.

The GAE Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff, with additional support from OPM as needed. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the GAE and Planning and Development committees by January 1, 2024. The task force terminates on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 171-178 — EXPENDITURES BY LEADERSHIP AND CAUCUS COMMITTEES

Allows legislative leadership and caucus committees to aggregate their maximum organization expenditure amounts for legislative candidates, subject to specified requirements; modifies the types of events and services for which these expenditures may be made; allows committees to pay or reimburse other committees for the pro rata share of certain expenses

The act makes several changes concerning certain expenditures made by legislative leadership and caucus committees under state campaign finance laws. It allows leadership and caucus committees of the same party, in the House and Senate respectively, to aggregate their maximum organization expenditure amounts for legislative candidates who participate in the Citizens' Election Program (CEP). It also modifies the types of events and services for which organization expenditures may be made.

Additionally, the act allows legislative leadership and caucus committees to pay or reimburse other leadership or caucus committees for the pro rata share of expenses for accomplishing the paying or reimbursing committee's lawful purposes.

Under existing law, the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and House and Senate majority leaders may each establish a legislative leadership committee, while the House and Senate minority leaders may each establish two leadership committees. Additionally, the members of the same political party of a chamber in the General Assembly may establish a single legislative caucus committee (CGS §§ 9-605(e)(2) & (3)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Organization Expenditures (§§ 171-173)

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Definition (§ 173). By law, organization expenditures are made by legislative caucus, legislative leadership, or party committees to benefit candidates or their committees. They are not considered campaign contributions, but the law places restrictions and limits on those made to benefit legislative candidates participating in the CEP.

The act modifies two of the four types of organization expenditures allowed by law. First, prior law allowed organization expenditures for campaign events at which a candidate or candidates are present. The act instead allows these expenditures for campaign events at which campaign materials are present and at which food and beverage may be provided, regardless of whether candidates are present. Additionally, it prohibits contributions from being received, solicited, or bundled at these events. (Generally, “bundling” refers to a communicator lobbyist forwarding groups of contributions to a committee (CGS § 9-601(27).)

Second, the act expands the types of services for which organization expenditures may be made to include services by an individual to provide assistance relating to a candidate’s campaign, rather than those by an advisor to provide assistance relating to campaign organization, financing, accounting, strategy, law, or media, as prior law provided.

Aggregating Expenditures (§§ 171 & 172). Existing law sets an inflation-adjusted limit on the amount of organization expenditures that legislative leadership and caucus committees may make in a general election to benefit legislative candidates participating in the CEP (e.g., \$12,910 per Senate candidate and \$4,518.50 per House candidate in the 2022 election).

The act allows legislative leadership and caucus committees of the same party, in the House and Senate respectively, to aggregate their maximum organization expenditure amounts for participating candidates as long as there is a written agreement between the treasurers of each aggregating committee. The act allows aggregation among two leadership committees, a leadership committee and a caucus committee, or all three of these committees. Under the act, (1) the treasurers must jointly submit the agreement to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) upon executing it and (2) SEEC must post the agreement online.

Expense Sharing (§§ 174-178)

The act allows legislative leadership and caucus committees to pay or reimburse other leadership or caucus committees for the pro rata share of expenses for accomplishing the paying or reimbursing committee’s lawful purposes. These include shared expenses for which only the committee being paid or reimbursed was under a contractual obligation to pay. The act also makes conforming changes.

Under existing law, a legislative leadership or caucus committee’s lawful purposes include promoting a political party, the success or defeat of candidates for nomination and election to public office, or the success or defeat of referendum questions. They may also use funds to defray costs for conducting legislative or constituency-related business which are not reimbursed or paid by the state (CGS § 9-607(g)(1)(A)(ii)).

§ 179 — CEP GUBERNATORIAL GRANT AMOUNT

Increases primary and general election grant amounts for gubernatorial candidates participating in the CEP; sets the base amounts at \$3,227,500 for a primary and \$15,492,000 for a general election and updates the reference date for inflation adjustments to January 1, 2022

Base Amount and Inflation Adjustments

The act increases grant amounts for gubernatorial candidates participating in the CEP, the state’s voluntary public campaign financing system available to legislative and statewide office candidates. Prior law set CEP base grant amounts for participating gubernatorial candidates at \$1.25 million for major party candidates in a primary and \$6 million for major and minor party and petitioning candidates in a general election. It required SEEC to quadrennially adjust both of these amounts for inflation since 2010. In 2022, the full inflation-adjusted grant amounts were \$1,613,750 for a primary and \$7,746,000 for a general election.

The act doubles these 2022 inflation-adjusted amounts (i.e., sets them at \$3,227,500 for a primary and \$15,492,000 for a general election) and makes them the new base amounts. For candidates who receive a convention campaign grant (see §§ 179-185 below), the act sets the primary grant amount at \$2,420,625 (i.e., the difference between the full primary grant amount and the convention campaign grant amount).

As under existing law, the base grant amounts must be quadrennially adjusted for inflation, but the act makes a conforming change to shorten the look-back period for gubernatorial grants. Specifically, existing law requires SEEC to adjust CEP grant amounts based on changes in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Under prior law, SEEC had to (1) base the gubernatorial grant inflation adjustment on the CPI-U change from January 1, 2010, through December 31 in the year before the applicable primary or election and (2) publish the adjusted amount by January 15 in the year of the applicable primary or election. The act instead requires SEEC to base the adjustment on the CPI-U change since January 1, 2022.

Changes to Other Gubernatorial General Election Grant Amounts

Existing law sets several circumstances in which participating candidates may receive only a portion of the full CEP grant amount for a general election (e.g., if running unopposed or applying for a grant 70 or fewer days before the election). In doubling the grant amount for gubernatorial candidates, the act correspondingly doubles each of these reduced grant amounts, as shown in the table below. Under the act, SEEC must adjust each of these amounts for inflation. (The grant adjustments are described in more detail following the table.)

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General Election Grants for Governatorial Candidates

Grant	Prior Law*	The Act**	Reductions to the Act's Grant Amounts Based on Application Date			
			75% Grant**	65% Grant**	55% Grant**	40% Grant**
Major party, full grant (full opposition)	\$7,746,000	\$15,492,000	\$11,619,000	\$10,069,800	\$8,520,600	\$6,196,800
Major party, 60% grant (limited opposition)	4,647,600	9,295,200	6,971,400	6,041,880	5,112,360	3,718,080
Major party, 30% grant (unopposed)	2,323,800	4,647,600	3,485,700	3,020,940	2,556,180	1,859,040
Minor and Petitioning, full grant	7,746,000	15,492,000	11,619,000	10,069,800	8,520,600	6,196,800
Minor and Petitioning, 2/3 grant	5,164,000	10,328,000	7,746,000	6,713,200	5,680,400	4,131,200
Minor and Petitioning, 1/3 grant	2,582,000	5,164,000	3,873,000	3,356,600	2,840,200	2,065,600

*Inflation-adjusted amounts for 2022 state election

**Must be adjusted for inflation

Major Party Candidates. By law, major party candidates receive the following grant amounts:

1. the full grant amount if they are opposed by another major party candidate, or if they are opposed by a minor or petitioning party candidate who qualifies for a grant (see below);
2. 60% of the full grant amount if they are opposed only by a minor party or petitioning candidate who has not qualified for a grant (CGS § 9-705(i)(4)); and
3. 30% of the full grant amount if they are unopposed (CGS § 9-705(i)(3)).

Minor Party and Petitioning Candidates. By law, minor party candidates may receive a general election grant equal to the grant for a major party candidate only if the candidate for the same office representing the same minor party at the last regular election received at least 20% of the votes cast for that office. Similarly, an eligible petitioning candidate may receive a full grant for the general election only if his or her petition is signed by a number of qualified electors equal to at least 20% of the number of votes cast for the same office at the last regular election. Both receive a one-third grant by meeting a 10% threshold or a two-thirds grant by meeting a 15% threshold.

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Reductions Based on Application Date. Existing law has a four-step grant reduction schedule under which candidate committees that submit their applications 70 or fewer days before the election receive reduced general election grants. These reduced amounts are as follows and apply to major and minor party and petitioning candidates:

1. 75% of the full grant amount (application submitted 70 through 57 days before the election),
2. 65% of the full grant amount (application submitted 56 through 43 days before the election),
3. 55% of the full grant amount (application submitted 42 through 29 days before the election), and
4. 40% of the full grant amount (application submitted 28 days before the election through the last day that SEEC accepts grant applications).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

§§ 179-185 — CEP CONVENTION CAMPAIGN GRANT

Allows major party gubernatorial candidates participating in the CEP to apply for and receive a “convention campaign grant” before the party’s nominating convention, equal to one-fourth of the primary grant; sets the grant amount at \$806,875 and requires that it be adjusted for inflation since January 1, 2022

The act allows major party gubernatorial candidates who participate in the CEP to apply for and receive a “convention campaign grant” before the party’s nominating convention. The act sets the grant amount at \$806,875 (i.e., one-fourth of the primary grant under the act) and requires that it be adjusted for inflation. Previously, CEP grants were available only after the nominating convention.

The act allows candidates to apply for the convention campaign grant at any time after filing the affidavit of intent to participate in, and abide by, the CEP’s spending limits and requires SEEC to approve or disapprove the application within 10 business days after receiving it. Among other things, candidates seeking a grant must raise the full amount of qualifying contributions (QC) required for a gubernatorial primary or general election grant. The act also allows candidates who receive this grant to automatically receive a primary or general election grant, as applicable, if they subsequently qualify for either contest.

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes, including repealing obsolete language.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

Convention Campaign Grant

The act allows participating gubernatorial candidates to apply for and receive a convention campaign grant, which the act creates. It defines “convention campaign” as the period beginning when the candidate files the CEP participation affidavit (i.e., SEEC Form CEP 10) and the close of his or her party’s state nominating convention. The act sets the grant amount at \$806,875 and requires that it be adjusted for inflation as described above (i.e., the CPI-U change since January

1, 2022).

Application

The law sets the third Wednesday in May as the initial deadline to submit CEP primary or general election grant applications to SEEC. The act allows gubernatorial candidates seeking a convention campaign grant to apply for the grant at any time after submitting the CEP participation affidavit.

The act generally subjects convention campaign grant applications to the same requirements that apply to applications for gubernatorial primary and general election grants under existing law. Specifically, it requires (1) candidates to raise the full amount of QCs required for a gubernatorial primary or general election grant (e.g., \$288,800 in the 2022 election, see *Background — CEP Qualifying Contributions*) and include the itemized accounting and certifications required by existing law and (2) SEEC to determine whether to approve an application within 10 business days after receiving it. Under the act, the state comptroller must disburse grant funds to a candidate approved for a convention campaign grant within 30 days after being notified of the grant amount by SEEC.

Under prior law, the CEP limited the funds a candidate committee could spend before a campaign to QCs raised by the committee and allowable personal funds from the candidate. The act makes a conforming change by allowing participating gubernatorial candidate committees to spend QCs, personal funds, and the amount of the convention campaign grant.

Under the act, any unspent QCs from before a convention campaign that are held by a candidate committee receiving a convention campaign grant must continue to be considered unspent until the committee has spent the full grant amount. Existing law has a parallel provision for QCs received before a primary campaign.

Subsequent Receipt of Primary and General Election Grants

Existing law requires that a participating CEP candidate awarded a grant for a primary campaign automatically receive a CEP grant for the general election campaign if he or she becomes the party's nominee. The act establishes parallel provisions for participating gubernatorial candidates who receive a convention campaign grant to automatically receive a primary or general election grant, as applicable.

Specifically, it requires that these candidates automatically receive a CEP grant for a primary election if they qualify for a primary (e.g., by receiving a specified share of votes at the party's nominating convention and filing a candidacy for nomination). For these candidates, the act sets the primary grant amount at \$2,420,625 (i.e., the difference between the full primary grant amount (\$3,227,500) and the convention campaign grant amount (\$806,875)). Under the act, this amount must be quadrennially adjusted for inflation since January 1, 2022 (see § 179 above).

The act similarly requires that gubernatorial candidates who receive a

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convention campaign grant automatically receive a general election CEP grant if they become the party's nominee without a primary.

Background — CEP Qualifying Contributions

By law, candidates qualify for the CEP by raising an aggregate amount of QCs, which must come from individual donors. SEEC must adjust for inflation both the maximum individual QC amount as well as the aggregate QC amounts. In 2022, the inflation-adjusted maximum individual QC was \$290, and participating gubernatorial candidates had to raise an aggregate amount of \$288,800.

§§ 186-188 — CEF FUNDING

Beginning in FY 26, (1) requires that the deposit of unclaimed property funds into the CEF in any fiscal year before the fiscal year of a gubernatorial election be the amount deemed necessary by SEEC to pay grants to CEP candidates and (2) moves back the deadline for SEEC to make related determinations in gubernatorial election years; eliminates a provision in prior law which required that transfers from the unclaimed property fund to the CEF be reduced in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of any corporation business tax revenue deposited in the CEF

CEF Deposits

By law, grants to candidates participating in the CEP are made from the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF). The CEF is funded mostly by proceeds from the state's sale of abandoned property that escheats (reverts) to it (see *Background — CEF*).

Existing law requires that unclaimed property funds be annually credited to the CEF in an amount equal to what was deposited in the previous fiscal year adjusted for inflation by the state treasurer using the CPI-U (e.g., the deposit was \$12.6 million in FY 22). Beginning in FY 26, the act requires that in any fiscal year before the fiscal year of a gubernatorial election, the deposit be the amount deemed necessary to pay grants to CEP candidates in the election cycle for which that election is to be held. This amount must be based on SEEC's required report on this matter (see below).

SEEC Determination

Existing law requires SEEC to determine and report on, by January 1 in a state election year, whether the CEF has enough money to provide grants to CEP candidates. Beginning in 2026, the act moves back this deadline for gubernatorial election years to the 41st day before the primary (i.e., June 28-July 4, depending on the August primary date). It retains the January 1 deadline for non-gubernatorial election years.

Use of Corporation Business Tax Revenue

By law, revenue from the corporation business tax must be deposited in the CEF

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if, among other things, there are insufficient funds in the CEF during an election cycle to cover grants to qualified CEP candidates. The deposit must equal the amount of the insufficiency.

The act eliminates a provision in prior law requiring that transfers from the unclaimed property fund to the CEF be reduced in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of corporation business tax revenue deposited in the CEF because of this insufficiency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

Background — CEF

The CEF is funded mostly by a statutorily determined amount of proceeds from the sale of abandoned property that escheats to the state. If there are not enough proceeds from escheated property in a fiscal year to cover the required annual deposit, then corporation business tax revenues must be deposited into the fund to cover the shortfall. The fund may also receive voluntary contributions, surplus donations from candidate committees, and proceeds from its investment earnings. The state treasurer administers the fund, which is a separate, nonlapsing account in the General Fund.

§ 189 — QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CEP LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN 2024 ELECTION

For the 2024 election only, freezes the aggregate QC amounts that legislative candidates must raise at their 2022 amounts (i.e., \$17,300 for state senator and \$5,800 for state representative)

By law, candidates qualify for the CEP by raising an aggregate amount of QCs. QCs must come from individual donors, and SEEC must adjust for inflation both the maximum QC amount an individual may contribute as well as the aggregate QC amounts candidates must raise.

Under existing law, SEEC must adjust these amounts before each regular election for statewide or legislative office. For the 2024 election only, the act instead freezes the aggregate QC amounts that legislative candidates must raise at their 2022 amounts (i.e., \$17,300 for state senator and \$5,800 for state representative). It retains the requirement that SEEC adjust the maximum individual QC amount (which was \$290 in 2022) before the 2024 election.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

§ 190 — CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEES

Increases the annual limit on contributions by an individual to a state central committee from \$10,000 to \$15,000

The act increases the annual limit on contributions by an individual to a party's state central committee from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

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§ 191 — TOWN REFERENDUM ON PERMIT DENIAL UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LAW

Creates a process under which an elector or voter in a town with a population of up to 10,000 can petition for a town referendum on the DEEP commissioner's denial of a facility permit under the environmental justice law

The state's environmental justice (EJ) law (CGS § 22a-20a, as amended by PA 23-202) generally requires applicants seeking to construct, expand, or site certain facilities in EJ communities to engage in a public participation process. It also, once the energy and environmental protection (DEEP) commissioner adopts applicable regulations, allows for the denial of a facility permit if the reviewing authority (DEEP or the Connecticut Siting Council, as applicable) finds that approving it would yield adverse cumulative environmental or public health stressors that are higher than those in other communities in the state, county, or other geographic unit used for comparison.

The act creates a process under which an elector or voter of a municipality with a population of up to 10,000 people can petition for a town referendum on the DEEP commissioner's denial of a permit based on higher adverse cumulative environmental or public health stressors. Under the act, an affirmative vote of the municipality's electorate constitutes approval of the permit despite the commissioner's decision.

By law, an EJ community is (1) any U.S. census block group, as determined by the most recent census, for which at least 30% of the population consists of low-income people who are not institutionalized and have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level or (2) a distressed municipality.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§§ 192 & 193 — CHRO REFERRAL OF SUSPECTED SEX OFFENSES TO CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Allows CHRO, if it believes that a party to a discriminatory practice case committed a sex offense, to refer the matter to the chief state's attorney's office; correspondingly requires that office to investigate after receiving the referral as it deems necessary

The act specifically allows the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), whenever it has reason to believe that a party to a discriminatory practice case or complaint engaged or is engaging in conduct that is a criminal sex offense under the state's Penal Code, to refer the matter to the chief state's attorney's office. The office must investigate the referred matter as it deems necessary.

Specifically, the act applies to (1) sexual assault, (2) prostitution, (3) soliciting sexual acts, (4) commercial sexual abuse of a minor, (5) promoting or permitting prostitution, (6) enticing a minor, and (7) misrepresentation of age to entice a minor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023