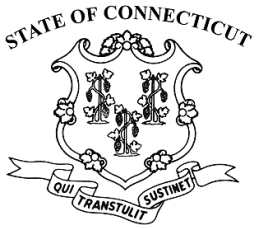

Substitute Senate Bill No. 426

Public Act No. 24-108

AN ACT CONCERNING COURT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

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

Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 4a-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(1) The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, <u>status as a victim of domestic violence,</u> intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut; and the contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, <u>status as a victim of domestic violence,</u>

intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved;

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) If any person so arrested or summoned wilfully fails to appear for any scheduled court appearance at the time and place assigned, or if any person charged with an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle, or with a motor vehicle violation specified in section 51-164n, wilfully fails to comply with remote events and deadlines set by the court for infractions and violations specified in section 51-164n or fails to pay the fine and any additional fee imposed or send in his plea of not guilty by the answer date or wilfully fails to appear for any scheduled court appearance which may be required, or if any person fails to pay any surcharge imposed under section 13b-70, any fee imposed under section 51-56a or any cost imposed under section 54-143 or 54-143a, a report of such failure shall be sent to the commissioner by the court having jurisdiction. The provisions of this section shall be extended to any nonresident owner or operator of a motor vehicle residing in any state, the proper authorities of which agree with the commissioner to revoke, until personal appearance to answer the charge against him, his motor vehicle registration certificate or operator's license, upon his failure to appear for any scheduled court appearance. Any infractions or violations, for which a report of failure to appear has been sent to the commissioner under this subsection, that have not otherwise been disposed of shall be dismissed by operation of law seven years after such report was sent.

Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 29-38c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(c) A risk protection order issued under subsection (a) of this section, may issue only on an affidavit sworn to by the complainant establishing the grounds for issuing the order. A risk warrant issued under subsection (a) of this section may issue only on an affidavit sworn to by the complainant before the judge, either in person or electronically with simultaneous sight and sound, establishing the grounds for issuing the warrant. Any such affidavit shall be part of the court file. In determining whether there is probable cause for a risk protection order and warrant, if applicable, under subsection (a) of this section, the judge shall consider: (1) Recent threats or acts of violence by such person directed toward other persons; (2) recent threats or acts of violence by such person directed toward such person's self; and (3) recent acts of cruelty to animals as provided in subsection (b) of section 53-247 by such person. In evaluating whether such recent threats or acts of violence constitute probable cause to believe that such person poses a risk of imminent personal injury to such person's self or to others, the judge may consider other factors including, but not limited to (A) the reckless use, display or brandishing of a firearm or other deadly weapon by such person, (B) a history of the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force by such person against other persons, (C) prior involuntary confinement of such person in a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, and (D) the illegal use of controlled substances or abuse of alcohol by such person. In the case of a complaint made under subsection (a) of this section, if the judge is satisfied that the grounds for the complaint exist or that there is probable cause to believe that such grounds exist, such judge shall issue a risk protection order and warrant, if applicable, naming or describing the person, and, in the case of the issuance of a warrant, the place or thing to be searched. The order and warrant, if applicable, shall be directed to any police officer of a regularly organized police department or any state police officer. The order and warrant, if applicable, shall state the grounds or probable cause for issuance and, in the case of a warrant, the warrant shall command the officer to search within a reasonable time the person,

place or thing named for any and all firearms and other deadly weapons and ammunition. A copy of the order and warrant, if applicable, shall be served upon the person named in the order not later than three days prior to the hearing scheduled pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, together with a notice informing the person that such person has the right to a hearing under this section, the telephone number for the court clerk who can inform the person of the date and time of such hearing and the right to be represented by counsel at such hearing.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 46b-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator shall appoint such **[**domestic relations officers and other**]** family relations personnel as **[**they deem**]** the Chief Court Administrator deems necessary for the proper operation of the family relations sessions. The salaries and duties of such officers shall be determined by the judges of the Supreme Court in accordance with the compensation plan established under section 51-12. For the purposes of any investigation or pretrial conference the judge presiding at any family relations session may employ the services of any probation officer, including those under the direction of Adult Probation Services, physician, psychologist, psychiatrist or family counselor. **[**Each person serving on July 1, 1978, in the Court of Common Pleas appointed under the provisions of section 51-156c, revised to 1975, shall continue to serve in the Superior Court. In no event shall the compensation of such person be affected solely as a result of the transfer of jurisdiction provided in section 51-164s.**]** The Chief Court Administrator may assign, reassign and modify the assignments of such family relations personnel as **[**he**]** such administrator deems necessary to be in the best interest of the disposition of family relations matters. **[**Such family relations personnel shall also be available to assist the courts of probate in cases involving

judicial consent to marriage of a minor.**]**

Sec. 5. Section 46b-123 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**judges of the Superior Court, or in the discretion of the Chief Court Administrator, a committee of said judges designated by the Chief Court Administrator,**]** Chief Court Administrator shall appoint such probation officers, probation aides, clerks, detention personnel, clerical assistants and other personnel, including supervisory staff, as **[**they deem**]** the Chief Court Administrator deems necessary for the treatment and handling of juvenile matters within the venue districts established under section 46b-142, as amended by this act. The Chief Court Administrator may assign, reassign and modify the assignments of such personnel and assign such duties within the Superior Court as **[**he**]** the administrator deems necessary for the efficient operation of the courts. **[**Any person serving in any such capacity in the Juvenile Court on July 1, 1978, shall continue to serve in the Superior Court at the compensation he was receiving in the Juvenile Court under the compensation plan established pursuant to section 51-12, for the remainder of any term to which he was appointed. In no event shall the compensation of any such person be affected solely as a result of the transfer of jurisdiction in section 51-164s. Any of such appointees**]** Any appointee may be discharged by the **[**appointing authority**]** Chief Court Administrator for cause and after hearing. The salaries of each of such **[**officials**]** personnel shall be fixed by the judges of the Supreme Court, subject to the provisions of section 51-12.

Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 46b-142 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Chief Court Administrator **[**, in consultation with the judges of the Superior Court,**]** shall establish districts for the purpose of

establishing venue in juvenile matters. All petitions concerning delinquent children shall be heard within the district where the delinquency is alleged to have occurred or where the child resides, in the discretion of the court. All other petitions shall be heard within the district where the child or youth resided at the time of the filing of the petition, but for the purposes of this section any child or youth born in any hospital or institution where the mother is confined at the time of birth shall be deemed to have residence in the district wherein such child's or youth's mother was living at the time of her admission to such hospital or institution.

Sec. 7. Section 46b-207 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The **[**court**]** Chief Court Administrator is authorized to establish and maintain Support Enforcement Services and such offices thereof as **[**it determines are**]** the administrator deems necessary for the proper handling of the administrative details incident to proceedings under sections 46b-231 and 46b-301 to 46b-425, inclusive, and may appoint such personnel as necessary for the proper administration of the nonjudicial functions of proceedings under sections 46b-231 and 46b-301 to 46b-425, inclusive.

Sec. 8. Section 47a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) When any appeal is taken by the defendant occupying a dwelling unit **[**as defined in section 47a-1**]** in an action of summary process, **[**he shall, within the period allowed for taking such appeal, give a bond with surety to the adverse party**]** the chief clerk of the Appellate Court, or the chief clerk's designee, shall transmit notice of the pendency of the appeal to the Superior Court that rendered the judgment that is the subject of the appeal. Upon receipt of the notice of the pendency of such appeal, the Superior Court shall schedule and conduct a hearing to guarantee

payment for all rents that may accrue during the pendency of such appeal. The Superior Court shall schedule and conduct such hearing not later than fourteen days after the date of receiving notice of the pendency of such appeal. After conducting such hearing the Superior Court may order the defendant to deposit with the court (1) an amount equal to the defendant's portion of the last-agreed upon rent, or **[**,**]** (2) where no lease had existed, **[**for**]** an amount equal to the reasonable value for such use and occupancy that may so accrue. **[**; provided the court shall upon motion by the defendant and after**]** After hearing thereon, the court shall order the defendant to deposit with the court payments for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy of the premises during the pendency of such appeal accruing from the date of such order. Such order shall permit the payment of such amount in monthly installments, as it becomes due. **[**, and compliance with such order shall be a substitute for any bond required by this section.**]** If all or a portion of the defendant's rent is being paid to the plaintiff by a housing authority, municipality, state agency or similar entity, this requirement shall be satisfied if the defendant deposits with the court an amount equal to **[**his**]** the defendant's portion of the rent.

(b) In any other appeal the court on its own motion or on motion of the parties, may fix a sufficient bond with surety to the adverse party in such amount as it may determine.

(c) When any appeal is taken by a plaintiff in an action of summary process, the court, upon motion of the plaintiff and after a hearing thereon, shall order the defendant to deposit with the court payments in monthly installments, as each payment becomes due, for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy of the premises during the pendency of the appeal accruing from the date of such order.

Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 47a-69 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**judges of the Superior Court or an authorized committee thereof**]** Chief Court Administrator may appoint such housing mediators as **[**they deem**]** the administrator deems necessary for the purpose of assisting the court in the prompt and efficient hearing of housing matters within the limit of their appropriation therefor. **[**Such judges or such committee**]** The Chief Court Administrator shall appoint not less than two such mediators for each of the judicial districts of Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport and may designate one of them in each judicial district as chief housing mediator. **[**Such judges or committee**]** The Chief Court Administrator shall also appoint not less than three such housing mediators for all other judicial districts. The housing mediators for the judicial district of New Haven shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial district of Waterbury, the housing mediators for the judicial district of Hartford shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial district of New Britain and the housing mediators for the judicial district of Bridgeport shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk.

Sec. 10. Section 51-27b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

There shall be sufficient offices of the Superior Court for the efficient operation of the court. The number and location of the offices shall be designated by the Chief Court Administrator. **[**, after consultation with the judges of the Superior Court.**]**

Sec. 11. Section 51-51v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**judges of the Superior Court, at their annual meeting in June,**]** Chief Court Administrator shall appoint: (1) Chief clerks for the judicial districts; (2) deputy chief clerks for those judicial districts designated by **[**an authorized committee of the judges**]** the Chief Court Administrator;

(3) first assistant clerks for those judicial districts designated by **[**an authorized committee of the judges**]** the Chief Court Administrator; (4) clerks for the geographical areas; (5) a clerk for the Centralized Infractions Bureau; and (6) clerks for housing matters, including a chief clerk for housing matters.

(b) The **[**judges of the Superior Court or an authorized committee thereof**]** Chief Court Administrator shall appoint, as **[**is deemed**]** the administrator deems necessary for the efficient operation of the courts, (1) assistant clerks for judicial districts and geographical areas, and (2) deputy clerks for those geographical areas designated by the **[**judges of the Superior Court or an authorized committee thereof**]** Chief Court Administrator.

(c) A **[**judge holding a session**]** chief clerk for a judicial district of the Superior Court or such clerk's designee may, if **[**he**]** such clerk deems it necessary, appoint a temporary assistant clerk or clerks for the Superior Court. A temporary assistant clerk shall hold office for such time as is deemed necessary for the convenient conduct of the business of the court in which **[**he**]** such clerk was appointed and may at any time be discharged by the **[**order of the senior acting judge holding court in**]** chief clerk of the judicial district for which **[**he**]** such clerk was appointed.

(d) The **[**judges of the Superior Court or an authorized committee of Superior Court judges**]** Chief Court Administrator may, in **[**their**]** the administrator's discretion, appoint such administrative and clerical personnel as the business of the court requires.

(e) The **[**judges or an authorized committee thereof**]** Chief Court Administrator may fill any vacancy which may occur in the clerks' offices.

(f) The Chief Court Administrator may assign, reassign or modify the

assignment of such clerical personnel as **[**he**]** the administrator deems necessary for the efficient operation of the courts.

(g) Whenever the word "clerk" is used in the general statutes to mean the clerk of the Superior Court, it shall, except with respect to compensation, be construed to include any chief clerk, deputy chief clerk, deputy clerk, assistant clerk of the court and the clerk of the Centralized Infractions Bureau unless the context otherwise requires.

Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 51-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator shall appoint official court reporters for the court as the **[**judges or an authorized committee thereof**]** administrator determines the business of the court requires.

Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 51-90c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator shall appoint an attorney to act as State-Wide Bar Counsel, who shall serve full-time, and such number of attorneys to act as assistant bar counsel as are necessary. **[**, for a term of one year commencing July first.**]** Any vacancy in the position of State-Wide Bar Counsel or assistant bar counsel shall be filled by the **[**executive committee of the Superior Court which shall appoint an attorney for the unexpired portion of the term**]** Chief Court Administrator. Compensation of the State-Wide Bar Counsel and assistant bar counsel shall be established by, and paid from funds appropriated to, the Judicial Department.

Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 51-90d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

passage):

(a) The **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator shall appoint attorneys to serve as grievance counsel for grievance panels and shall appoint one or more investigators. The investigators shall be under the supervision of the State-Wide Bar Counsel and shall serve the State-Wide Grievance Committee, the reviewing subcommittees of the State-Wide Grievance Committee and the grievance panels. **[**Grievance counsel and investigators shall serve for a term of one year commencing July first. Any vacancy in the position of grievance counsel or investigator shall be filled by the executive committee of the Superior Court for the unexpired portion of the term.**]** Compensation of the grievance counsel and investigator shall be established by, and paid from funds appropriated to, the Judicial Department. **[**Such appointees may be placed on the Judicial Department payroll or be paid on a contractual basis.**]**

Sec. 15. Section 51-164m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator shall establish and maintain a schedule of fines to be paid for the violation of the sections of the general statutes deemed to be infractions. The **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator shall establish and maintain a separate sliding scale of fines for speeding infractions committed under section 14-219 with a minimum fine of fifty dollars and the fine increasing in proportion to the severity of the violation. The fines may be modified as the **[**judges of the Superior Court deem**]** Chief Court Administrator deems advisable.

(b) The **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator shall establish and maintain a schedule of fines to be paid for those violations of section 14-219 specified in subsection (e) of said section, with such fines increasing in proportion to the severity of the violation

and for violations under subsection (b) of section 51-164n. The fines may be modified as the **[**judges of the Superior Court deem**]** Chief Court Administrator deems advisable.

(c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no fine established in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section may be less than thirty-five dollars or more than ninety dollars.

(2) No fine established in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section for a violation of any provision of title 14 deemed an infraction may be less than fifty dollars or more than ninety dollars, except that fines established for parking tag violations may be less than fifty dollars.

(d) No fine established in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section may be in an amount in excess of the maximum amount specified by statute for such violation.

(e) Any infraction for which a fine has not been established pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall carry a fine of thirty-five dollars or, if the infraction is for a violation of any provision of title 14, fifty dollars, until such time as the **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator may establish a different fine for such infraction.

(f) Any violation for which a fine has not been established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall carry a fine of one hundred dollars or the maximum fine specified by statute for such violation, whichever is less.

Sec. 16. Subsection (d) of section 51-193c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(d) Any notice, order, judgment, decision, decree, memorandum,

ruling, opinion, mittimus, warrant and any form related to such warrant, affidavit, finding or similar document that is issued by the Superior Court or by a judge, judge trial referee or family support magistrate thereof, by a magistrate appointed pursuant to section 51-193*l* or by a commissioner of the Superior Court approved by the Chief Court Administrator to hear small claims pursuant to section 52-549d, may be signed or verified by computer or facsimile transmission or by employing other technology in accordance with procedures and technical standards, if any, established by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, and such notice, order, judgment, decision, decree, memorandum, ruling, opinion, mittimus, warrant and any form related to such warrant, affidavit, finding or similar document shall have the same validity and status as a paper document that was signed or verified by the Superior Court or by a judge, judge trial referee or family support magistrate thereof, by a magistrate appointed pursuant to section 51-193*l* or by a commissioner of the Superior Court approved by the Chief Court Administrator to hear small claims pursuant to section 52-549d.

Sec. 17. Section 51-237 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Each juror, duly chosen, drawn and summoned, who fails to appear shall be subject to a civil penalty, the amount of which shall be established by the **[**judges of the Superior Court**]** Chief Court Administrator, but the court may excuse such juror from the payment thereof. If a sufficient number of the jurors summoned do not appear, or if for any cause there is not a sufficient number of jurors to make up the panel, the court may order such number of persons who qualify for jury service under section 51-217 to be summoned as may be necessary, as talesmen, and any talesman so summoned who makes default of appearance without sufficient cause shall be subject to a civil penalty, the amount of which shall be established by the **[**judges of the Superior

Court**]** Chief Court Administrator. The provisions of this section shall be enforced by the Attorney General within available appropriations.

Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 51-348 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The geographical areas of the Court of Common Pleas established pursuant to section 51-156a, revised to 1975, shall be the geographical areas of the Superior Court on July 1, 1978. The Chief Court Administrator **[**, after consultation with the judges of the Superior Court,**]** may alter the boundary of any geographical area to provide for a new geographical area provided **[**that**]** each geographical area so altered or so authorized shall remain solely within the boundary of a single judicial district.

Sec. 19. Subsection (d) of section 54-33a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(d) A warrant may issue only on affidavit sworn to by the complainant or complainants before the judge or judge trial referee, either in person or electronically with simultaneous sight and sound, and establishing the grounds for issuing the warrant, which affidavit shall be part of the arrest file. If the judge or judge trial referee is satisfied that grounds for the application exist or that there is probable cause to believe that grounds for the application exist, the judge or judge trial referee shall issue a warrant identifying the property and naming or describing the person, place or thing to be searched or authorizing the installation and use of a tracking device and identifying the person on which or the property to, in or on which the tracking device is to be installed. The warrant shall be directed to any police officer of a regularly organized police department or any state police officer, to an inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, to a conservation officer,

special conservation officer or patrolman acting pursuant to section 26-6 or to a sworn motor vehicle inspector acting under the authority of section 14-8. Except for a warrant for the installation and use of a tracking device, the warrant shall state the date and time of its issuance and the grounds or probable cause for its issuance and shall command the officer to search within a reasonable time the person, place or thing named, for the property specified. A warrant for the installation and use of a tracking device shall state the date and time of its issuance and the grounds or probable cause for its issuance and shall command the officer to complete the installation of the device within a specified period not later than ten days after the date of its issuance and authorize the installation and use of the tracking device, including the collection of data through such tracking device, for a reasonable period of time not to exceed thirty days from the date the tracking device is installed. Upon request and a showing of good cause, a judge or judge trial referee may authorize the use of the tracking device for an additional period of thirty days.

Sec. 20. Section 54-63c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Except in cases of arrest pursuant to a bench warrant of arrest in which the court or a judge thereof has indicated that bail should be denied or ordered that the officer or indifferent person making such arrest shall, without undue delay, bring such person before the clerk or assistant clerk of the superior court for the geographical area under section 54-2a, when any person is arrested for a bailable offense, the chief of police, or the chief's authorized designee, of the police department having custody of the arrested person or any probation officer serving a violation of probation warrant shall promptly advise such person of the person's rights under section 54-1b, and of the person's right to be interviewed concerning the terms and conditions of release. Unless the arrested person waives or refuses such interview, the

police officer or probation officer shall promptly interview the arrested person to obtain information relevant to the terms and conditions of the person's release from custody, and shall seek independent verification of such information where necessary. At the request of the arrested person, the person's counsel may be present during the interview. No statement made by the arrested person in response to any question during the interview related to the terms and conditions of release shall be admissible as evidence against the arrested person in any proceeding arising from the incident for which the conditions of release were set. After such a waiver, refusal or interview, the police officer or probation officer shall promptly order release of the arrested person upon the execution of a written promise to appear or the posting of such bond as may be set by the police officer or probation officer, except that no condition of release set by the court or a judge thereof may be modified by such officers and no person shall be released upon the execution of a written promise to appear or the posting of a bond without surety if the person is charged with the commission of a family violence crime, as defined in section 46b-38a, and in the commission of such crime the person used or threatened the use of a firearm.

(b) If the person is charged with the commission of a family violence crime, as defined in section 46b-38a, and the police officer does not intend to impose nonfinancial conditions of release pursuant to this subsection, the police officer shall, pursuant to the procedure set forth in subsection (a) of this section, promptly order the release of such person upon the execution of a written promise to appear or the posting of such bond as may be set by the police officer. If such person is not so released, the police officer shall make reasonable efforts to immediately contact a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and referral specialist employed by the Judicial Branch to set the conditions of such person's release pursuant to section 54-63d. If, after making such reasonable efforts, the police officer is unable to contact a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and referral specialist or contacts

a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and referral specialist but such bail commissioner or intake, assessment and referral specialist is unavailable to promptly perform such bail commissioner's or intake, assessment and referral specialist's duties pursuant to section 54-63d, the police officer shall, pursuant to the procedure set forth in subsection (a) of this section, order the release of such person upon the execution of a written promise to appear or the posting of such bond as may be set by the police officer and may impose nonfinancial conditions of release which may require that the arrested person do one or more of the following: (1) Avoid all contact with the alleged victim of the crime, (2) comply with specified restrictions on the person's travel, association or place of abode that are directly related to the protection of the alleged victim of the crime, or (3) not use or possess a dangerous weapon, intoxicant or controlled substance. Any such nonfinancial conditions of release shall be indicated on a form prescribed by the Judicial Branch and sworn to by the police officer. Such form shall articulate (A) the efforts that were made to contact a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and referral specialist, (B) the specific factual basis relied upon by the police officer to impose the nonfinancial conditions of release, and (C) if the arrested person was non-English-speaking, that the services of a translation service or interpreter were used. A copy of that portion of the form that indicates the nonfinancial conditions of release shall immediately be provided to the arrested person. A copy of the entire form shall be provided to counsel for the arrested person at arraignment. Any nonfinancial conditions of release imposed pursuant to this subsection shall remain in effect until the arrested person is presented before the Superior Court pursuant to subsection (a) of section 54-1g. On such date, the court shall conduct a hearing pursuant to section 46b-38c at which the defendant is entitled to be heard with respect to the issuance of a protective order.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 14 and this chapter, the police officer shall provide to the bail commissioner or the intake

assessment and referral specialist identifying information about the victim of the crime or crimes with which the arrested person is charged, including, but not limited to, the victim's name, address and phone number, if available, for the purpose of carrying out such bail commissioner's or intake assessment and referral specialist's duties.

[(c)**]** (d) When cash bail in excess of ten thousand dollars is received for a detained person accused of a felony, where the underlying facts and circumstances of the felony involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, the police officer shall prepare a report that contains (1) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the accused person, (2) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each person offering the cash bail, other than a person licensed as a professional bondsman under chapter 533 or a surety bail bond agent under chapter 700f, (3) the amount of cash received, and (4) the date the cash was received. Not later than fifteen days after receipt of such cash bail, the police officer shall file the report with the Department of Revenue Services and mail a copy of the report to the state's attorney for the judicial district in which the alleged offense was committed and to each person offering the cash bail.

[(d)**]** (e) No police officer or probation officer serving a violation of probation warrant shall set the terms and conditions of a person's release, set a bond for a person or release a person from custody under this section unless the police officer or probation officer has first checked the National Crime Information Center **[**(NCIC)**]** computerized index of criminal justice information to determine if such person is listed in such index.

[(e)**]** (f) If the arrested person has not posted bail, the police officer or probation officer serving a violation of probation warrant shall immediately notify a bail commissioner or an intake, assessment and referral specialist.

[(f)**]** (g) The chief, acting chief, superintendent of police, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, any captain or lieutenant of any local police department or the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or any person lawfully exercising the powers of any such officer may take a written promise to appear or a bond with or without surety from an arrested person as provided in subsection (a) of this section, or as fixed by the court or any judge thereof, may administer such oaths as are necessary in the taking of promises or bonds and shall file any report required under subsection **[**(c)**]** (d) of this section.

Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 54-91c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) Prior to the imposition of sentence upon any defendant who has been found guilty of any crime or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any crime, and prior to the acceptance by the court of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere made pursuant to a plea agreement with the state, **[**wherein the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than the offense with which such defendant was originally charged,**]** the court shall permit any victim of the crime to appear before the court for the purpose of making a statement for the record, which statement may include the victim's opinion of any plea agreement. In lieu of such appearance, the victim may submit a written statement or, if the victim of the crime is deceased, the legal representative or a member of the immediate family of such deceased victim may submit a statement of such deceased victim to the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney in charge of the case. Such state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney shall file the statement with the sentencing court and the statement shall be made a part of the record at the sentencing hearing. Any such statement, whether oral or written, shall relate to the facts of the case, the

appropriateness of any penalty and the extent of any injuries, financial losses and loss of earnings directly resulting from the crime for which the defendant is being sentenced. The court shall inquire on the record whether any victim is present for the purpose of making an oral statement or has submitted a written statement. If no victim is present and no such written statement has been submitted, the court shall inquire on the record whether an attempt has been made to notify any such victim as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section or, if the defendant was originally charged with a violation of section 53a-167c for assaulting a peace officer, whether the peace officer has been personally notified as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section. After consideration of any such statements, the court may refuse to accept, where appropriate, a negotiated plea or sentence, and the court shall give the defendant an opportunity to enter a new plea and to elect trial by jury or by the court.

Sec. 22. Section 54-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

As used in sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive<u>, as amended by this act</u>:

(1) "Victim" means a person who is injured or killed as provided in section 54-209;

(2) "Personal injury" means (A) actual bodily harm or emotional harm and includes pregnancy and any condition thereof, or (B) injury or death to a service animal owned or kept by a person with a disability;

(3) "Dependent" means any relative of a deceased victim or a person designated by a deceased victim in accordance with section 1-56r who was wholly or partially dependent upon his income at the time of his death or the child of a deceased victim and shall include the child of such victim born after his death;

(4) "Relative" means a person's spouse, parent, grandparent, stepparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, child, including a natural born child, stepchild and adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, half brother or half sister or a parent of a person's spouse;

(5) "Crime" means any act which is a felony, as defined in section 53a-25, or misdemeanor, as defined in section 53a-26, and includes any crime committed by a juvenile; and

(6) "Emotional harm" means a mental or emotional impairment that **[**requires treatment through services and that**]** is directly attributable to a threat of (A) physical injury, as defined in subdivision (3) of section 53a-3, or (B) death to the affected person.

Sec. 23. Section 54-203 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) There is established an Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department.

(b) The Office of Victim Services shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To direct each hospital, whether public or private, each university or college health services center, whether public or private, and each community health center, as defined in section 19a-490a, to prominently display posters in a conspicuous location giving notice of the availability of compensation and assistance to victims of crime or their dependents pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act, and to direct every law enforcement agency of the state to inform victims of crime or their dependents of their rights pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act;

(2) To obtain from the office of the state's attorney, state police, local police departments or any law enforcement agency such investigation

and data as will enable the Office of Victim Services to determine if in fact the applicant was a victim of a crime or attempted crime and the extent, if any, to which the victim or claimant was responsible for his own injury, including, but not limited to, a request for information form promulgated by the Office of Victim Services;

(3) To request from the Department of Correction, other units of the Judicial Department and the Board of Pardons and Paroles such information as will enable the Office of Victim Services to determine if in fact a person who has requested notification pursuant to section 54-228 was a victim of a crime;

(4) To take or cause to be taken affidavits or depositions within or without the state;

(5) To apply for, receive, allocate, disburse and account for grants of funds made available by the United States, by the state, foundations, corporations and other businesses, agencies or individuals to implement a program for victim services which shall assist witnesses and victims of crimes as the Office of Victim Services deems appropriate within the resources available and to coordinate services to victims by state and community-based agencies, with priority given to victims of violent crimes, by (A) assigning such victim advocates as are necessary to provide assistance; (B) administering victim service programs; and (C) awarding grants or purchase of service contracts to private nonprofit organizations or local units of government for the direct delivery of services, except that the provision of training and technical assistance of victim service providers and the development and implementation of public education campaigns may be provided by private nonprofit or for-profit organizations or local units of government. Such grants and contracts shall be the predominant method by which the Office of Victim Services shall develop, implement and operate direct service programs and provide training and technical assistance to victim service providers;

(6) To provide each person who applies for compensation pursuant to section 54-204, within ten days of the date of receipt of such application, with a written list of rights of victims of crime involving personal injury and the programs available in this state to assist such victims. The Office of Victim Services, the state or any agent, employee or officer thereof shall not be liable for the failure to supply such list or any alleged inadequacies of such list. Such list shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) Subject to the provisions of sections 18-81e and 51-286e, the victim shall have the right to be informed concerning the status of his or her case and to be informed of the release from custody of the defendant;

(B) Subject to the provisions of section 54-91c, as amended by this act, the victim shall have the right to present a statement of his or her losses, injuries and wishes to the prosecutor and the court prior to the acceptance by the court of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere made pursuant to a plea agreement with the state wherein the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than the offense with which the defendant was originally charged;

(C) Subject to the provisions of section 54-91c, as amended by this act, prior to the imposition of sentence upon the defendant, the victim shall have the right to submit a statement to the prosecutor as to the extent of any injuries, financial losses and loss of earnings directly resulting from the crime. Upon receipt of the statement, the prosecutor shall file the statement with the sentencing court and the statement shall be made a part of the record and considered by the court at the sentencing hearing;

(D) Subject to the provisions of section 54-126a, the victim shall have the right to appear before a panel of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and make a statement as to whether the defendant should be released on parole and any terms or conditions to be imposed upon any such release;

(E) Subject to the provisions of section 54-36a, the victim shall have the right to have any property the victim owns which was seized by police in connection with an arrest to be returned;

(F) Subject to the provisions of sections 54-56e and 54-142c, the victim shall have the right to be notified of the application by the defendant for the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation and to obtain from the court information as to whether the criminal prosecution in the case has been dismissed;

(G) Subject to the provisions of section 54-85b, the victim cannot be fired, harassed or otherwise retaliated against by an employer for appearing under a subpoena as a witness in any criminal prosecution;

(H) Subject to the provisions of section 54-86g, the parent or legal guardian of a child twelve years of age or younger who is a victim of child abuse or sexual assault may request special procedural considerations to be taken during the testimony of the child;

(I) Subject to the provisions of section 46b-15, the victim of assault by a spouse or former spouse, family or household member has the right to request the arrest of the offender, request a protective order and apply for a restraining order;

(J) Subject to the provisions of sections 52-146k, 54-86e and 54-86f, the victim of sexual assault or domestic violence can expect certain records to remain confidential; and

(K) Subject to the provisions of section 53a-32, the victim and any victim advocate assigned to assist the victim may receive notification from a probation officer whenever the officer has notified a police officer that the probation officer has probable cause to believe that the offender has violated a condition of such offender's probation;

(7) Within available appropriations, to maintain a victim's assistance

center which shall (A) make available to victims information regarding victim's rights and available services, (B) maintain a victims' notification system pursuant to sections 54-227 to 54-230a, inclusive, and 54-235, and (C) maintain a toll-free number for access to information regarding victims' rights and available services;

(8) To provide a telephone helpline that shall provide information on referrals for various services for victims of crime and their families;

(9) To provide staff services to a state advisory council. The council shall consist of not more than **[**fifteen**]** twenty members to be appointed by the Chief Justice and shall include the Chief Victim Compensation Commissioner and members who represent victim populations, including but not limited to, homicide survivors, family violence victims, sexual assault victims, victims of gun violence, victims of drunk drivers, and assault and robbery victims, and members who represent the judicial branch and executive branch agencies involved with victims of crime. The members shall serve for terms of four years. Any vacancy in the membership shall be filled by the appointing authority for the balance of the unexpired term. The members shall receive no compensation for their services. The council shall meet at least four times a year. The council shall recommend to the Office of Victim Services program, legislative or other matters which would improve services to victims of crime and develop and coordinate needs assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services. The Chief Justice shall appoint two members to serve as cochairpersons. Not later than December fifteenth of each year, the council shall report the results of its findings and activities to the Chief Court Administrator;

(10) To utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may from time to time be offered and needed;

(11) To recommend policies and make recommendations to agencies

and officers of the state and local subdivisions of government relative to victims of crime;

(12) To provide support and assistance to state-wide victim services coalitions and groups;

(13) To provide a training program for judges, prosecutors, police, probation and parole personnel, bail commissioners, intake, assessment and referral specialists, officers from the Department of Correction and judicial marshals to inform them of victims' rights and available services;

(14) To (A) maintain, within available appropriations, a sexual assault forensic examiners program that will train and make available sexual assault forensic examiners to adolescent and adult victims of sexual assault who are patients at participating health care facilities. In order to maintain such program, the Office of Victim Services may apply for, receive, allocate, disburse and account for grants of funds made available by the United States, the state, foundations, corporations and other businesses, agencies or individuals; or (B) establish, within available appropriations, a training program for health care professionals on the care of and collection of evidence from adolescent and adult victims of sexual assault;

(15) To provide victims of crime and the general public with information detailing the process by which a victim may register to receive notices of hearings of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; and

(16) To submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to **[**victim services**]** the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on or before January 15, 2000, and biennially thereafter a report of its activities under sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive, as amended by this act.

Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 54-210 of the general statutes is

repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The Office of Victim Services or a victim compensation commissioner may order the payment of compensation under sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act, for: (1) Expenses actually and reasonably incurred as a result of the personal injury or death of the victim, provided coverage for the cost of medical care and treatment of a crime victim who does not have medical insurance or who has exhausted coverage under applicable health insurance policies or Medicaid shall be ordered; (2) loss of earning power as a result of total or partial incapacity of such victim; (3) pecuniary loss to the spouse or dependents of the deceased victim, provided the family qualifies for compensation as a result of murder or manslaughter of the victim; (4) pecuniary loss to an injured victim or the relatives or dependents of an injured victim or a deceased victim for attendance at court proceedings, juvenile proceedings, Psychiatric Security Review Board hearings and Board of Pardons and Parole hearings with respect to the criminal case of the person or persons charged with committing the crime that resulted in the injury or death of the victim; (5) loss of wages by any parent or guardian of a deceased victim, provided the amount paid under this subsection shall not exceed one week's net wage; and (6) any other loss, except as set forth in section 54-211, as amended by this act, resulting from the personal injury or death of the victim which the Office of Victim Services or a victim compensation commissioner, as the case may be, determines to be reasonable.

Sec. 25. Section 54-211 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) No order for the payment of compensation shall be made under section 54-210, as amended by this act, unless (A) the application has been made within **[**two**]** three years after the date of the personal injury or death, (B) the personal injury or death was the result of an

incident or offense listed in section 54-209, and (C) such incident or offense has been reported to the police, **[**within five days of its occurrence or, if the incident or offense could not reasonably have been reported within such period, within five days of the time when a report could reasonably have been made,**]** except that a victim of a sexual assault shall not be ineligible for the payment of compensation by reason of failing to make a report pursuant to this subparagraph if such victim presented himself or herself to a health care facility within one hundred twenty hours of such sexual assault for examination and collection of evidence of such sexual assault in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-112a, or if such victim complied with subsection (d) of section 54-209. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, any person who, before, on or after October 1, 2005, fails to make application for compensation within **[**two**]** three years after the date of the personal injury or death as a result of physical, emotional or psychological injuries caused by such personal injury or death may apply for a waiver of such time limitation. The Office of Victim Services, upon a finding of such physical, emotional or psychological injury, may grant such waiver. (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, any minor, including, but not limited to, a minor who is a victim of conduct by another person that constitutes a violation of section 53a-192a or a criminal violation of 18 USC Chapter 77, who, before, on or after October 1, 2005, fails to make application for compensation within **[**two**]** three years after the date of the personal injury or death through no fault of the minor, may apply for a waiver of such time limitation. The Office of Victim Services, upon a finding that such minor is not at fault, may grant such waiver. (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, a person who is a dependent of a victim may make application for payment of compensation not later than **[**two**]** three years from the date that such person discovers or in the exercise of reasonable care should have discovered that the person upon whom the applicant was dependent was a victim. Such person shall file with such application a

statement signed under penalty of false statement setting forth the date when such person discovered that the person upon whom the applicant was dependent was a victim and the circumstances that prevented such person discovering that the person upon whom the applicant was dependent was a victim until more than **[**two**]** three years after the date of the incident or offense. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a person who files such a statement and is otherwise eligible for compensation pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act, is entitled to compensation. (5) Any waiver denied by the Office of Victim Services under this subsection may be reviewed by a victim compensation commissioner, provided such request for review is made by the applicant within thirty days from the mailing of the notice of denial by the Office of Victim Services. If a victim compensation commissioner grants such waiver, the commissioner shall refer the application for compensation to the Office of Victim Services for a determination pursuant to section 54-205. (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection, the Office of Victim Services may, for good cause shown and upon a finding of compelling equitable circumstances, waive the time limitations of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(b) No compensation shall be awarded if: (1) The offender is unjustly enriched by the award, provided compensation awarded to a victim which would benefit the offender in a minimal or inconsequential manner shall not be considered unjust enrichment; (2) the victim violated a penal law of this state, which violation caused or contributed to **[**his**]** such victim's injuries or death.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, no compensation shall be awarded for losses sustained for crimes against property or for noneconomic detriment such as pain and suffering.

(d) (1) **[**No compensation shall be in an amount in excess of fifteen thousand dollars for personal injury except that:**]** (A) Compensation for

personal injury shall be in an amount not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars; (B) compensation to or for the benefit of the dependents of a homicide victim shall be in an amount not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars; **[**(B)**]** (C) the claims of the dependents of a deceased victim, as provided in section 54-208, shall be considered derivative of the claim of such victim and the total compensation paid for all claims arising from the death of such victim shall not exceed a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars; and **[**(C)**]** (D) in cases of emotional harm only, compensation for medical and mental health care and security measures shall be in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Office of Victim Services or a victim compensation commissioner may award additional compensation in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars above the maximum amounts set forth in said subdivision to a personal injury victim, who is a minor at the time the application for compensation or restitution services is filed, when such victim has additional medical needs or mental health counseling needs.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Office of Victim Services or a victim compensation commissioner may, for good cause shown and upon a finding of compelling equitable circumstances, award compensation in an amount in excess of the maximum amounts set forth in said subdivision.

(e) Orders for payment of compensation pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act, may be made only as to injuries or death resulting from incidents or offenses arising on and after January 1, 1979, except that orders for payment of compensation pursuant to subsection (b) of section 54-209 may be made only as to injuries or death resulting from incidents or offenses arising on and after July 1, 1985.

(f) Compensation shall be awarded pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act, for personal injury or death resulting from a crime which occurs (1) within this state, regardless of the residency of the applicant; (2) outside this state but within the territorial boundaries of the United States, provided the victim, at the time of injury or death, was a resident of this state and the state in which such crime occurred does not have a program for compensation of victims for which such victim is eligible; (3) outside the territorial boundaries of the United States, provided the victim was a resident of this state at the time of injury or death, the crime would be considered a crime within the State of Connecticut, and the country in which such crime occurred does not have a program for compensation of victims for which such victim is eligible; and (4) outside the territorial boundaries of the United States, provided the applicant is a victim of international terrorism, as defined in 18 USC 2331, as amended from time to time, and was a resident of this state at the time of injury or death.

Sec. 26. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Communication technology" means an electronic device or process that:

(A) Allows a commissioner of the Superior Court and a remotely located individual to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound; and

(B) When necessary and consistent with other applicable law, facilitates communication between a commissioner of the Superior Court and a remotely located individual who has a vision, hearing or speech impairment.

(2) "Identity proofing" means a process or service by which a third person provides a commissioner of the Superior Court with a means to verify the identity of a remotely located individual by a review of

personal information from public or private data sources.

(3) "Outside the United States" means a location outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands and any territory, insular possession or other location subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(4) "Remotely located individual" means an individual who is not in the physical presence of the commissioner of the Superior Court who takes an acknowledgment under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a document may be acknowledged by an individual who is not in the physical presence of a commissioner of the Superior Court at the time of the acknowledgment if the following requirements are met:

(1) The individual and the commissioner of the Superior Court can communicate simultaneously, in real time, by sight and sound using communication technology; and

(2) When performing a remote acknowledgment pursuant to the provisions of this section, the commissioner of the Superior Court reasonably identifies the individual at the time of the acknowledgment by one or more of the following methods:

(A) Personal knowledge of the identity of the individual;

(B) The individual presents a government-issued identification document or record that has not expired and includes the individual's photograph, name and signature. An acceptable form of government-issued identification document or record includes, but is not limited to, a driver's license, government-issued identification card or passport;

(C) Not less than two different types of identity proofing processes or services by which a third person provides a means to verify the identity

of the individual through a review of public or private data sources; or

(D) Oath or affirmation by a credible witness who:

(i) Is in the physical presence of either the commissioner of the Superior Court or the individual; or

(ii) Is able to communicate in real time with the commissioner of the Superior Court and the individual by sight and sound through an electronic device or process at the time of the acknowledgment, if the credible witness has personal knowledge of the identity of the individual and has been reasonably identified by the commissioner of the Superior Court by a method provided in this section.

(c) When an individual who is physically located outside of the state of Connecticut or outside the United States seeks a remote acknowledgment pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the record being acknowledged shall:

(1) Be intended for filing or presentation in a matter before a court, governmental entity, public official or other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the state of Connecticut; or

(2) Otherwise not be prohibited by law of the state of Connecticut to be acknowledged outside the state.

(d) Once the record acknowledged pursuant to subsection (b) of this section is signed by the individual in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section, the individual shall mail or otherwise cause to be delivered the signed original copy of the record to the commissioner of the Superior Court.

(e) The date and time of an acknowledgment conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be the date and time when the commissioner of the Superior Court witnessed the signature being

performed by means of communication technology.

(f) Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of a commissioner of the Superior Court to refuse to take an acknowledgment or require a commissioner of the Superior Court to take an acknowledgment:

(1) With respect to an electronic record;

(2) For an individual not in the physical presence of the commissioner of the Superior Court; or

(3) Using a technology that the commissioner of the Superior Court has not selected.

(g) No record shall be acknowledged remotely pursuant to subsection (b) of this section in (1) the making and execution of a will, codicil, trust or trust instrument, (2) the execution of health care instructions pursuant to section 19a-575a of the general statutes, (3) the execution of a designation of a standby guardian pursuant to section 45a-624 of the general statutes, (4) the execution of a designation of a person for decision-making and certain rights and obligations pursuant to section 1-56r of the general statutes, (5) the execution of a living will, as defined in section 19a-570 of the general statutes, (6) the execution of a power of attorney, as defined in section 1-350a of the general statutes, (7) the execution of a self-proving affidavit for an appointment of a health care representative or for a living will under sections 1-56r and 19a-578 of the general statutes, (8) the execution of a mutual distribution agreement under section 45a-433 of the general statutes, (9) the execution of a disclaimer under section 45a-579 or 45a-583 of the general statutes, or (10) a real estate closing, as defined in section 51-88a of the general statutes. The performance of any such acknowledgment in connection with any of the acts described in this subsection shall be ineffective for any purpose and shall constitute a violation of section 51-88 of the general statutes.

Sec. 27. Section 22-329a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) Any animal control officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal when such animal control officer has reasonable cause to believe that such animal is in imminent harm and is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251, 53-252 or 53a-73b, and, not later than ninety-six hours after taking physical custody, shall proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section, except that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian, at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal is so injured or diseased that it should be euthanized immediately, such officer may have such animal humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

(b) Any animal control officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal upon issuance of a warrant finding probable cause that such animal is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251, 53-252 or 53a-73b, and shall thereupon proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section except that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian, at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal is so injured or diseased that it should be euthanized immediately, such officer may have such animal humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

(c) Such officer shall file with the superior court which has venue over such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford at Hartford a verified petition plainly stating such facts of neglect or cruel treatment as to bring such animal within the jurisdiction of the court and praying for appropriate action by the court in accordance with

the provisions of this section. Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall cause a summons to be issued requiring the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the animal, if known, to appear in court at the time and place named.

(d) If physical custody of an animal has been taken pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section and it appears from the allegations of the petition filed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and other affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the animal's condition or the circumstances surrounding its care require that temporary care and custody be immediately assumed to safeguard its welfare, the court shall either (1) issue an order to show cause why the court should not vest in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private agency or person the animal's temporary care and custody pending a hearing on the petition, or (2) issue an order vesting in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private agency or person the animal's temporary care and custody pending a hearing on the petition. A hearing on the order issued by the court pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be held not later than fourteen days after the issuance of such order. The service of such order may be made by any officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours prior to the date and time of such hearing. If the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the animal is not known, notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town in which such officer took physical custody of such animal not less than forty-eight hours prior to the date and time of such hearing.

(e) If physical custody of an animal has not been taken pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and such officer has reasonable cause to believe that an animal is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of

section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or 53-252, such officer may file a petition with the superior court which has venue over such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford at Hartford, plainly stating such facts of neglect or cruel treatment as to bring the animal within the jurisdiction of the court and praying for appropriate action by the court to ensure the welfare of the animal, including, but not limited to, physical removal and temporary care and custody of the animal, an order to compel the owner of any such animal to provide care in a manner that the court determines is necessary, authorization of an animal control officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable, or a licensed veterinarian to provide care for the animal on site, vesting of ownership of the animal, the posting of a bond in accordance with subsection (f) of this section and the assessment of costs in accordance with subsection (h) of this section. Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall cause a summons for an order to show cause to be issued requiring the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the animal, if known, to appear in court at the time and place named. If the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the animal is not known, notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town where the animal is located not less than forty-eight hours prior to the date and time of the hearing. If it appears from the allegations of the petition filed pursuant to this subsection and other affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the animal's condition or the circumstances surrounding its care require the immediate removal of the animal from the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the animal to safeguard its welfare, the court shall issue an order vesting in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private agency or person the animal's temporary care and custody pending a hearing on the petition which hearing shall be held not later than ten days after the issuance of such order for such

temporary care and custody. The service of such order may be made by any officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours prior to the date and time of such hearing.

(f) If the court issues an order vesting the animal's temporary care and custody in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private agency or person, the owner or owners shall either relinquish ownership of the animal or post a cash bond with the agency or person in whom the animal's temporary care and custody was vested or with such agency's counsel of record in the case. The cash bond shall be in the amount of one thousand dollars for each animal placed in the temporary care or custody of such agency or person and shall secure payment for the reasonable expenses of the agency or person having temporary care and custody of the animal in caring and providing for such animal until the court makes a finding as to the animal's disposition under subsection (g) of this section. The requirement that a bond be posted may be waived if such owner provides satisfactory evidence that such owner is indigent and unable to pay for such bond.

(g) (1) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is neglected or cruelly treated, it shall vest ownership of the animal in any state, municipal or other public or private agency which is permitted by law to care for neglected or cruelly treated animals or with any person found to be suitable or worthy of such responsibility by the court.

(2) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is so injured or diseased that it should be humanely euthanized, the court may order that such animal be humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

(3) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is not neglected or cruelly treated, it may cause the animal to be returned to its owner or owners or person having responsibility for its care or, if such owner or owners or person is unknown or unwilling to resume caring for such

animal, it may vest ownership of the animal in any state, municipal or other public or private agency or person found to be suitable or worthy of such responsibility.

(4) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection less than thirty days after the issuance of an order of temporary care and custody and the owner of the animal has posted a bond, the agency or person with whom the bond was posted shall return the balance of such bond, if any, to the owner. The amount of the bond to be returned to the owner shall be calculated at the rate of **[**fifteen**]** twenty dollars per day per animal or **[**twenty-five**]** thirty dollars per day per animal if the animal is a horse or other large livestock for the number of days less than thirty that such agency or person has not had temporary care and custody of the animal less any veterinary costs and expenses incurred for the welfare of the animal.

(5) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (3) of this subsection after the issuance of an order of temporary care and custody and the owner of the animal has posted a bond, the agency or person with whom the bond was posted shall return such bond to such owner.

(h) If the court finds that the animal is neglected or cruelly treated, the expenses incurred by the state or a municipality in providing proper food, shelter and care to an animal it has taken custody of under subsection (a) or (b) of this section and the expenses incurred by any state, municipal or other public or private agency or person in providing temporary care and custody pursuant to an order vesting temporary care and custody, calculated at the rate of twenty dollars per day per animal or thirty dollars per day per animal if the animal is a horse or other large livestock until the date ownership is vested pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section shall be paid by the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the animal. In addition, all veterinary costs and expenses incurred for the welfare of the animal shall be paid by the owner or owners or person

having responsibility for the animal.

(i) If the court vests ownership of the animal in the Commissioner of Agriculture or a municipality, the commissioner or the municipality may conduct or participate in a public auction of the animal under such conditions the commissioner or the municipality deems necessary or the commissioner or the municipality may consign the animal to an auction or sell the animal through an open advertised bid process whereby bid price and demonstration of sufficient knowledge and ability to care for such animal are factors for the commissioner's or municipality's consideration. All moneys collected from the sale of animals sold by the Commissioner of Agriculture through such open advertised bid process shall be deposited in the animal abuse cost recovery account established in subsection (j) of this section. All moneys collected from the sale of animals sold by a municipality through such open advertised bid process shall be deposited by the town treasurer or other fiscal officer in the town's general fund. The commissioner or the municipality may also vest ownership of any such animal in an individual or a public or private nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization. Any record containing the name, address or other personally identifying information of the new owner of such animal shall be exempt from disclosure under state law, provided such information may be disclosed pursuant to the issuance of a lawful subpoena.

(j) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund, to be known as the "animal abuse cost recovery account". All moneys collected from sales at public auction of animals seized by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the account. Deposits of moneys may be made into the account from public or private sources, including, but not limited to, the federal government or municipal governments.

(k) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any moneys received by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to

subsection (j) of this section shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the animal abuse cost recovery account. The account shall be available to the Commissioner of Agriculture for the purpose of the housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department, until final disposition of such animal. Additionally, the account may be used for the purpose of providing reimbursement to any municipality for the costs of providing temporary care to such animal if such temporary care exceeded thirty days in duration and such costs exceeded the amount of any surety bond or cash bond posted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section provided the total annual reimbursement to municipalities from said account for such purpose shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from obtaining or using funds from sources other than the account for the housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department pursuant to this section.

Sec. 28. Section 22-358 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) Any owner or **[**the agent of any owner of any domestic animal or poultry, or the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer, any municipal animal control officer, any regional animal control officer or any police officer or state policeman, may kill any dog which he observes pursuing or worrying any such domestic animal or poultry**]** keeper of any animal or poultry, or an agent of such owner or keeper, or any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, or any police officer, including a state police officer, may kill any dog while the dog is in the act of biting, attacking or pursuing any such animal or poultry of the owner or keeper. Any owner, keeper, animal control officer or police officer who kills such dog shall make complaint concerning the circumstances of the attack to any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-331a of the town where such attack occurred. The animal control officer to whom

such complaint is made shall investigate the circumstances of the attack set forth in the complaint and report on the circumstances of the attack to the Chief State Animal Control Officer, appointed pursuant to section 22-328.

(b) Any person who is **[**bitten, or who shows visible evidence of attack**]** protecting himself or herself or another person or animal from physical harm while being bitten or attacked by a dog, cat or other animal when such person is not upon the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal may kill such dog, cat or other animal during such attack. **[**Such person shall make complaint concerning the circumstances of the attack to the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or the municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer of the town wherein such dog, cat or other animal is owned or kept. Any such officer to whom such complaint is made shall immediately make an investigation of such complaint.**]** Any person who kills such animal shall make complaint concerning the circumstances of the attack to any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-331a of the town where such attack occurred. The animal control officer to whom such complaint is made shall investigate the circumstances of the attack set forth in the complaint and report on the circumstances of the attack to the Chief State Animal Control Officer, appointed pursuant to section 22-328.

[(c) The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional animal control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or disposal of any biting dog, cat or other animal as the commissioner or such officer deems necessary. Notice of any such order shall be given to the person bitten by such dog, cat or other animal within twenty-four hours. The owner of such animal shall pay all fees as set forth in section 22-333. Any owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal who fails to comply with such order shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor. If

an owner or keeper fails to comply with a restraining order made pursuant to this subsection, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional animal control officer may seize the dog, cat or other animal to ensure such compliance and the owner or keeper shall be responsible for any expenses resulting from such seizure. Any person aggrieved by an order of any municipal animal control officer, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or any regional animal control officer may request a hearing before the commissioner within fourteen days of the issuance of such order. Any order issued pursuant to this section that requires the restraint of an animal shall be effective upon its issuance and shall remain in effect during any appeal of such order to the commissioner. After such hearing, the commissioner may affirm, modify or revoke such order as the commissioner deems proper. Any dog owned by a police agency of the state or any of its political subdivisions is exempt from the provisions of this subsection when such dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of an assigned police officer, is currently vaccinated and is subject to routine veterinary care. Any guide dog owned or in the custody and control of a blind person or a person with a mobility impairment is exempt from the provisions of this subsection when such guide dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of such person, is currently vaccinated and is subject to routine veterinary care.**]**

(c) In the interest of public health and safety, if after investigation, any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a in the municipality or region in which an alleged dog bite or attack occurs determines that a person has in fact been bitten or attacked by a dog, such animal control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or disposal of such biting or attacking dog as is necessary to protect public health and safety. In determining the type of order to be issued or conditions of restraint to be imposed, the animal control officer shall consider factors that include, but need not be limited to: (1)

The ability of the owner or keeper of the dog, if any, to control the animal; (2) the severity of injury inflicted on a person by the biting or attacking dog; (3) the viciousness of the bite or attack; (4) any history of past bites or attacks by the dog; (5) whether the bite or attack occurred at a location that is off of the property of the owner or keeper of the dog; (6) whether the biting or attacking dog was provoked; and (7) whether the biting or attacking dog was protecting its owner or keeper from physical harm.

(d) Any dog, while **[**actually worrying**]** biting, attacking or pursuing deer, may be killed by **[**the Chief Animal Control Officer or an animal control officer**]** any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, or by a conservation officer or special conservation officer appointed by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or by any police officer, **[**or state policeman**]** including a state police officer. The owner or keeper of any dog found **[**worrying**]** biting, attacking or pursuing a deer shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

(e) Any person who kills any dog, cat or other animal in accordance with the provisions of this section shall not be held criminally or civilly liable therefor.

(f) Repealed by P.A. 19-197, S. 1.

(g) Repealed by P.A. 05-175, S. 24.

(h) The following shall apply to any order issued pursuant to this section:

(1) In the interest of public health and safety, and the health and safety of animals, whenever an order issued pursuant to this section requires the restraint of an animal, the order shall be effective upon its issuance and shall remain in effect during any appeal of such order;

(2) In the interest of public health and safety, and the health and safety of animals, whenever an order issued pursuant to this section requires the disposal of an animal, the issuing officer shall take physical custody and retain possession of the animal subject to the order during any appeal of such order;

(3) Not later than twenty-four hours after the issuance of any order issued pursuant to this section, a copy of the order shall be delivered to the owner or keeper of the biting or attacking animal, and the person bitten or attacked, or to the owner or keeper of an animal which has been bitten or attacked. The order shall also include a statement informing the owner or keeper of the biting or attacking animal of their right to pursue an appeal of the order;

(4) Not later than fifteen days after the date of an order issued pursuant to this section by any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-331a, the municipality in which the attack occurred shall offer in writing to the dog owner a pre-appeal meeting, which may include the owner or keeper of the animal subject to the order and the person who was bitten or attacked, or the owner or keeper of an animal which has been bitten or attacked, to determine if the order is in dispute. At such meeting the owner or keeper of the animal subject to the order and their legal counsel, if any, the animal control officer issuing the order and the animal control officer's appointing authority, or their designee, may stipulate to an alternate order. All settlement discussions that occur during the pre-appeal meeting shall be confidential and protected from disclosure under state law;

(5) A statement of the conclusion of the pre-appeal meeting, including only the names of the attending parties, the date of the prehearing meeting and whether the order was modified, shall be provided by the municipality to the owner or keeper of the animal subject to the order, and the victim or the owner or keeper of an animal

which has been bitten or attacked, not later than twenty-four hours after the conclusion of the pre-appeal meeting. If a pre-appeal meeting statement is issued pursuant to this subdivision, then the time to appeal to the Superior Court shall run from the date of the issuance of such statement. If there is no pre-appeal meeting, then the time to appeal to the Superior Court runs from the date of the order;

(6) Any person aggrieved by any order issued under the provisions of this section by the commissioner or any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, may appeal to the Superior Court of the judicial district in which such aggrieved person is a resident, provided such appeal is made not later than forty-five days after issuance of the order. If the person aggrieved by an order engages in a pre-appeal meeting under subdivision (4) of this subsection, then the time to appeal to the Superior Court shall run from the date of the statement issued pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection. The pre-appeal meeting shall be concluded for purposes of this section not later than thirty days after the date of the order;

(7) The owner or keeper of any animal subject to an order issued pursuant to this section shall pay all fees as set forth in section 22-333. If an owner or keeper of an animal subject to an order issued pursuant to this section fails to comply with any restraint order made pursuant to this section, any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a may seize the animal prior to or during the pendency of an appeal and until completion of an appeal of such order to ensure such compliance and the owner shall be responsible for any expenses resulting from such seizure;

(8) Once the order becomes a final order or judgment, the order is enforceable on a state-wide basis and any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a shall have the authority to enforce the final order or judgment; and

(9) Any owner or keeper of an animal subject to a final order or judgment issued pursuant to this subsection who fails to comply with a final order or judgment shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

[(h)**]** (i) A person who sustains damage **[**by a dog**]** or physical injury to such person's poultry, ratite, domestic rabbit, **[**companion**]** animal or livestock as defined in section 22-278, by a biting or attacking dog shall make complaint concerning circumstances of the bite or attack by such dog on any such animal or livestock to the **[**Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or the municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer of the town in which such dog is owned or kept**]** animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-331a of the town in which the bite or attack occurred. The animal control officer to whom such complaint is made shall investigate the circumstances of the attack set forth in the complaint and report on the circumstances of the attack to the Chief State Animal Control Officer, appointed pursuant to section 22-328. An officer to whom such complaint is made shall immediately investigate such complaint. **[**If such officer finds that the complainant's animal has been bitten or attacked by a dog when the attacked animal was not on the premises of the owner or keeper of the attacking dog and provided the complainant's animal was under the control of the complainant or on the complainant's property, such officer, the commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer or any animal control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or disposal of such attacking dog as the commissioner or such officer deems necessary. An owner or keeper of such dog who fails to comply with such order shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor. If the owner or keeper of such dog fails to comply with an order made pursuant to this subsection, the Chief Animal Control Officer or any animal control officer, municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer may seize the dog to ensure such compliance, and the owner or keeper of such dog shall be responsible for any expenses resulting from such seizure. A person aggrieved by an

order of the Chief Animal Control Officer or any animal control officer, municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer made pursuant to this subsection may request a hearing before the commissioner not later than fourteen days after the issuance of such order. After such hearing, the commissioner may affirm, modify or revoke such order as the commissioner deems proper. A dog owned by a police agency of the state or any of its political subdivisions is exempt from the provisions of this section when such dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of an assigned police officer, has been vaccinated annually and is subject to routine veterinary care.**]** In the interest of public health and safety, and the health and safety of animals, if after investigation, any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-331a in the municipality or region in which an alleged dog bite or attack occurs determines that an animal has in fact been bitten or attacked by a dog, such animal control officer, or the Chief State Animal Control Officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, may make any order concerning the restraint or disposal of such biting or attacking dog as is necessary to protect public health and safety and the health and safety of animals. In determining the type of order to be issued or conditions of restraint to be imposed, the animal control officer shall consider factors that include, but need not be limited to: (1) The ability of the owner or keeper to control the dog; (2) the severity of injury inflicted by the biting or attacking dog; (3) the viciousness of the bite or attack; (4) any history of past bites or attacks by the dog; (5) whether the bite or attack occurred at a location that is off of the property of the owner or keeper of the biting or attacking dog, provided the animal attacked was under the control of animal's owner or keeper, or the animal attacked was on property of the owner or keeper; (6) whether the biting or attacking dog was provoked; and (7) whether the biting or attacking dog was protecting its owner or keeper from physical harm.

(j) Any dog or other animal owned by the United States military, a law enforcement agency of the United States or a law enforcement

agency of this state or any of its political subdivisions shall be exempt from the provisions of this section when such dog or other animal is owned by or in the custody and control of such agency and under the direct supervision, care and control of an assigned handler, is currently vaccinated for rabies and is subject to routine veterinary care. Any service animal owned by or in the custody and control of a person with a disability shall be exempt from the provisions of this section when such service animal is under the direct supervision, care and control of such person, is currently vaccinated for rabies and is subject to routine veterinary care. As used in this subsection, "service animal" and "disability" have the same meanings as provided in section 22-345.

Sec. 29. Section 52-380a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) A judgment lien, securing the unpaid amount of any money judgment, including interest and costs, may be placed on any real property by recording, in the town clerk's office in the town where the real property lies, a judgment lien certificate, signed by the judgment creditor or his attorney or personal representative, containing: (1) A statement of the names and last-known addresses of the judgment creditor and judgment debtor, the court in which and the date on which the judgment was rendered, and the original amount of the money judgment and the amount due thereon; and (2) a description, which need not be by metes and bounds, of the real property on which a lien is to be placed, and a statement that the lien has been placed on such property.

(b) From the time of the recording of the judgment lien certificate, the money judgment shall be a lien on the judgment debtor's interest in the real property described. If, within four months of judgment, the lien is placed on real property which was previously attached in the action, the lien on that property shall hold from the date of attachment, provided the judgment lien certificate contains a clause referring to and

identifying the attachment, substantially in the following form: "This lien is filed within four months after judgment in the action was rendered and relates back to an attachment of real property recorded on (month) (day) (year), at Volume ___ Page ___ of the ___ land records."

(c) A judgment lien on real property may be foreclosed or redeemed in the same manner as mortgages on the same property.

(d) In the case of a consumer judgment, the complaint shall indicate whether, pursuant to an installment payment order under subsection (b) of section 52-356d, the court has entered a stay of execution and, if such a stay was entered, shall allege any default on an installment payment order which is a precondition to foreclosure. In addition, the judgment creditor shall give notice to the judgment debtor of the Ezequiel Santiago Foreclosure Mediation Program, established pursuant to section 49-31m, by attaching to the front of the writ, summons and complaint that is served on the judgment debtor: (1) A copy of the notice of foreclosure mediation, in such form as the Chief Court Administrator prescribes, (2) a copy of the foreclosure mediation certificate form described in subsection (c) of section 49-3l*l*, in such form as the Chief Court Administrator prescribes, and (3) a blank appearance form, in such form as the Chief Court Administrator prescribes. The notice of foreclosure mediation shall instruct the judgment debtor to file the appearance and foreclosure mediation certificate forms with the court not later than fifteen days from the return date for the foreclosure action. If the judgment debtor elects to participate in, and the court orders the case assigned to, said foreclosure mediation program, (A) the judgment debtor shall be entitled to the rights and shall assume the obligations of a mortgagor under sections 49-31k to 49-31o, inclusive, and (B) a judgment creditor shall be entitled to the rights and shall assume the obligations of a mortgagee under sections 49-31k to 49-31o, inclusive, except that the judgment creditor shall not be required to furnish the mortgage specific information described in subsection (d) of

section 49-31*l*, but instead shall furnish a copy of the underlying judgment, and an accounting of current interest and other charges incurred for the time period prescribed in subsection (d) of section 49-31*l*. No action to foreclose a judgment lien filed pursuant to this section may be commenced unless an execution may issue pursuant to section 52-356a. The judgment lien shall expire twenty years after the judgment was rendered, except any judgment lien recorded with respect to a small claims action shall expire ten years after the judgment was rendered, unless the party claiming the lien commences an action to foreclose it within that period of time and records a notice of lis pendens in evidence thereof on the land records of the town in which the real property is located.

Sec. 30. Section 51-274 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

All special acts or provisions thereof inconsistent with this chapter and with sections 1-1a, 2-5, 2-40, 2-61, 5-164, 5-189, 7-80, 8-12, 9-63, 9-258, 9-368, 12-154, 14-141, 14-142, 18-65, 18-73, 19a-220, 21a-96, 29-13, 29-362, 30-105, 30-107, 30-111, 35-22, 46b-120, 46b-133, 46b-560, 47a-23, 47a-28, 47a-35, 47a-37, 49-61, 49-62, 51-6a, 51-9, 51-15, 51-27, 51-30, 51-33, 51-34, 51-36, 51-48, 51-49, 51-50, 51-51, 51-52, **[**51-59,**]** 51-72, 51-73, 51-95, 51-183b, 51-183d, 51-183f, 51-183g, 51-215a, 51-229, 51-232, 51-237, as amended by this act, and 51-241, subsection (a) of section 51-243 and sections 51-247, 51-347, 52-45a, 52-45b, 52-46, 52-97, 52-112, 52-139, 52-193, 52-194, 52-196, 52-209, 52-212, 52-215, 52-226, 52-240, 52-257, 52-258, 52-261, 52-263, 52-268, 52-270, 52-278i, 52-293, 52-297, 52-298, 52-324, 52-351, 52-397, 52-425, 52-427, 52-428, 52-521, 53-308, 53-328, 54-2a, 54-56f, 54-66, 54-72, 54-74, 54-82g, 54-82j, 54-82k, 54-95a, 54-96a, 54-96b, 54-97, 54-108, 54-154, 54-166 and 54-169 to 54-174, inclusive, are repealed.

Sec. 31. Subsection (d) of section 1-205 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

1, 2024):

(d) The commission shall, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act promptly review the alleged violation of said Freedom of Information Act and issue an order pertaining to the same. Said commission shall have the power to investigate all alleged violations of said Freedom of Information Act and may for the purpose of investigating any violation hold a hearing, administer oaths, examine witnesses, receive oral and documentary evidence, have the power to subpoena witnesses under procedural rules adopted by the commission to compel attendance and to require the production for examination of any books and papers which the commission deems relevant in any matter under investigation or in question. In case of a refusal to comply with any such subpoena or to testify with respect to any matter upon which that person may be lawfully interrogated, the superior court for the judicial district **[**of New Britain**]** in which the public agency is located, on application of the commission, may issue an order requiring such person to comply with such subpoena and to testify; failure to obey any such order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof.

Sec. 32. Subsection (b) of section 1-206 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(b) (1) Any person denied the right to inspect or copy records under section 1-210 or wrongfully denied the right to attend any meeting of a public agency or denied any other right conferred by the Freedom of Information Act may appeal therefrom to the Freedom of Information Commission, by filing a notice of appeal with said commission. A notice of appeal shall be filed not later than thirty days after such denial, except in the case of an unnoticed or secret meeting, in which case the appeal shall be filed not later than thirty days after the person filing the appeal receives actual or constructive notice that such meeting was held. For

purposes of this subsection, such notice of appeal shall be deemed to be filed on the date it is received by said commission or on the date it is postmarked, if received more than thirty days after the date of the denial from which such appeal is taken. Upon receipt of such notice, the commission shall serve upon all parties, by certified or registered mail or by electronic transmission, a copy of such notice together with any other notice or order of such commission. In the case of the denial of a request to inspect or copy records contained in a public employee's personnel or medical file or similar file under subsection (c) of section 1-214, the commission shall include with its notice or order an order requiring the public agency to notify any employee whose records are the subject of an appeal, and the employee's collective bargaining representative, if any, of the commission's proceedings and, if any such employee or collective bargaining representative has filed an objection under said subsection (c), the agency shall provide the required notice to such employee and collective bargaining representative by certified mail, return receipt requested, by electronic transmission or by hand delivery with a signed receipt. A public employee whose personnel or medical file or similar file is the subject of an appeal under this subsection may intervene as a party in the proceedings on the matter before the commission. Said commission shall, after due notice to the parties, hear and decide the appeal not later than one year after the filing of the notice of appeal. The commission shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54, establishing criteria for those appeals which shall be privileged in their assignment for hearing. Any such appeal shall be heard not later than thirty days after receipt of a notice of appeal and decided not later than sixty days after the hearing. If a notice of appeal concerns an announced agency decision to meet in executive session or an ongoing agency practice of meeting in executive sessions, for a stated purpose, the commission or a member or members of the commission designated by its chairperson shall serve notice upon the parties in accordance with this section and hold a preliminary hearing on the appeal not later than seventy-two hours after receipt of the notice,

provided such notice shall be given to the parties at least forty-eight hours prior to such hearing. During such preliminary hearing, the commission shall take evidence and receive testimony from the parties. If after the preliminary hearing the commission finds probable cause to believe that the agency decision or practice is in violation of sections 1-200 and 1-225, the agency shall not meet in executive session for such purpose until the commission decides the appeal. If probable cause is found by the commission, it shall conduct a final hearing on the appeal and render its decision not later than five days after the completion of the preliminary hearing. Such decision shall specify the commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(2) In any appeal to the Freedom of Information Commission under subdivision (1) of this subsection or subsection (c) of this section, the commission may confirm the action of the agency or order the agency to provide relief that the commission, in its discretion, believes appropriate to rectify the denial of any right conferred by the Freedom of Information Act. The commission may declare null and void any action taken at any meeting which a person was denied the right to attend and may require the production or copying of any public record. In addition, upon the finding that a denial of any right created by the Freedom of Information Act was without reasonable grounds and after the custodian or other official directly responsible for the denial has been given an opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive, the commission may, in its discretion, impose against the custodian or other official a civil penalty of not less than twenty dollars nor more than five thousand dollars. If the commission finds that a person has taken an appeal under this subsection frivolously, without reasonable grounds and solely for the purpose of harassing the agency from which the appeal has been taken, after such person has been given an opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive, the commission may, in its discretion, impose against that

person a civil penalty of not less than twenty dollars nor more than one thousand dollars. The commission shall notify a person of a penalty levied against such person pursuant to this subsection by written notice sent by certified or registered mail or electronic transmission. If a person fails to pay the penalty not later than thirty days after receiving such notice, the Superior Court shall, on application of the commission, issue an order requiring the person to pay the penalty imposed. If the executive director of the commission has reason to believe an appeal under subdivision (1) of this subsection or subsection (c) of this section (A) presents a claim beyond the commission's jurisdiction; (B) would perpetrate an injustice; or (C) would constitute an abuse of the commission's administrative process, the executive director shall not schedule the appeal for hearing without first seeking and obtaining leave of the commission. The commission shall provide due notice to the parties and review affidavits and written argument that the parties may submit and grant or deny such leave summarily at its next regular meeting. The commission shall grant such leave unless it finds that the appeal: (i) Does not present a claim within the commission's jurisdiction; (ii) would perpetrate an injustice; or (iii) would constitute an abuse of the commission's administrative process. Any party aggrieved by the commission's denial of such leave may apply to the superior court for the judicial district **[**of New Britain**]** in which the public agency is located, not later than fifteen days of the commission meeting at which such leave was denied, for an order requiring the commission to hear such appeal.

(3) In making the findings and determination under subdivision (2) of this subsection the commission shall consider the nature of any injustice or abuse of administrative process, including, but not limited to: (A) The nature, content, language or subject matter of the request or the appeal, including, among other factors, whether the request or appeal is repetitious or cumulative; (B) the nature, content, language or subject matter of prior or contemporaneous requests or appeals by the

person making the request or taking the appeal; (C) the nature, content, language or subject matter of other verbal and written communications to any agency or any official of any agency from the person making the request or taking the appeal; (D) any history of nonappearance at commission proceedings or disruption of the commission's administrative process, including, but not limited to, delaying commission proceedings; and (E) the refusal to participate in settlement conferences conducted by a commission ombudsman in accordance with the commission's regulations.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, in the case of an appeal to the commission of a denial by a public agency, the commission may, upon motion of such agency, confirm the action of the agency and dismiss the appeal without a hearing if it finds, after examining the notice of appeal and construing all allegations most favorably to the appellant, that (A) the agency has not violated the Freedom of Information Act, or (B) the agency has committed a technical violation of the Freedom of Information Act that constitutes a harmless error that does not infringe the appellant's rights under said act.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, in the case of an appeal to the commission of a denial by a public agency where, after a hearing, the commission finds the public agency is engaging in a practice or pattern of conduct that constitutes an obstruction of any right conferred by the Freedom of Information Act or reckless, wilful or wanton misconduct with regard to the delay or denial of responses to requests for public records under said act, the commission may impose a civil penalty of not less than twenty dollars nor more than five thousand dollars against a custodian or other official of such public agency, and order such other relief that the commission, in its discretion, determines is appropriate to rectify such obstruction or misconduct and to deter such public agency from violating the Freedom of Information Act. In case of any failure or refusal to comply with any order issued

under this subdivision, the commission may apply to the superior court for the judicial district **[**of New Britain**]** in which the public agency is located for an order requiring such public agency to comply with such order.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, a public agency may petition the commission for relief from a requester that the public agency alleges is a vexatious requester. Such petition shall be sworn under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-157b, and shall detail the conduct which the agency alleges demonstrates a vexatious history of requests, including, but not limited to: (A) The number of requests filed and the total number of pending requests; (B) the scope of the requests; (C) the nature, content, language or subject matter of the requests; (D) the nature, content, language or subject matter of other oral and written communications to the agency from the requester; and (E) a pattern of conduct that amounts to an abuse of the right to access information under the Freedom of Information Act or an interference with the operation of the agency. Upon receipt of such petition, the executive director of the commission shall review the petition and determine whether it warrants a hearing. If the executive director determines that a hearing is not warranted, the executive director shall recommend that the commission deny the petition without a hearing. The commission shall vote at its next regular meeting after such recommendation to accept or reject such recommendation and, after such meeting, shall issue a written explanation of the reasons for such acceptance or rejection. If the executive director determines that a hearing is warranted, the commission shall serve upon all parties, by certified or registered mail or electronic transmission, a copy of such petition together with any other notice or order of the commission. The commission shall, after due notice to the parties, hear and either grant or deny the petition not later than one year after its filing. Upon a grant of such petition, the commission may provide appropriate relief commensurate with the vexatious conduct, including, but not limited

to, an order that the agency need not comply with future requests from the vexatious requester for a specified period of time, but not to exceed one year. Any party aggrieved by the commission's granting of such petition may apply to the superior court for the judicial district **[**of New Britain**]** in which the public agency is located, not later than fifteen days after the commission meeting at which such petition was granted, for an order reversing the commission's decision.

Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 51-344a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) Whenever the term "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain" or "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford" is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, it shall be deemed to mean or refer to the judicial district of Hartford on and after September 1, 1998: Sections **[**1-205, 1-206,**]** 2-48, 3-21a, 3-62d, 3-70a, 3-71a, 4-61, 4-160, 4-164, 4-177b, 4-180, 4-183, 4-197, 5-202, 5-276a, 8-30g, 9-7a, 9-7b, 9-369b, 10-153e, 12-208, 12-237, 12-268*l*, 12-312, 12-330m, 12-405k, 12-422, 12-448, 12-454, 12-456, 12-463, 12-489, 12-522, 12-554, 12-565, 12-572, 12-586f, 12-597, 12-730, 13b-34, 13b-235, 13b-315, 13b-375, 14-57, 14-66, 14-67u, 14-110, 14-195, 14-311, 14-311c, 14-324, 14-331, 15-125, 15-126, 16-41, 16a-5, 17b-60, 17b-100, 17b-238, 17b-531, 19a-85, 19a-86, 19a-425, 19a-498, 19a-517, 19a-526, 19a-633, 20-12f, 20-13e, 20-29, 20-40, 20-45, 20-59, 20-73a, 20-86f, 20-99, 20-114, 20-133, 20-154, 20-156, 20-162p, 20-192, 20-195p, 20-202, 20-206c, 20-227, 20-238, 20-247, 20-263, 20-271, 20-307, 20-341f, 20-363, 20-373, 20-404, 20-414, 21a-55, 21a-190i, 22-7, 22-228, 22-248, 22-254, 22-320d, 22-326a, 22-344b, 22-386, 22a-6b, 22a-7, 22a-16, 22a-30, 22a-34, 22a-53, 22a-60, 22a-62, 22a-63, 22a-66h, 22a-106a, 22a-119, 22a-180, 22a-182a, 22a-184, 22a-220a, 22a-220d, 22a-225, 22a-226, 22a-226c, 22a-227, 22a-250, 22a-255*l*, 22a-276, 22a-310, 22a-342a, 22a-344, 22a-361a, 22a-374, 22a-376, 22a-408, 22a-430, 22a-432, 22a-438, 22a-449f, 22a-449g, 22a-459, 23-5e, 23-65m, 25-32e, 25-36, 28-5, 29-143j, 29-158, 29-161z, 29-

323, 30-8, 31-109, 31-249b, 31-266, 31-266a, 31-270, 31-273, 31-284, 31-285, 31-339, 31-355a, 31-379, 35-3c, 35-42, 36a-186, 36a-187, 36a-471a, 36a-494, 36a-587, 36a-647, 36a-684, 36a-718, 36a-807, 36b-26, 36b-27, 36b-30, 36b-50, 36b-71, 36b-72, 36b-74, 36b-76, 38a-41, 38a-52, 38a-134, 38a-139, 38a-140, 38a-147, 38a-150, 38a-185, 38a-209, 38a-225, 38a-226b, 38a-241, 38a-337, 38a-470, 38a-620, 38a-657, 38a-687, 38a-774, 38a-776, 38a-817, 38a-843, 38a-868, 38a-906, 38a-994, 42-103c, 42-110d, 42-110k, 42-110p, 42-182, 46a-56, 46a-100, 47a-21, 49-73, 51-44a, 51-81b, 51-194, 52-146j, 53-392d and 54-211a.

Sec. 34. Section 51-14 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) The judges of the Supreme Court, the judges of the Appellate Court, and the judges of the Superior Court shall adopt and promulgate and may from time to time modify or repeal rules and forms regulating pleading, practice and procedure in judicial proceedings in courts in which they have the constitutional authority to make rules, for the purpose of simplifying proceedings in the courts and of promoting the speedy and efficient determination of litigation upon its merits. The rules of the Appellate Court shall be as consistent as feasible with the rules of the Supreme Court to promote uniformity in the procedure for the taking of appeals and may dispense, so far as justice to the parties will permit while affording a fair review, with the necessity of printing of records and briefs. Such rules shall not abridge, enlarge or modify any substantive right or the jurisdiction of any of the courts. Such rules shall become effective on such date as the judges specify but not in any event until sixty days after such promulgation, except that such rules may become effective prior to the expiration of the sixty-day time period if the judges deem that circumstances require that a new rule or a change to an existing rule be adopted expeditiously.

[(b) All statutes relating to pleading, practice and procedure in existence on July 1, 1957, shall be deemed to be rules of court and shall

remain in effect as such only until modified, superseded or suspended by rules adopted and promulgated by the judges of the Supreme Court or the Superior Court pursuant to the provisions of this section. The Chief Justice shall report any such rules to the General Assembly for study at the beginning of each regular session. Such rules shall be referred by the speaker of the House or by the president of the Senate to the judiciary committee for its consideration and such committee shall schedule hearings thereon. Any rule or any part thereof disapproved by the General Assembly by resolution shall be void and of no effect and a copy of such resolution shall thereafter be published once in the Connecticut Law Journal.**]**

[(c)**]** (b) The judges or a committee of their number shall hold public hearings, of which reasonable notice shall be given in the Connecticut Law Journal and otherwise as they deem proper, upon any proposed new rule or any change in an existing rule that is to come before said judges for action, and each such proposed new rule or change in an existing rule shall be published in the Connecticut Law Journal as a part of such notice. A public hearing shall be held at least once a year, of which reasonable notice shall likewise be given, at which any member of the bar or layman may bring to the attention of the judges any new rule or change in an existing rule that he deems desirable.

[(d)**]** (c) Upon the taking effect of such rules adopted and promulgated by the judges of the Supreme Court pursuant to the provisions of this section, all provisions of rules theretofore promulgated by the judges of the Superior Court shall be deemed to be repealed.

Sec. 35. Section 52-278n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) The court may, on motion of a party, order an appearing defendant to disclose property in which he has an interest or debts

owing to him sufficient to satisfy a prejudgment remedy. The existence, location and extent of the defendant's interest in such property or debts shall be subject to disclosure. The form and terms of disclosure shall be determined by the court.

(b) A motion to disclose pursuant to this section may be made by attaching it to the application for a prejudgment remedy or may be made at any time after the filing of the application.

(c) The court may order disclosure at any time prior to final judgment after it has determined that the party filing the motion for disclosure has, pursuant to section 52-278d, 52-278e or 52-278i, probable cause sufficient for the granting of a prejudgment remedy.

(d) A defendant, in lieu of disclosing assets pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, may move the court for substitution either of a bond with surety substantially in compliance with sections 52-307 and 52-308, or of other sufficient security.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, no party may compel disclosure of the names and addresses of clients of an individual or entity that provides professional services, as defined in subdivision (20) of section 4e-1, when the disclosure of such names and addresses would constitute a violation of state or federal law, or the applicable rules of professional conduct governing such profession, as the case may be.

[(e)**]** (f) Rules of court shall be enacted to carry out the foregoing provisions and may provide for reasonable sanctions to enforce orders issued pursuant to this section.

Sec. 36. Section 52-351b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) A judgment creditor may obtain discovery from the judgment

debtor, or from any third person the judgment creditor reasonably believes, in good faith, may have assets of the judgment debtor, or from any financial institution to the extent provided by this section, of any matters relevant to satisfaction of the money judgment. The judgment creditor shall commence any discovery proceeding by serving an initial set of interrogatories, in a prescribed form containing such questions as to the assets and employment of the judgment debtor as may be approved by the judges of the Superior Court or their designee, on the person from whom discovery is sought. Service of an initial set of interrogatories relevant to obtaining satisfaction of a money judgment of a small claims session of the Superior Court may be made by sending such interrogatories by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person from whom discovery is sought. Questions contained in the interrogatory form shall be in clear and simple language and shall be placed on the page in such manner as to leave space under each question for the person served to insert such person's answer. Such person shall answer the interrogatories and return them to the judgment creditor within thirty days of the date of service. Interrogatories served on a judgment debtor shall be signed by such debtor under penalty of false statement. With respect to assets, the person served is required to reveal information concerning the amount, nature and location of the judgment debtor's nonexempt assets up to an amount clearly sufficient in value to ensure full satisfaction of the judgment with interest and costs, provided disclosure shall be first required as to assets subject to levy or foreclosure within the state. If interrogatories are served on a financial institution, the financial institution shall disclose only whether it holds funds of the judgment debtor on account and the balance of such funds, up to the amount necessary to satisfy the judgment.

(b) The interrogatory form shall specify the names and last-known addresses of the judgment creditor and the judgment debtor, the court in which and the date on which the judgment was rendered, and the original amount of the judgment and the amount due thereon. The

interrogatory form shall contain a notice of rights with respect to postjudgment interrogatories as prescribed by section 52-361b.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no party may compel disclosure of the names and addresses of clients of an individual or entity that provides professional services, as defined in subdivision (20) of section 4e-1, when the disclosure of such names and addresses would constitute a violation of state or federal law, or the applicable rules of professional conduct governing such profession, as the case may be.

[(c)**]** (d) On failure of a person served with interrogatories to return, within the thirty days, a sufficient answer or disclose sufficient assets for execution, or on objection by such person to the interrogatories, the judgment creditor may move the court for such supplemental discovery orders as may be necessary to ensure disclosure including (1) an order for compliance with the interrogatories, or (2) an order authorizing additional interrogatories. The judgment creditor may obtain discovery, including the taking of depositions, from any person served with interrogatories in accordance with procedures for discovery in civil actions without further order of the court. The court may order such additional discovery as justice requires provided the order shall contain a notice that failure to comply therewith may subject the person served to being held in contempt of court.

[(d)**]** (e) Any party from whom discovery is sought may seek a protective order pursuant to section 52-400a.

Sec. 37. Section 51-343 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

For purposes of this chapter and section 52-46a, the following definitions shall apply:

[(a) "Domestic corporation" means any corporation incorporated

under the laws of this state.**]**

(1) "Domestic business organization" means any sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, firm or other form of business or legal entity organized or incorporated under the laws of this state.

[(b)**]** (2) "Filed" means filed at the court location where there is a clerk designated to receive and maintain the record of the action regardless of the court location to which the writ is made returnable.

[(c) "Foreign corporation"**]** (3) "Foreign business organization" means any **[**corporation**]** sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, firm or other form of business or legal entity incorporated under the laws of any other state or foreign government.

[(d)**]** (4) "Made returnable" designates the judicial district court location or geographical area where the plaintiff desires the case to be heard.

[(e)**]** (5) "Property" means anything of value.

[(f) "United States corporation" means any corporation incorporated under the laws of the United States.**]**

Sec. 38. Subsection (c) of section 51-345 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(c) In all actions by a **[**corporation**]** domestic or foreign business organization, except actions made returnable under subsection (b), (d) or (g) of this section, civil process shall be made returnable as follows:

(1) If the plaintiff is **[**either a domestic corporation or a United States corporation**]** a domestic business organization and the defendant is a

resident, either (A) to the judicial district where the plaintiff has an office or place of business, or (B) to the judicial district where the defendant resides, except:

(i) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

(ii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(iii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

(iv) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(v) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district of Bridgeport.

(vi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(vii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.

(viii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348, as amended by this act, or in rules of court.

(ix) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Middlesex.

(x) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(xi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial district of Tolland.

(2) If the plaintiff is **[**either a domestic corporation or a United States corporation**]** a domestic business organization and the defendant is a **[**corporation, domestic or foreign**]** domestic or foreign business organization, to the judicial district where (A) the plaintiff has an office or place of business, (B) the injury occurred, (C) the transaction occurred, or (D) the property is located or lawfully attached, except:

(i) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of

Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

(ii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(iii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

(iv) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(v) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district of Bridgeport.

(vi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(vii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.

(viii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348, as amended by this act, or in rules of court.

(ix) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Middlesex.

(x) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(xi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial district of Tolland.

(3) If the plaintiff is a foreign **[**corporation**]** business organization and the defendant is a resident, to the judicial district where the defendant resides.

(4) If the plaintiff is a foreign **[**corporation**]** business organization and the defendant is a **[**corporation,**]** domestic or foreign business organization, to the judicial district where (A) the injury occurred, (B) the transaction occurred, or (C) the property is located or lawfully attached.

Sec. 39. Subsection (g) of section 51-345 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(g) Venue for small claims matters shall be at Superior Court facilities designated by the Chief Court Administrator to hear such matters. In small claims matters, civil process shall be made returnable to the Superior Court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator to serve the small claims area where the plaintiff resides, where the defendant resides or is doing business or where the transaction or injury occurred. If the plaintiff is a **[**domestic corporation, a United States corporation, a foreign corporation or a limited liability company**]** domestic or foreign business organization, civil process shall be made returnable to a Superior Court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator to serve the small claims area where the defendant resides or is doing business or where the transaction or injury occurred.

Sec. 40. Section 22-357 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Law enforcement officer" means: Each officer, employee or other person otherwise paid by or acting as an agent of (A) the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; (B) the Office of the State Capitol Police; (C) a municipal police department; and (D) the Department of Correction;

(2) "Property" includes, but is not limited to, a companion animal, as defined in section 22-351a; and

(3) "The amount of such damage", with respect to a companion animal, includes expenses of veterinary care, the fair monetary value of the companion animal, including all training expenses for a guide dog owned by a blind person or an assistance dog owned by a deaf or mobility impaired person and burial expenses for the companion animal.

(b) If any dog does any damage to either the body or property of any

person, the owner**,** **[**or**]** keeper, or both, shall be liable for the amount of such damage, except when such damage has been occasioned to the body or property of a person who, at the time such damage was sustained, was committing a trespass or other tort, or was teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog. **[**or, if**]** If the owner or keeper is a minor, the parent or guardian of such minor, shall be liable for the amount of such damage. **[**, except when such damage has been occasioned to the body or property of a person who, at the time such damage was sustained, was committing a trespass or other tort, or was teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog.**]** If a minor, on whose behalf an action under this section is brought, was under seven years of age at the time such damage was done, it shall be presumed that such minor was not committing a trespass or other tort, or teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog, and the burden of proof thereof shall be upon the defendant in such action. In an action under this section against a household member of a law enforcement officer to whom has been assigned a dog owned by a law enforcement agency of the state, any political subdivision of the state or the federal government for damage done by such dog, it shall be presumed that such household member is not a keeper of such dog and the burden of proof shall be upon the plaintiff to establish that such household member was a keeper of such dog and had exclusive control of such dog at the time such damage was sustained.

Sec. 41. Section 22-364b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and is in proximity to a person with a disability accompanied by a service animal, provided such service animal is readily identifiable as a service animal, is in the direct custody of such person and is licensed in

accordance with section 22-345. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall have committed an infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of this section and, as a result of such violation, such dog attacks and injures the service animal, such owner, **[**or**]** keeper, or both, shall be liable, as provided in section 22-357, as amended by this act, for any damage done to such service animal, and such liability shall include liability for any costs incurred by such person for the veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the injured service animal and for reasonable attorney's fees.

Sec. 42. Subsection (a) of section 54-142t of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Judicial Branch and the Criminal Justice Information System Governing Board established pursuant to section 54-142q, shall develop and implement automated processes for erasure pursuant to section 54-142a. Any agency holding records subject to such automated processes for erasure, including, but not limited to, the Department of Correction, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Judicial Branch and the Criminal Justice Information System Governing Board, shall assist the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in carrying out such automated processes for erasure and shall provide all necessary information to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Sec. 43. Section 9 of public act 24-18 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 44. Sections 51-59 and 51-185 of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2024*)

Approved June 4, 2024