



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 532

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 426

Senate, April 17, 2024

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING COURT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

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

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2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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

4 (1) The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the
5 contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination
6 against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color,
7 religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender
8 identity or expression, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic
9 violence, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability,
10 including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such
11 contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work
12 involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or
13 of the state of Connecticut; and the contractor further agrees to take
14 affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job-related

15 qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when
16 employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age,
17 marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or
18 expression, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence,
19 intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including,
20 but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that
21 such disability prevents performance of the work involved;

22 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-140 of the general statutes is
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
24 *2024*):

25 (b) If any person so arrested or summoned wilfully fails to appear for
26 any scheduled court appearance at the time and place assigned, or if any
27 person charged with an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle,
28 or with a motor vehicle violation specified in section 51-164n, wilfully
29 fails to comply with remote events and deadlines set by the court for
30 infractions and violations specified in section 51-164n or fails to pay the
31 fine and any additional fee imposed or send in his plea of not guilty by
32 the answer date or wilfully fails to appear for any scheduled court
33 appearance which may be required, or if any person fails to pay any
34 surcharge imposed under section 13b-70, any fee imposed under section
35 51-56a or any cost imposed under section 54-143 or 54-143a, a report of
36 such failure shall be sent to the commissioner by the court having
37 jurisdiction. The provisions of this section shall be extended to any
38 nonresident owner or operator of a motor vehicle residing in any state,
39 the proper authorities of which agree with the commissioner to revoke,
40 until personal appearance to answer the charge against him, his motor
41 vehicle registration certificate or operator's license, upon his failure to
42 appear for any scheduled court appearance. Any infractions or
43 violations, for which a report of failure to appear has been sent to the
44 commissioner under this subsection, that have not otherwise been
45 disposed of shall be dismissed by operation of law seven years after
46 such report was sent.

47 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 29-38c of the 2024 supplement to the

48 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
49 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

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

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

94 (a) The [judges of the Superior Court] Chief Court Administrator
95 shall appoint such [domestic relations officers and other] family
96 relations personnel as [they deem] the Chief Court Administrator deems
97 necessary for the proper operation of the family relations sessions. The
98 salaries and duties of such officers shall be determined by the judges of
99 the Supreme Court in accordance with the compensation plan
100 established under section 51-12. For the purposes of any investigation
101 or pretrial conference the judge presiding at any family relations session
102 may employ the services of any probation officer, including those under
103 the direction of Adult Probation Services, physician, psychologist,
104 psychiatrist or family counselor. [Each person serving on July 1, 1978, in
105 the Court of Common Pleas appointed under the provisions of section
106 51-156c, revised to 1975, shall continue to serve in the Superior Court. In
107 no event shall the compensation of such person be affected solely as a
108 result of the transfer of jurisdiction provided in section 51-164s.] The
109 Chief Court Administrator may assign, reassign and modify the
110 assignments of such family relations personnel as [he] such
111 administrator deems necessary to be in the best interest of the
112 disposition of family relations matters. [Such family relations personnel
113 shall also be available to assist the courts of probate in cases involving
114 judicial consent to marriage of a minor.]

115 Sec. 5. Section 46b-123 of the general statutes is repealed and the

116 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

142 (a) The Chief Court Administrator [, in consultation with the judges
143 of the Superior Court,] shall establish districts for the purpose of
144 establishing venue in juvenile matters. All petitions concerning
145 delinquent children shall be heard within the district where the
146 delinquency is alleged to have occurred or where the child resides, in
147 the discretion of the court. All other petitions shall be heard within the
148 district where the child or youth resided at the time of the filing of the

149 petition, but for the purposes of this section any child or youth born in
150 any hospital or institution where the mother is confined at the time of
151 birth shall be deemed to have residence in the district wherein such
152 child's or youth's mother was living at the time of her admission to such
153 hospital or institution.

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

156 The [court] Chief Court Administrator is authorized to establish and
157 maintain Support Enforcement Services and such offices thereof as [it
158 determines are] the administrator deems necessary for the proper
159 handling of the administrative details incident to proceedings under
160 sections 46b-231 and 46b-301 to 46b-425, inclusive, and may appoint
161 such personnel as necessary for the proper administration of the
162 nonjudicial functions of proceedings under sections 46b-231 and 46b-
163 301 to 46b-425, inclusive.

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

166 (a) When any appeal is taken by the defendant occupying a dwelling
167 unit [as defined in section 47a-1] in an action of summary process, [he
168 shall, within the period allowed for taking such appeal, give a bond with
169 surety to the adverse party] the chief clerk of the Appellate Court, or the
170 chief clerk's designee, shall transmit notice of the pendency of the appeal
171 to the Superior Court that rendered the judgment that is the subject of
172 the appeal. Upon receipt of the notice of the pendency of such appeal,
173 the Superior Court shall schedule and conduct a hearing to guarantee
174 payment for all rents that may accrue during the pendency of such
175 appeal. The Superior Court shall schedule and conduct such hearing not
176 later than fourteen days after the date of receiving notice of the
177 pendency of such appeal. After conducting such hearing the Superior
178 Court may order the defendant to deposit with the court (1) an amount
179 equal to the defendant's portion of the last-agreed upon rent, or [,] (2)
180 where no lease had existed, [for] an amount equal to the reasonable
181 value for such use and occupancy that may so accrue. [; provided the

182 court shall upon motion by the defendant and after] After hearing
183 thereon, the court shall order the defendant to deposit with the court
184 payments for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy
185 of the premises during the pendency of such appeal accruing from the
186 date [of such order] on which such appeal was filed. Such order shall
187 permit the payment of such amount in monthly installments, as it
188 becomes due, [, and compliance with such order shall be a substitute for
189 any bond required by this section.] If all or a portion of the defendant's
190 rent is being paid to the plaintiff by a housing authority, municipality,
191 state agency or similar entity, this requirement shall be satisfied if the
192 defendant deposits with the court an amount equal to [his] the
193 defendant's portion of the rent.

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

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

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

206 (a) The [judges of the Superior Court or an authorized committee
207 thereof] Chief Court Administrator may appoint such housing
208 mediators as [they deem] the administrator deems necessary for the
209 purpose of assisting the court in the prompt and efficient hearing of
210 housing matters within the limit of their appropriation therefor. [Such
211 judges or such committee] The Chief Court Administrator shall appoint
212 not less than two such mediators for each of the judicial districts of
213 Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport and may designate one of them
214 in each judicial district as chief housing mediator. [Such judges or

215 committee] The Chief Court Administrator shall also appoint not less
216 than three such housing mediators for all other judicial districts. The
217 housing mediators for the judicial district of New Haven shall assist the
218 court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial district of
219 Waterbury, the housing mediators for the judicial district of Hartford
220 shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in the judicial
221 district of New Britain and the housing mediators for the judicial district
222 of Bridgeport shall assist the court in the hearing of housing matters in
223 the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk.

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

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

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

232 (a) The [judges of the Superior Court, at their annual meeting in June,]
233 Chief Court Administrator shall appoint: (1) Chief clerks for the judicial
234 districts; (2) deputy chief clerks for those judicial districts designated by
235 [an authorized committee of the judges] the Chief Court Administrator;
236 (3) first assistant clerks for those judicial districts designated by [an
237 authorized committee of the judges] the Chief Court Administrator; (4)
238 clerks for the geographical areas; (5) a clerk for the Centralized
239 Infractions Bureau; and (6) clerks for housing matters, including a chief
240 clerk for housing matters.

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

247 Administrator.

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

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

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

264 (f) The Chief Court Administrator may assign, reassign or modify the
265 assignment of such clerical personnel as [he] the administrator deems
266 necessary for the efficient operation of the courts.

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

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

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

278 the court requires.

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

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

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

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

309 Sec. 15. Section 51-164m of the general statutes is repealed and the

310 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

320 (b) The [judges of the Superior Court] Chief Court Administrator
321 shall establish and maintain a schedule of fines to be paid for those
322 violations of section 14-219 specified in subsection (e) of said section,
323 with such fines increasing in proportion to the severity of the violation
324 and for violations under subsection (b) of section 51-164n. The fines may
325 be modified as the [judges of the Superior Court deem] Chief Court
326 Administrator deems advisable.

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

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

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

338 (e) Any infraction for which a fine has not been established pursuant
339 to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall carry a fine of
340 thirty-five dollars or, if the infraction is for a violation of any provision

341 of title 14, fifty dollars, until such time as the [judges of the Superior
342 Court] Chief Court Administrator may establish a different fine for such
343 infraction.

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

348 Sec. 16. Subsection (d) of section 51-193c of the general statutes is
349 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
350 *1, 2024*):

351 (d) Any notice, order, judgment, decision, decree, memorandum,
352 ruling, opinion, mittimus, warrant and any form related to such
353 warrant, affidavit, finding or similar document that is issued by the
354 Superior Court or by a judge, judge trial referee or family support
355 magistrate thereof, by a magistrate appointed pursuant to section 51-
356 193l or by a commissioner of the Superior Court approved by the Chief
357 Court Administrator to hear small claims pursuant to section 52-549d,
358 may be signed or verified by computer or facsimile transmission or by
359 employing other technology in accordance with procedures and
360 technical standards, if any, established by the Office of the Chief Court
361 Administrator, and such notice, order, judgment, decision, decree,
362 memorandum, ruling, opinion, mittimus, warrant and any form related
363 to such warrant, affidavit, finding or similar document shall have the
364 same validity and status as a paper document that was signed or
365 verified by the Superior Court or by a judge, judge trial referee or family
366 support magistrate thereof, by a magistrate appointed pursuant to
367 section 51-193l or by a commissioner of the Superior Court approved by
368 the Chief Court Administrator to hear small claims pursuant to section
369 52-549d.

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

372 Each juror, duly chosen, drawn and summoned, who fails to appear

373 shall be subject to a civil penalty, the amount of which shall be
374 established by the [judges of the Superior Court] Chief Court
375 Administrator, but the court may excuse such juror from the payment
376 thereof. If a sufficient number of the jurors summoned do not appear, or
377 if for any cause there is not a sufficient number of jurors to make up the
378 panel, the court may order such number of persons who qualify for jury
379 service under section 51-217 to be summoned as may be necessary, as
380 talesmen, and any talesman so summoned who makes default of
381 appearance without sufficient cause shall be subject to a civil penalty,
382 the amount of which shall be established by the [judges of the Superior
383 Court] Chief Court Administrator. The provisions of this section shall
384 be enforced by the Attorney General within available appropriations.

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

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

396 Sec. 19. Subsection (d) of section 54-33a of the general statutes is
397 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
398 *1, 2024*):

399 (d) A warrant may issue only on affidavit sworn to by the
400 complainant or complainants before the judge or judge trial referee,
401 either in person or electronically with simultaneous sight and sound,
402 and establishing the grounds for issuing the warrant, which affidavit
403 shall be part of the arrest file. If the judge or judge trial referee is satisfied
404 that grounds for the application exist or that there is probable cause to
405 believe that grounds for the application exist, the judge or judge trial

406 referee shall issue a warrant identifying the property and naming or
407 describing the person, place or thing to be searched or authorizing the
408 installation and use of a tracking device and identifying the person on
409 which or the property to, in or on which the tracking device is to be
410 installed. The warrant shall be directed to any police officer of a
411 regularly organized police department or any state police officer, to an
412 inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, to a conservation officer,
413 special conservation officer or patrolman acting pursuant to section 26-
414 6 or to a sworn motor vehicle inspector acting under the authority of
415 section 14-8. Except for a warrant for the installation and use of a
416 tracking device, the warrant shall state the date and time of its issuance
417 and the grounds or probable cause for its issuance and shall command
418 the officer to search within a reasonable time the person, place or thing
419 named, for the property specified. A warrant for the installation and use
420 of a tracking device shall state the date and time of its issuance and the
421 grounds or probable cause for its issuance and shall command the
422 officer to complete the installation of the device within a specified
423 period not later than ten days after the date of its issuance and authorize
424 the installation and use of the tracking device, including the collection
425 of data through such tracking device, for a reasonable period of time not
426 to exceed thirty days from the date the tracking device is installed. Upon
427 request and a showing of good cause, a judge or judge trial referee may
428 authorize the use of the tracking device for an additional period of thirty
429 days.

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

432 (a) Except in cases of arrest pursuant to a bench warrant of arrest in
433 which the court or a judge thereof has indicated that bail should be
434 denied or ordered that the officer or indifferent person making such
435 arrest shall, without undue delay, bring such person before the clerk or
436 assistant clerk of the superior court for the geographical area under
437 section 54-2a, when any person is arrested for a bailable offense, the
438 chief of police, or the chief's authorized designee, of the police
439 department having custody of the arrested person or any probation

440 officer serving a violation of probation warrant shall promptly advise
441 such person of the person's rights under section 54-1b, and of the
442 person's right to be interviewed concerning the terms and conditions of
443 release. Unless the arrested person waives or refuses such interview, the
444 police officer or probation officer shall promptly interview the arrested
445 person to obtain information relevant to the terms and conditions of the
446 person's release from custody, and shall seek independent verification
447 of such information where necessary. At the request of the arrested
448 person, the person's counsel may be present during the interview. No
449 statement made by the arrested person in response to any question
450 during the interview related to the terms and conditions of release shall
451 be admissible as evidence against the arrested person in any proceeding
452 arising from the incident for which the conditions of release were set.
453 After such a waiver, refusal or interview, the police officer or probation
454 officer shall promptly order release of the arrested person upon the
455 execution of a written promise to appear or the posting of such bond as
456 may be set by the police officer or probation officer, except that no
457 condition of release set by the court or a judge thereof may be modified
458 by such officers and no person shall be released upon the execution of a
459 written promise to appear or the posting of a bond without surety if the
460 person is charged with the commission of a family violence crime, as
461 defined in section 46b-38a, and in the commission of such crime the
462 person used or threatened the use of a firearm.

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

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

506 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 14 and this chapter, the
507 police officer shall provide to the bail commissioner or the intake
508 assessment and referral specialist identifying information about the
509 victim of the crime or crimes with which the arrested person is charged,

510 including, but not limited to, the victim's name, address and phone
511 number, if available, for the purpose of carrying out such bail
512 commissioner's or intake assessment and referral specialist's duties.

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

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

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

539 [(f)] (g) The chief, acting chief, superintendent of police, the
540 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, any
541 captain or lieutenant of any local police department or the Division of
542 State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public

543 Protection or any person lawfully exercising the powers of any such
544 officer may take a written promise to appear or a bond with or without
545 surety from an arrested person as provided in subsection (a) of this
546 section, or as fixed by the court or any judge thereof, may administer
547 such oaths as are necessary in the taking of promises or bonds and shall
548 file any report required under subsection [(c)] (d) of this section.

549 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 54-91c of the general statutes is
550 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
551 *2024*):

552 (b) Prior to the imposition of sentence upon any defendant who has
553 been found guilty of any crime or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere
554 to any crime, and prior to the acceptance by the court of a plea of guilty
555 or nolo contendere made pursuant to a plea agreement with the state,
556 [wherein the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than the offense with
557 which such defendant was originally charged,] the court shall permit
558 any victim of the crime to appear before the court for the purpose of
559 making a statement for the record, which statement may include the
560 victim's opinion of any plea agreement. In lieu of such appearance, the
561 victim may submit a written statement or, if the victim of the crime is
562 deceased, the legal representative or a member of the immediate family
563 of such deceased victim may submit a statement of such deceased victim
564 to the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant
565 state's attorney in charge of the case. Such state's attorney, assistant
566 state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney shall file the
567 statement with the sentencing court and the statement shall be made a
568 part of the record at the sentencing hearing. Any such statement,
569 whether oral or written, shall relate to the facts of the case, the
570 appropriateness of any penalty and the extent of any injuries, financial
571 losses and loss of earnings directly resulting from the crime for which
572 the defendant is being sentenced. The court shall inquire on the record
573 whether any victim is present for the purpose of making an oral
574 statement or has submitted a written statement. If no victim is present
575 and no such written statement has been submitted, the court shall
576 inquire on the record whether an attempt has been made to notify any

577 such victim as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this
578 section or, if the defendant was originally charged with a violation of
579 section 53a-167c for assaulting a peace officer, whether the peace officer
580 has been personally notified as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection
581 (c) of this section. After consideration of any such statements, the court
582 may refuse to accept, where appropriate, a negotiated plea or sentence,
583 and the court shall give the defendant an opportunity to enter a new
584 plea and to elect trial by jury or by the court.

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

587 As used in sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive, as amended by this
588 act:

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

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

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

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

603 (5) "Crime" means any act which is a felony, as defined in section 53a-
604 25, or misdemeanor, as defined in section 53a-26, and includes any crime
605 committed by a juvenile; and

606 (6) "Emotional harm" means a mental or emotional impairment that

607 [requires treatment through services and that] is directly attributable to
608 a threat of (A) physical injury, as defined in subdivision (3) of section
609 53a-3, or (B) death to the affected person.

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

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

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

616 (1) To direct each hospital, whether public or private, each university
617 or college health services center, whether public or private, and each
618 community health center, as defined in section 19a-490a, to prominently
619 display posters in a conspicuous location giving notice of the availability
620 of compensation and assistance to victims of crime or their dependents
621 pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act,
622 and to direct every law enforcement agency of the state to inform
623 victims of crime or their dependents of their rights pursuant to sections
624 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act;

625 (2) To obtain from the office of the state's attorney, state police, local
626 police departments or any law enforcement agency such investigation
627 and data as will enable the Office of Victim Services to determine if in
628 fact the applicant was a victim of a crime or attempted crime and the
629 extent, if any, to which the victim or claimant was responsible for his
630 own injury, including, but not limited to, a request for information form
631 promulgated by the Office of Victim Services;

632 (3) To request from the Department of Correction, other units of the
633 Judicial Department and the Board of Pardons and Paroles such
634 information as will enable the Office of Victim Services to determine if
635 in fact a person who has requested notification pursuant to section 54-
636 228 was a victim of a crime;

637 (4) To take or cause to be taken affidavits or depositions within or

638 without the state;

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

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

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

669 (B) Subject to the provisions of section 54-91c, as amended by this act,
670 the victim shall have the right to present a statement of his or her losses,

671 injuries and wishes to the prosecutor and the court prior to the
672 acceptance by the court of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere made
673 pursuant to a plea agreement with the state wherein the defendant
674 pleads to a lesser offense than the offense with which the defendant was
675 originally charged;

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

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

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

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

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

699 (H) Subject to the provisions of section 54-86g, the parent or legal
700 guardian of a child twelve years of age or younger who is a victim of
701 child abuse or sexual assault may request special procedural

702 considerations to be taken during the testimony of the child;

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

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

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

715 (7) Within available appropriations, to maintain a victim's assistance
716 center which shall (A) make available to victims information regarding
717 victim's rights and available services, (B) maintain a victims' notification
718 system pursuant to sections 54-227 to 54-230a, inclusive, and 54-235, and
719 (C) maintain a toll-free number for access to information regarding
720 victims' rights and available services;

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

723 (9) To provide staff services to a state advisory council. The council
724 shall consist of not more than [~~fifteen~~] twenty members to be appointed
725 by the Chief Justice and shall include the Chief Victim Compensation
726 Commissioner and members who represent victim populations,
727 including but not limited to, homicide survivors, family violence
728 victims, sexual assault victims, victims of gun violence, victims of drunk
729 drivers, and assault and robbery victims, and members who represent
730 the judicial branch and executive branch agencies involved with victims
731 of crime. The members shall serve for terms of four years. Any vacancy
732 in the membership shall be filled by the appointing authority for the

733 balance of the unexpired term. The members shall receive no
734 compensation for their services. The council shall meet at least four
735 times a year. The council shall recommend to the Office of Victim
736 Services program, legislative or other matters which would improve
737 services to victims of crime and develop and coordinate needs
738 assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services.
739 The Chief Justice shall appoint two members to serve as cochairpersons.
740 Not later than December fifteenth of each year, the council shall report
741 the results of its findings and activities to the Chief Court Administrator;

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

745 (11) To recommend policies and make recommendations to agencies
746 and officers of the state and local subdivisions of government relative to
747 victims of crime;

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

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

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

765 and adult victims of sexual assault;

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

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

774 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 54-210 of the general statutes is
775 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
776 *2024*):

777 (a) The Office of Victim Services or a victim compensation
778 commissioner may order the payment of compensation under sections
779 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as amended by this act, for: (1) Expenses
780 actually and reasonably incurred as a result of the personal injury or
781 death of the victim, provided coverage for the cost of medical care and
782 treatment of a crime victim who does not have medical insurance or
783 who has exhausted coverage under applicable health insurance policies
784 or Medicaid shall be ordered; (2) loss of earning power as a result of total
785 or partial incapacity of such victim; (3) pecuniary loss to the spouse or
786 dependents of the deceased victim, provided the family qualifies for
787 compensation as a result of murder or manslaughter of the victim; (4)
788 pecuniary loss to an injured victim or the relatives or dependents of an
789 injured victim or a deceased victim for attendance at court proceedings,
790 juvenile proceedings, Psychiatric Security Review Board hearings and
791 Board of Pardons and Parole hearings with respect to the criminal case
792 of the person or persons charged with committing the crime that
793 resulted in the injury or death of the victim; (5) loss of wages by any
794 parent or guardian of a deceased victim, provided the amount paid
795 under this subsection shall not exceed one week's net wage; and (6) any
796 other loss, except as set forth in section 54-211, as amended by this act,
797 resulting from the personal injury or death of the victim which the

798 Office of Victim Services or a victim compensation commissioner, as the
799 case may be, determines to be reasonable.

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

802 (a) (1) No order for the payment of compensation shall be made
803 under section 54-210, as amended by this act, unless (A) the application
804 has been made within [two] three years after the date of the personal
805 injury or death, (B) the personal injury or death was the result of an
806 incident or offense listed in section 54-209, and (C) such incident or
807 offense has been reported to the police, [within five days of its
808 occurrence or, if the incident or offense could not reasonably have been
809 reported within such period, within five days of the time when a report
810 could reasonably have been made,] except that a victim of a sexual
811 assault shall not be ineligible for the payment of compensation by
812 reason of failing to make a report pursuant to this subparagraph if such
813 victim presented himself or herself to a health care facility within one
814 hundred twenty hours of such sexual assault for examination and
815 collection of evidence of such sexual assault in accordance with the
816 provisions of section 19a-112a, or if such victim complied with
817 subsection (d) of section 54-209. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of
818 subdivision (1) of this subsection, any person who, before, on or after
819 October 1, 2005, fails to make application for compensation within [two]
820 three years after the date of the personal injury or death as a result of
821 physical, emotional or psychological injuries caused by such personal
822 injury or death may apply for a waiver of such time limitation. The
823 Office of Victim Services, upon a finding of such physical, emotional or
824 psychological injury, may grant such waiver. (3) Notwithstanding the
825 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, any minor, including,
826 but not limited to, a minor who is a victim of conduct by another person
827 that constitutes a violation of section 53a-192a or a criminal violation of
828 18 USC Chapter 77, who, before, on or after October 1, 2005, fails to make
829 application for compensation within [two] three years after the date of
830 the personal injury or death through no fault of the minor, may apply
831 for a waiver of such time limitation. The Office of Victim Services, upon

832 a finding that such minor is not at fault, may grant such waiver. (4)
833 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, a
834 person who is a dependent of a victim may make application for
835 payment of compensation not later than [two] three years from the date
836 that such person discovers or in the exercise of reasonable care should
837 have discovered that the person upon whom the applicant was
838 dependent was a victim. Such person shall file with such application a
839 statement signed under penalty of false statement setting forth the date
840 when such person discovered that the person upon whom the applicant
841 was dependent was a victim and the circumstances that prevented such
842 person discovering that the person upon whom the applicant was
843 dependent was a victim until more than [two] three years after the date
844 of the incident or offense. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that
845 a person who files such a statement and is otherwise eligible for
846 compensation pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, as
847 amended by this act, is entitled to compensation. (5) Any waiver denied
848 by the Office of Victim Services under this subsection may be reviewed
849 by a victim compensation commissioner, provided such request for
850 review is made by the applicant within thirty days from the mailing of
851 the notice of denial by the Office of Victim Services. If a victim
852 compensation commissioner grants such waiver, the commissioner
853 shall refer the application for compensation to the Office of Victim
854 Services for a determination pursuant to section 54-205. (6)
855 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this
856 subsection, the Office of Victim Services may, for good cause shown and
857 upon a finding of compelling equitable circumstances, waive the time
858 limitations of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

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

865 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, no

866 compensation shall be awarded for losses sustained for crimes against
867 property or for noneconomic detriment such as pain and suffering.

868 (d) (1) [No compensation shall be in an amount in excess of fifteen
869 thousand dollars for personal injury except that:] (A) Compensation for
870 personal injury shall be in an amount not to exceed fifteen thousand
871 dollars; (B) compensation to or for the benefit of the dependents of a
872 homicide victim shall be in an amount not to exceed twenty-five
873 thousand dollars; [(B)] (C) the claims of the dependents of a deceased
874 victim, as provided in section 54-208, shall be considered derivative of
875 the claim of such victim and the total compensation paid for all claims
876 arising from the death of such victim shall not exceed a maximum of
877 twenty-five thousand dollars; and [(C)] (D) in cases of emotional harm
878 only, compensation for medical and mental health care and security
879 measures shall be in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars.

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

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

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

899 July 1, 1985.

900 (f) Compensation shall be awarded pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-
901 218, inclusive, as amended by this act, for personal injury or death
902 resulting from a crime which occurs (1) within this state, regardless of
903 the residency of the applicant; (2) outside this state but within the
904 territorial boundaries of the United States, provided the victim, at the
905 time of injury or death, was a resident of this state and the state in which
906 such crime occurred does not have a program for compensation of
907 victims for which such victim is eligible; (3) outside the territorial
908 boundaries of the United States, provided the victim was a resident of
909 this state at the time of injury or death, the crime would be considered a
910 crime within the State of Connecticut, and the country in which such
911 crime occurred does not have a program for compensation of victims for
912 which such victim is eligible; and (4) outside the territorial boundaries
913 of the United States, provided the applicant is a victim of international
914 terrorism, as defined in 18 USC 2331, as amended from time to time, and
915 was a resident of this state at the time of injury or death.

916 Sec. 26. Subsection (d) of section 1-84 of the 2024 supplement to the
917 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
918 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

919 (d) No public official or state employee or employee of such public
920 official or state employee shall agree to accept, or be a member or
921 employee of a partnership, association, professional corporation or sole
922 proprietorship which partnership, association, professional corporation
923 or sole proprietorship agrees to accept any employment, fee or other
924 thing of value, or portion thereof, for appearing, agreeing to appear, or
925 taking any other action on behalf of another person before the
926 Department of Banking, the Office of the Claims Commissioner, the
927 Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, the
928 Insurance Department, the Department of Consumer Protection, the
929 Department of Motor Vehicles, the State Insurance and Risk
930 Management Board, the Department of Energy and Environmental
931 Protection [, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Connecticut

932 Siting Council] or the Connecticut Real Estate Commission; provided
933 this shall not prohibit any such person from making inquiry for
934 information on behalf of another before any of said commissions or
935 commissioners if no fee or reward is given or promised in consequence
936 thereof. For the purpose of this subsection, partnerships, associations,
937 professional corporations or sole proprietorships refer only to such
938 partnerships, associations, professional corporations or sole
939 proprietorships which have been formed to carry on the business or
940 profession directly relating to the employment, appearing, agreeing to
941 appear or taking of action provided for in this subsection. Nothing in
942 this subsection shall prohibit any employment, appearing, agreeing to
943 appear or taking action before any municipal board, commission or
944 council. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying (1) to
945 the actions of any teaching or research professional employee of a public
946 institution of higher education if such actions are not in violation of any
947 other provision of this chapter, (2) to the actions of any other
948 professional employee of a public institution of higher education if such
949 actions are not compensated and are not in violation of any other
950 provision of this chapter, (3) to any member of a board or commission
951 who receives no compensation other than per diem payments or
952 reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses, or both, incurred in the
953 performance of the member's duties, or (4) to any member or director of
954 a quasi-public agency. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
955 subsection to the contrary, a legislator, an officer of the General
956 Assembly or part-time legislative employee may be or become a
957 member or employee of a firm, partnership, association or professional
958 corporation which represents clients for compensation before agencies
959 listed in this subsection, provided the legislator, officer of the General
960 Assembly or part-time legislative employee shall take no part in any
961 matter involving the agency listed in this subsection and shall not
962 receive compensation from any such matter. Receipt of a previously
963 established salary, not based on the current or anticipated business of
964 the firm, partnership, association or professional corporation involving
965 the agencies listed in this subsection, shall be permitted.

966 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

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

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

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

976 (2) "Identity proofing" means a process or service by which a third
977 person provides a commissioner of the Superior Court with a means to
978 verify the identity of a remotely located individual by a review of
979 personal information from public or private data sources.

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

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

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

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

994 (2) When performing a remote acknowledgment pursuant to the
995 provisions of this section, the commissioner of the Superior Court
996 reasonably identifies the individual at the time of the acknowledgment

997 by one or more of the following methods:

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

999 (B) The individual presents a government-issued identification
1000 document or record that has not expired and includes the individual's
1001 photograph, name and signature. An acceptable form of government-
1002 issued identification document or record includes, but is not limited to,
1003 a driver's license, government-issued identification card or passport;

1004 (C) Not less than two different types of identity proofing processes or
1005 services by which a third person provides a means to verify the identity
1006 of the individual through a review of public or private data sources; or

1007 (D) Oath or affirmation by a credible witness who:

1008 (i) Is in the physical presence of either the commissioner of the
1009 Superior Court or the individual; or

1010 (ii) Is able to communicate in real time with the commissioner of the
1011 Superior Court and the individual by sight and sound through an
1012 electronic device or process at the time of the acknowledgment, if the
1013 credible witness has personal knowledge of the identity of the
1014 individual and has been reasonably identified by the commissioner of
1015 the Superior Court by a method provided in this section.

1016 (c) When an individual who is physically located outside of the state
1017 of Connecticut or outside the United States seeks a remote
1018 acknowledgment pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the record
1019 being acknowledged shall:

1020 (1) Be intended for filing or presentation in a matter before a court,
1021 governmental entity, public official or other entity subject to the
1022 jurisdiction of the state of Connecticut; or

1023 (2) Otherwise not be prohibited by law of the state of Connecticut to
1024 be acknowledged outside the state.

1025 (d) Once the record acknowledged pursuant to subsection (b) of this

1026 section is signed by the individual in accordance with the procedures
1027 set forth in this section, the individual shall mail or otherwise cause to
1028 be delivered the signed original copy of the record to the commissioner
1029 of the Superior Court.

1030 (e) The date and time of an acknowledgment conducted pursuant to
1031 subsection (b) of this section shall be the date and time when the
1032 commissioner of the Superior Court witnessed the signature being
1033 performed by means of communication technology.

1034 (f) Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of a commissioner
1035 of the Superior Court to refuse to take an acknowledgment or require a
1036 commissioner of the Superior Court to take an acknowledgment:

1037 (1) With respect to an electronic record;

1038 (2) For an individual not in the physical presence of the commissioner
1039 of the Superior Court; or

1040 (3) Using a technology that the commissioner of the Superior Court
1041 has not selected.

1042 (g) No record shall be acknowledged remotely pursuant to subsection
1043 (b) of this section in (1) the making and execution of a will, codicil, trust
1044 or trust instrument, (2) the execution of health care instructions
1045 pursuant to section 19a-575a of the general statutes, (3) the execution of
1046 a designation of a standby guardian pursuant to section 45a-624 of the
1047 general statutes, (4) the execution of a designation of a person for
1048 decision-making and certain rights and obligations pursuant to section
1049 1-56r of the general statutes, (5) the execution of a living will, as defined
1050 in section 19a-570 of the general statutes, (6) the execution of a power of
1051 attorney, as defined in section 1-350a of the general statutes, (7) the
1052 execution of a self-proving affidavit for an appointment of a health care
1053 representative or for a living will under sections 1-56r and 19a-578 of the
1054 general statutes, (8) the execution of a mutual distribution agreement
1055 under section 45a-433 of the general statutes, (9) the execution of a
1056 disclaimer under section 45a-579 or 45a-583 of the general statutes, or

1057 (10) a real estate closing, as defined in section 51-88a of the general
1058 statutes. The performance of any such acknowledgment in connection
1059 with any of the acts described in this subsection shall be ineffective for
1060 any purpose and shall constitute a violation of section 51-88 of the
1061 general statutes.

1062 Sec. 28. Section 22-329a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
1063 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1064 *October 1, 2024*):

1065 (a) Any animal control officer or regional animal control officer
1066 appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable,
1067 may take physical custody of any animal when such animal control
1068 officer has reasonable cause to believe that such animal is in imminent
1069 harm and is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366,
1070 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251, 53-252 or 53a-73b,
1071 and, not later than ninety-six hours after taking physical custody, shall
1072 proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section, except that if, in the
1073 opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian, at any time
1074 after physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal is so injured
1075 or diseased that it should be euthanized immediately, such officer may
1076 have such animal humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

1077 (b) Any animal control officer or regional animal control officer
1078 appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable,
1079 may take physical custody of any animal upon issuance of a warrant
1080 finding probable cause that such animal is neglected or is cruelly treated
1081 in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-
1082 250, 53-251, 53-252 or 53a-73b, and shall thereupon proceed as provided
1083 in subsection (c) of this section except that if, in the opinion of a licensed
1084 veterinarian or the State Veterinarian, at any time after physical custody
1085 of such animal is taken, such animal is so injured or diseased that it
1086 should be euthanized immediately, such officer may have such animal
1087 humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

1088 (c) Such officer shall file with the superior court which has venue over
1089 such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford

1090 at Hartford a verified petition plainly stating such facts of neglect or
1091 cruel treatment as to bring such animal within the jurisdiction of the
1092 court and praying for appropriate action by the court in accordance with
1093 the provisions of this section. Upon the filing of such petition, the court
1094 shall cause a summons to be issued requiring the owner or owners or
1095 person having responsibility for the care of the animal, if known, to
1096 appear in court at the time and place named.

1097 (d) If physical custody of an animal has been taken pursuant to
1098 subsection (a) or (b) of this section and it appears from the allegations of
1099 the petition filed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and other
1100 affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided subsequent
1101 thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the animal's condition
1102 or the circumstances surrounding its care require that temporary care
1103 and custody be immediately assumed to safeguard its welfare, the court
1104 shall either (1) issue an order to show cause why the court should not
1105 vest in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private agency
1106 or person the animal's temporary care and custody pending a hearing
1107 on the petition, or (2) issue an order vesting in some suitable state,
1108 municipal or other public or private agency or person the animal's
1109 temporary care and custody pending a hearing on the petition. A
1110 hearing on the order issued by the court pursuant to subdivision (1) or
1111 (2) of this subsection shall be held not later than fourteen days after the
1112 issuance of such order. The service of such order may be made by any
1113 officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or
1114 indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours
1115 prior to the date and time of such hearing. If the owner or owners or
1116 person having responsibility for the care of the animal is not known,
1117 notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given by publication
1118 in a newspaper having a circulation in the town in which such officer
1119 took physical custody of such animal not less than forty-eight hours
1120 prior to the date and time of such hearing.

1121 (e) If physical custody of an animal has not been taken pursuant to
1122 subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and such officer has reasonable cause
1123 to believe that an animal is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of

1124 section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or
1125 53-252, such officer may file a petition with the superior court which has
1126 venue over such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district
1127 of Hartford at Hartford, plainly stating such facts of neglect or cruel
1128 treatment as to bring the animal within the jurisdiction of the court and
1129 praying for appropriate action by the court to ensure the welfare of the
1130 animal, including, but not limited to, physical removal and temporary
1131 care and custody of the animal, an order to compel the owner of any
1132 such animal to provide care in a manner that the court determines is
1133 necessary, authorization of an animal control officer or regional animal
1134 control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a,
1135 as applicable, or a licensed veterinarian to provide care for the animal
1136 on site, vesting of ownership of the animal, the posting of a bond in
1137 accordance with subsection (f) of this section and the assessment of costs
1138 in accordance with subsection (h) of this section. Upon the filing of such
1139 petition, the court shall cause a summons for an order to show cause to
1140 be issued requiring the owner or owners or person having responsibility
1141 for the care of the animal, if known, to appear in court at the time and
1142 place named. If the owner or owners or person having responsibility for
1143 the care of the animal is not known, notice of the time and place of the
1144 hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper having a
1145 circulation in the town where the animal is located not less than forty-
1146 eight hours prior to the date and time of the hearing. If it appears from
1147 the allegations of the petition filed pursuant to this subsection and other
1148 affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided subsequent
1149 thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the animal's condition
1150 or the circumstances surrounding its care require the immediate
1151 removal of the animal from the owner or owners or person having
1152 responsibility for the care of the animal to safeguard its welfare, the
1153 court shall issue an order vesting in some suitable state, municipal or
1154 other public or private agency or person the animal's temporary care
1155 and custody pending a hearing on the petition which hearing shall be
1156 held not later than ten days after the issuance of such order for such
1157 temporary care and custody. The service of such order may be made by
1158 any officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or

1159 indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours
1160 prior to the date and time of such hearing.

1161 (f) If the court issues an order vesting the animal's temporary care
1162 and custody in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private
1163 agency or person, the owner or owners shall either relinquish
1164 ownership of the animal or post a cash bond with the agency or person
1165 in whom the animal's temporary care and custody was vested or with
1166 such agency's counsel of record in the case. The cash bond shall be in the
1167 amount of one thousand dollars for each animal placed in the temporary
1168 care or custody of such agency or person and shall secure payment for
1169 the reasonable expenses of the agency or person having temporary care
1170 and custody of the animal in caring and providing for such animal until
1171 the court makes a finding as to the animal's disposition under subsection
1172 (g) of this section. The requirement that a bond be posted may be waived
1173 if such owner provides satisfactory evidence that such owner is indigent
1174 and unable to pay for such bond.

1175 (g) (1) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is neglected or
1176 cruelly treated, it shall vest ownership of the animal in any state,
1177 municipal or other public or private agency which is permitted by law
1178 to care for neglected or cruelly treated animals or with any person found
1179 to be suitable or worthy of such responsibility by the court.

1180 (2) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is so injured or
1181 diseased that it should be humanely euthanized, the court may order
1182 that such animal be humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

1183 (3) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is not neglected or
1184 cruelly treated, it may cause the animal to be returned to its owner or
1185 owners or person having responsibility for its care or, if such owner or
1186 owners or person is unknown or unwilling to resume caring for such
1187 animal, it may vest ownership of the animal in any state, municipal or
1188 other public or private agency or person found to be suitable or worthy
1189 of such responsibility.

1190 (4) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (1) or (2) of this

1191 subsection less than thirty days after the issuance of an order of
1192 temporary care and custody and the owner of the animal has posted a
1193 bond, the agency or person with whom the bond was posted shall return
1194 the balance of such bond, if any, to the owner. The amount of the bond
1195 to be returned to the owner shall be calculated at the rate of [fifteen]
1196 twenty dollars per day per animal or [twenty-five] thirty dollars per day
1197 per animal if the animal is a horse or other large livestock for the number
1198 of days less than thirty that such agency or person has not had
1199 temporary care and custody of the animal less any veterinary costs and
1200 expenses incurred for the welfare of the animal.

1201 (5) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (3) of this
1202 subsection after the issuance of an order of temporary care and custody
1203 and the owner of the animal has posted a bond, the agency or person
1204 with whom the bond was posted shall return such bond to such owner.

1205 (h) If the court finds that the animal is neglected or cruelly treated,
1206 the expenses incurred by the state or a municipality in providing proper
1207 food, shelter and care to an animal it has taken custody of under
1208 subsection (a) or (b) of this section and the expenses incurred by any
1209 state, municipal or other public or private agency or person in providing
1210 temporary care and custody pursuant to an order vesting temporary
1211 care and custody, calculated at the rate of twenty dollars per day per
1212 animal or thirty dollars per day per animal if the animal is a horse or
1213 other large livestock until the date ownership is vested pursuant to
1214 subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section shall be paid by the
1215 owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the
1216 animal. In addition, all veterinary costs and expenses incurred for the
1217 welfare of the animal shall be paid by the owner or owners or person
1218 having responsibility for the animal.

1219 (i) If the court vests ownership of the animal in the Commissioner of
1220 Agriculture or a municipality, the commissioner or the municipality
1221 may conduct or participate in a public auction of the animal under such
1222 conditions the commissioner or the municipality deems necessary or the
1223 commissioner or the municipality may consign the animal to an auction

1224 or sell the animal through an open advertised bid process whereby bid
1225 price and demonstration of sufficient knowledge and ability to care for
1226 such animal are factors for the commissioner's or municipality's
1227 consideration. All moneys collected from the sale of animals sold by the
1228 Commissioner of Agriculture through such open advertised bid process
1229 shall be deposited in the animal abuse cost recovery account established
1230 in subsection (j) of this section. All moneys collected from the sale of
1231 animals sold by a municipality through such open advertised bid
1232 process shall be deposited by the town treasurer or other fiscal officer in
1233 the town's general fund. The commissioner or the municipality may also
1234 vest ownership of any such animal in an individual or a public or private
1235 nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization. Any record
1236 containing the name, address or other personally identifying
1237 information of the new owner of such animal shall be exempt from
1238 disclosure under state law, provided such information may be disclosed
1239 pursuant to the issuance of a lawful subpoena.

1240 (j) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account within the
1241 General Fund, to be known as the "animal abuse cost recovery account".
1242 All moneys collected from sales at public auction of animals seized by
1243 the Department of Agriculture pursuant to this section shall be
1244 deposited into the account. Deposits of moneys may be made into the
1245 account from public or private sources, including, but not limited to, the
1246 federal government or municipal governments.

1247 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any
1248 moneys received by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to
1249 subsection (j) of this section shall be deposited in the General Fund and
1250 credited to the animal abuse cost recovery account. The account shall be
1251 available to the Commissioner of Agriculture for the purpose of the
1252 housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department, until
1253 final disposition of such animal. Additionally, the account may be used
1254 for the purpose of providing reimbursement to any municipality for the
1255 costs of providing temporary care to such animal if such temporary care
1256 exceeded thirty days in duration and such costs exceeded the amount of
1257 any surety bond or cash bond posted pursuant to subsection (f) of this

1258 section provided the total annual reimbursement to municipalities from
1259 said account for such purpose shall not exceed twenty-five thousand
1260 dollars. Nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from
1261 obtaining or using funds from sources other than the account for the
1262 housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department
1263 pursuant to this section.

1264 Sec. 29. Section 22-358 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1265 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

1266 (a) Any owner or [the agent of any owner of any domestic animal or
1267 poultry, or the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer,
1268 any municipal animal control officer, any regional animal control officer
1269 or any police officer or state policeman, may kill any dog which he
1270 observes pursuing or worrying any such domestic animal or poultry]
1271 keeper of any animal or poultry, or an agent of such owner or keeper,
1272 or any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-
1273 331 or 22-331a, or any police officer, including a state police officer, may
1274 kill any dog while the dog is in the act of biting, attacking or pursuing
1275 any such animal or poultry of the owner or keeper. Any owner, keeper,
1276 animal control officer or police officer who kills such dog shall make
1277 complaint concerning the circumstances of the attack to any animal
1278 control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a
1279 of the town where such attack occurred. The animal control officer to
1280 whom such complaint is made shall investigate the circumstances of the
1281 attack set forth in the complaint.

1282 (b) Any person who is [bitten, or who shows visible evidence of
1283 attack] protecting himself or herself or another person or animal from
1284 physical harm while being bitten or attacked by a dog, cat or other
1285 animal when such person is not upon the premises of the owner or
1286 keeper of such dog, cat or other animal may kill such dog, cat or other
1287 animal during such attack. [Such person shall make complaint
1288 concerning the circumstances of the attack to the Chief Animal Control
1289 Officer, any animal control officer or the municipal animal control
1290 officer or regional animal control officer of the town wherein such dog,

1291 cat or other animal is owned or kept. Any such officer to whom such
1292 complaint is made shall immediately make an investigation of such
1293 complaint.] Any person who kills such animal shall make complaint
1294 concerning the circumstances of the attack to any animal control officer
1295 appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the town
1296 where such attack occurred. The animal control officer to whom such
1297 complaint is made shall investigate the circumstances of the attack set
1298 forth in the complaint.

1299 [(c) The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
1300 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional
1301 animal control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or
1302 disposal of any biting dog, cat or other animal as the commissioner or
1303 such officer deems necessary. Notice of any such order shall be given to
1304 the person bitten by such dog, cat or other animal within twenty-four
1305 hours. The owner of such animal shall pay all fees as set forth in section
1306 22-333. Any owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal who fails
1307 to comply with such order shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor. If
1308 an owner or keeper fails to comply with a restraining order made
1309 pursuant to this subsection, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any
1310 animal control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any
1311 regional animal control officer may seize the dog, cat or other animal to
1312 ensure such compliance and the owner or keeper shall be responsible
1313 for any expenses resulting from such seizure. Any person aggrieved by
1314 an order of any municipal animal control officer, the Chief Animal
1315 Control Officer, any animal control officer or any regional animal
1316 control officer may request a hearing before the commissioner within
1317 fourteen days of the issuance of such order. Any order issued pursuant
1318 to this section that requires the restraint of an animal shall be effective
1319 upon its issuance and shall remain in effect during any appeal of such
1320 order to the commissioner. After such hearing, the commissioner may
1321 affirm, modify or revoke such order as the commissioner deems proper.
1322 Any dog owned by a police agency of the state or any of its political
1323 subdivisions is exempt from the provisions of this subsection when such
1324 dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of an assigned
1325 police officer, is currently vaccinated and is subject to routine veterinary

1326 care. Any guide dog owned or in the custody and control of a blind
1327 person or a person with a mobility impairment is exempt from the
1328 provisions of this subsection when such guide dog is under the direct
1329 supervision, care and control of such person, is currently vaccinated and
1330 is subject to routine veterinary care.]

1331 (c) In the interest of public health and safety, if after investigation,
1332 any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331
1333 or 22-331a in the municipality or region in which an alleged dog bite or
1334 attack occurs determines that a person has in fact been bitten or attacked
1335 by a dog, such animal control officer may make any order concerning
1336 the restraint or disposal of such biting or attacking dog as is necessary
1337 to protect public health and safety. In determining the type of order to
1338 be issued or conditions of restraint to be imposed, the animal control
1339 officer shall consider factors that include, but need not be limited to: (1)
1340 The ability of the owner or keeper of the dog, if any, to control the
1341 animal; (2) the severity of injury inflicted on a person by the biting or
1342 attacking dog; (3) the viciousness of the bite or attack; (4) any history of
1343 past bites or attacks by the dog; (5) whether the bite or attack occurred
1344 at a location that is off of the property of the owner or keeper of the dog;
1345 (6) whether the biting or attacking dog was provoked; and (7) whether
1346 the biting or attacking dog was protecting its owner or keeper from
1347 physical harm.

1348 (d) Any dog, while [actually worrying] biting, attacking or pursuing
1349 deer, may be killed by [the Chief Animal Control Officer or an animal
1350 control officer] any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section
1351 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, or by a conservation officer or special
1352 conservation officer appointed by the Commissioner of Energy and
1353 Environmental Protection, or by any police officer, [or state policeman]
1354 including a state police officer. The owner or keeper of any dog found
1355 [worrying] biting, attacking or pursuing a deer shall be guilty of a class
1356 D misdemeanor.

1357 (e) Any person who kills any dog, cat or other animal in accordance
1358 with the provisions of this section shall not be held criminally or civilly

1359 liable therefor.

1360 (f) Repealed by P.A. 19-197, S. 1.

1361 (g) Repealed by P.A. 05-175, S. 24.

1362 (h) The following shall apply to any order issued pursuant to this
1363 section:

1364 (1) In the interest of public health and safety, and the health and
1365 safety of animals, whenever an order issued pursuant to this section
1366 requires the restraint of an animal, the order shall be effective upon its
1367 issuance and shall remain in effect during any appeal of such order;

1368 (2) In the interest of public health and safety, and the health and
1369 safety of animals, whenever an order issued pursuant to this section
1370 requires the disposal of an animal, the issuing officer shall take physical
1371 custody and retain possession of the animal subject to the order during
1372 any appeal of such order;

1373 (3) Not later than twenty-four hours after the issuance of any order
1374 issued pursuant to this section, a copy of the order shall be delivered to
1375 the person bitten or attacked, or to the owner or keeper of an animal
1376 which has been bitten or attacked. An order issued pursuant to this
1377 section shall include the date, time and place where the prehearing
1378 meeting shall occur. The order shall also include a statement informing
1379 the owner or keeper of the biting or attacking animal of their right to
1380 pursue an appeal of the order following the prehearing meeting;

1381 (4) Not later than fifteen days after the date of issuing an order issued
1382 pursuant to this section by any animal control officer appointed
1383 pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, the municipality in which
1384 the attack occurred shall schedule and hold a prehearing meeting with
1385 the owner or keeper of the animal subject to the order and the person
1386 who was bitten or attacked, or the owner or keeper of an animal which
1387 has been bitten or attacked, to determine if the order is in dispute. At
1388 such meeting the owner or keeper of the animal subject to the order and
1389 their legal counsel, if any, the animal control officer issuing the order

1390 and the animal control officer's appointing authority, or their designee,
1391 may stipulate to an alternate order;

1392 (5) A statement of the prehearing meeting, including only the names
1393 of the attending parties, the date of the prehearing meeting and whether
1394 the order was modified, shall be provided by the municipality to the
1395 owner or keeper of the animal subject to the order, and the victim or the
1396 owner or keeper of an animal which has been bitten or attacked, not
1397 later than ten days after the date of the prehearing meeting. All
1398 settlement discussions that occurred during the prehearing meeting
1399 shall be confidential and protected from disclosure under state law;

1400 (6) After the prehearing meeting is concluded, any person aggrieved
1401 by any order, including an alternate order, issued pursuant to this
1402 section by any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-
1403 328, 22-321 or 22-321a, may appeal to the superior court of the judicial
1404 district in which such municipality is located, provided such appeal is
1405 made not later than fifteen days after the date on which the prehearing
1406 meeting is concluded;

1407 (7) The owner or keeper of any animal subject to an order issued
1408 pursuant to this section shall pay all fees as set forth in section 22-333. If
1409 an owner or keeper of an animal subject to an order issued pursuant to
1410 this section fails to comply with the order, any animal control officer
1411 appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a may seize the
1412 animal prior to or during the pendency of the prehearing meeting or
1413 appeal and until completion of the appeal of such order to ensure such
1414 compliance and the owner shall be responsible for any expenses
1415 resulting from such seizure;

1416 (8) Once the order becomes a final order or judgment, the order is
1417 enforceable on a state-wide basis and any animal control officer
1418 appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a shall have the
1419 authority to enforce the final order or judgment;

1420 (9) Any owner or keeper of an animal subject to a final order or
1421 judgment issued pursuant to this subsection who fails to comply with a

1422 final order or judgment shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor; and

1423 (10) Any person aggrieved by any order issued under the provisions
1424 of this section by the commissioner or an animal control officer may
1425 appeal to the superior court of the judicial district in which such
1426 aggrieved person is a resident, provided such appeal is made not later
1427 than fifteen days after the date of issuance of the order.

1428 [(h)] (i) A person who sustains damage [by a dog] or physical injury
1429 to such person's poultry, ratite, domestic rabbit, [companion] animal or
1430 livestock as defined in section 22-278, by a biting or attacking dog shall
1431 make complaint concerning circumstances of the bite or attack by such
1432 dog on any such animal or livestock to the [Chief Animal Control
1433 Officer, any animal control officer or the municipal animal control
1434 officer or regional animal control officer of the town in which such dog
1435 is owned or kept] animal control officer appointed pursuant to section
1436 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the town in which the bite or attack
1437 occurred. An officer to whom such complaint is made shall immediately
1438 investigate such complaint. [If such officer finds that the complainant's
1439 animal has been bitten or attacked by a dog when the attacked animal
1440 was not on the premises of the owner or keeper of the attacking dog and
1441 provided the complainant's animal was under the control of the
1442 complainant or on the complainant's property, such officer, the
1443 commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer or any animal control
1444 officer may make any order concerning the restraint or disposal of such
1445 attacking dog as the commissioner or such officer deems necessary. An
1446 owner or keeper of such dog who fails to comply with such order shall
1447 be guilty of a class D misdemeanor. If the owner or keeper of such dog
1448 fails to comply with an order made pursuant to this subsection, the
1449 Chief Animal Control Officer or any animal control officer, municipal
1450 animal control officer or regional animal control officer may seize the
1451 dog to ensure such compliance, and the owner or keeper of such dog
1452 shall be responsible for any expenses resulting from such seizure. A
1453 person aggrieved by an order of the Chief Animal Control Officer or any
1454 animal control officer, municipal animal control officer or regional
1455 animal control officer made pursuant to this subsection may request a

1456 hearing before the commissioner not later than fourteen days after the
1457 issuance of such order. After such hearing, the commissioner may
1458 affirm, modify or revoke such order as the commissioner deems proper.
1459 A dog owned by a police agency of the state or any of its political
1460 subdivisions is exempt from the provisions of this section when such
1461 dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of an assigned
1462 police officer, has been vaccinated annually and is subject to routine
1463 veterinary care.] In the interest of public health and safety, and the
1464 health and safety of animals, if after investigation, any animal control
1465 officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a in the
1466 municipality or region in which an alleged dog bite or attack occurs
1467 determines that an animal has in fact been bitten or attacked by a dog,
1468 such animal control officer may make any order concerning the restraint
1469 or disposal of such biting or attacking dog as is necessary to protect
1470 public health and safety and the health and safety of animals. In
1471 determining the type of order to be issued or conditions of restraint to
1472 be imposed, the animal control officer shall consider factors that include,
1473 but need not be limited to: (1) The ability of the owner or keeper to
1474 control the dog; (2) the severity of injury inflicted by the biting or
1475 attacking dog; (3) the viciousness of the bite or attack; (4) any history of
1476 past bites or attacks by the dog; (5) whether the bite or attack occurred
1477 at a location that is off of the property of the owner or keeper of the
1478 biting or attacking dog, provided the animal attacked was under the
1479 control of animal's owner or keeper, or the animal attacked was on
1480 property of the owner or keeper; (6) whether the biting or attacking dog
1481 was provoked; and (7) whether the biting or attacking dog was
1482 protecting its owner or keeper from physical harm.

1483 (j) Any dog or other animal owned by the United States military, a
1484 law enforcement agency of the United States or a law enforcement
1485 agency of this state or any of its political subdivisions shall be exempt
1486 from the provisions of this section when such dog or other animal is
1487 owned by or in the custody and control of such agency and under the
1488 direct supervision, care and control of an assigned handler, is currently
1489 vaccinated for rabies and is subject to routine veterinary care. Any
1490 service animal owned by or in the custody and control of a person with

1491 a disability shall be exempt from the provisions of this section when
1492 such service animal is under the direct supervision, care and control of
1493 such person, is currently vaccinated for rabies and is subject to routine
1494 veterinary care. As used in this subsection, "service animal" and
1495 "disability" have the same meaning as provided in section 22-345.

1496 Sec. 30. Section 52-380a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1497 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

1498 (a) A judgment lien, securing the unpaid amount of any money
1499 judgment, including interest and costs, may be placed on any real
1500 property by recording, in the town clerk's office in the town where the
1501 real property lies, a judgment lien certificate, signed by the judgment
1502 creditor or his attorney or personal representative, containing: (1) A
1503 statement of the names and last-known addresses of the judgment
1504 creditor and judgment debtor, the court in which and the date on which
1505 the judgment was rendered, and the original amount of the money
1506 judgment and the amount due thereon; and (2) a description, which
1507 need not be by metes and bounds, of the real property on which a lien
1508 is to be placed, and a statement that the lien has been placed on such
1509 property.

1510 (b) From the time of the recording of the judgment lien certificate, the
1511 money judgment shall be a lien on the judgment debtor's interest in the
1512 real property described. If, within four months of judgment, the lien is
1513 placed on real property which was previously attached in the action, the
1514 lien on that property shall hold from the date of attachment, provided
1515 the judgment lien certificate contains a clause referring to and
1516 identifying the attachment, substantially in the following form: "This
1517 lien is filed within four months after judgment in the action was
1518 rendered and relates back to an attachment of real property recorded on
1519 (month) (day) (year), at Volume ___ Page ___ of the ___ land records."

1520 (c) A judgment lien on real property may be foreclosed or redeemed
1521 in the same manner as mortgages on the same property.

1522 (d) In the case of a consumer judgment, the complaint shall indicate

1523 whether, pursuant to an installment payment order under subsection
1524 (b) of section 52-356d, the court has entered a stay of execution and, if
1525 such a stay was entered, shall allege any default on an installment
1526 payment order which is a precondition to foreclosure. In addition, the
1527 judgment creditor shall give notice to the judgment debtor of the
1528 Ezequiel Santiago Foreclosure Mediation Program, established
1529 pursuant to section 49-31m, by attaching to the front of the writ,
1530 summons and complaint that is served on the judgment debtor: (1) A
1531 copy of the notice of foreclosure mediation, in such form as the Chief
1532 Court Administrator prescribes, (2) a copy of the foreclosure mediation
1533 certificate form described in subsection (c) of section 49-31l, in such form
1534 as the Chief Court Administrator prescribes, and (3) a blank appearance
1535 form, in such form as the Chief Court Administrator prescribes. The
1536 notice of foreclosure mediation shall instruct the judgment debtor to file
1537 the appearance and foreclosure mediation certificate forms with the
1538 court not later than fifteen days from the return date for the foreclosure
1539 action. If the judgment debtor elects to participate in, and the court
1540 orders the case assigned to, said foreclosure mediation program, (A) the
1541 judgment debtor shall be entitled to the rights and shall assume the
1542 obligations of a mortgagor under sections 49-31k to 49-31o, inclusive,
1543 and (B) a judgment creditor shall be entitled to the rights and shall
1544 assume the obligations of a mortgagee under sections 49-31k to 49-31o,
1545 inclusive, except that the judgment creditor shall not be required to
1546 furnish the mortgage specific information described in subsection (d) of
1547 section 49-31l, but instead shall furnish a copy of the underlying
1548 judgment, and an accounting of current interest and other charges
1549 incurred for the time period prescribed in subsection (d) of section 49-
1550 31l. No action to foreclose a judgment lien filed pursuant to this section
1551 may be commenced unless an execution may issue pursuant to section
1552 52-356a. The judgment lien shall expire twenty years after the judgment
1553 was rendered, except any judgment lien recorded with respect to a small
1554 claims action shall expire ten years after the judgment was rendered,
1555 unless the party claiming the lien commences an action to foreclose it
1556 within that period of time and records a notice of lis pendens in evidence
1557 thereof on the land records of the town in which the real property is

1558 located.

1559 Sec. 31. Section 51-274 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
1560 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1561 *1, 2024*):

1562 All special acts or provisions thereof inconsistent with this chapter
1563 and with sections 1-1a, 2-5, 2-40, 2-61, 5-164, 5-189, 7-80, 8-12, 9-63, 9-258,
1564 9-368, 12-154, 14-141, 14-142, 18-65, 18-73, 19a-220, 21a-96, 29-13, 29-362,
1565 30-105, 30-107, 30-111, 35-22, 46b-120, 46b-133, 46b-560, 47a-23, 47a-28,
1566 47a-35, 47a-37, 49-61, 49-62, 51-6a, 51-9, 51-15, 51-27, 51-30, 51-33, 51-34,
1567 51-36, 51-48, 51-49, 51-50, 51-51, 51-52, [51-59,] 51-72, 51-73, 51-95, 51-
1568 183b, 51-183d, 51-183f, 51-183g, 51-215a, 51-229, 51-232, 51-237, as
1569 amended by this act, and 51-241, subsection (a) of section 51-243 and
1570 sections 51-247, 51-347, 52-45a, 52-45b, 52-46, 52-97, 52-112, 52-139, 52-
1571 193, 52-194, 52-196, 52-209, 52-212, 52-215, 52-226, 52-240, 52-257, 52-258,
1572 52-261, 52-263, 52-268, 52-270, 52-278i, 52-293, 52-297, 52-298, 52-324, 52-
1573 351, 52-397, 52-425, 52-427, 52-428, 52-521, 53-308, 53-328, 54-2a, 54-56f,
1574 54-66, 54-72, 54-74, 54-82g, 54-82j, 54-82k, 54-95a, 54-96a, 54-96b, 54-97,
1575 54-108, 54-154, 54-166 and 54-169 to 54-174, inclusive, are repealed.

1576 Sec. 32. Subsection (d) of section 1-205 of the general statutes is
1577 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1578 *1, 2024*):

1579 (d) The commission shall, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of
1580 Information Act promptly review the alleged violation of said Freedom
1581 of Information Act and issue an order pertaining to the same. Said
1582 commission shall have the power to investigate all alleged violations of
1583 said Freedom of Information Act and may for the purpose of
1584 investigating any violation hold a hearing, administer oaths, examine
1585 witnesses, receive oral and documentary evidence, have the power to
1586 subpoena witnesses under procedural rules adopted by the commission
1587 to compel attendance and to require the production for examination of
1588 any books and papers which the commission deems relevant in any
1589 matter under investigation or in question. In case of a refusal to comply
1590 with any such subpoena or to testify with respect to any matter upon

1591 which that person may be lawfully interrogated, the superior court for
1592 the judicial district [of New Britain] in which the public agency is
1593 located, on application of the commission, may issue an order requiring
1594 such person to comply with such subpoena and to testify; failure to obey
1595 any such order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt
1596 thereof.

1597 Sec. 33. Subsection (b) of section 1-206 of the 2024 supplement to the
1598 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1599 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

1600 (b) (1) Any person denied the right to inspect or copy records under
1601 section 1-210 or wrongfully denied the right to attend any meeting of a
1602 public agency or denied any other right conferred by the Freedom of
1603 Information Act may appeal therefrom to the Freedom of Information
1604 Commission, by filing a notice of appeal with said commission. A notice
1605 of appeal shall be filed not later than thirty days after such denial, except
1606 in the case of an unnoticed or secret meeting, in which case the appeal
1607 shall be filed not later than thirty days after the person filing the appeal
1608 receives actual or constructive notice that such meeting was held. For
1609 purposes of this subsection, such notice of appeal shall be deemed to be
1610 filed on the date it is received by said commission or on the date it is
1611 postmarked, if received more than thirty days after the date of the denial
1612 from which such appeal is taken. Upon receipt of such notice, the
1613 commission shall serve upon all parties, by certified or registered mail
1614 or by electronic transmission, a copy of such notice together with any
1615 other notice or order of such commission. In the case of the denial of a
1616 request to inspect or copy records contained in a public employee's
1617 personnel or medical file or similar file under subsection (c) of section 1-
1618 214, the commission shall include with its notice or order an order
1619 requiring the public agency to notify any employee whose records are
1620 the subject of an appeal, and the employee's collective bargaining
1621 representative, if any, of the commission's proceedings and, if any such
1622 employee or collective bargaining representative has filed an objection
1623 under said subsection (c), the agency shall provide the required notice
1624 to such employee and collective bargaining representative by certified

1625 mail, return receipt requested, by electronic transmission or by hand
1626 delivery with a signed receipt. A public employee whose personnel or
1627 medical file or similar file is the subject of an appeal under this
1628 subsection may intervene as a party in the proceedings on the matter
1629 before the commission. Said commission shall, after due notice to the
1630 parties, hear and decide the appeal not later than one year after the filing
1631 of the notice of appeal. The commission shall adopt regulations in
1632 accordance with chapter 54, establishing criteria for those appeals which
1633 shall be privileged in their assignment for hearing. Any such appeal
1634 shall be heard not later than thirty days after receipt of a notice of appeal
1635 and decided not later than sixty days after the hearing. If a notice of
1636 appeal concerns an announced agency decision to meet in executive
1637 session or an ongoing agency practice of meeting in executive sessions,
1638 for a stated purpose, the commission or a member or members of the
1639 commission designated by its chairperson shall serve notice upon the
1640 parties in accordance with this section and hold a preliminary hearing
1641 on the appeal not later than seventy-two hours after receipt of the notice,
1642 provided such notice shall be given to the parties at least forty-eight
1643 hours prior to such hearing. During such preliminary hearing, the
1644 commission shall take evidence and receive testimony from the parties.
1645 If after the preliminary hearing the commission finds probable cause to
1646 believe that the agency decision or practice is in violation of sections 1-
1647 200 and 1-225, the agency shall not meet in executive session for such
1648 purpose until the commission decides the appeal. If probable cause is
1649 found by the commission, it shall conduct a final hearing on the appeal
1650 and render its decision not later than five days after the completion of
1651 the preliminary hearing. Such decision shall specify the commission's
1652 findings of fact and conclusions of law.

1653 (2) In any appeal to the Freedom of Information Commission under
1654 subdivision (1) of this subsection or subsection (c) of this section, the
1655 commission may confirm the action of the agency or order the agency
1656 to provide relief that the commission, in its discretion, believes
1657 appropriate to rectify the denial of any right conferred by the Freedom
1658 of Information Act. The commission may declare null and void any
1659 action taken at any meeting which a person was denied the right to

1660 attend and may require the production or copying of any public record.
1661 In addition, upon the finding that a denial of any right created by the
1662 Freedom of Information Act was without reasonable grounds and after
1663 the custodian or other official directly responsible for the denial has
1664 been given an opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in
1665 accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive, the commission
1666 may, in its discretion, impose against the custodian or other official a
1667 civil penalty of not less than twenty dollars nor more than five thousand
1668 dollars. If the commission finds that a person has taken an appeal under
1669 this subsection frivolously, without reasonable grounds and solely for
1670 the purpose of harassing the agency from which the appeal has been
1671 taken, after such person has been given an opportunity to be heard at a
1672 hearing conducted in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-184,
1673 inclusive, the commission may, in its discretion, impose against that
1674 person a civil penalty of not less than twenty dollars nor more than one
1675 thousand dollars. The commission shall notify a person of a penalty
1676 levied against such person pursuant to this subsection by written notice
1677 sent by certified or registered mail or electronic transmission. If a person
1678 fails to pay the penalty not later than thirty days after receiving such
1679 notice, the Superior Court shall, on application of the commission, issue
1680 an order requiring the person to pay the penalty imposed. If the
1681 executive director of the commission has reason to believe an appeal
1682 under subdivision (1) of this subsection or subsection (c) of this section
1683 (A) presents a claim beyond the commission's jurisdiction; (B) would
1684 perpetrate an injustice; or (C) would constitute an abuse of the
1685 commission's administrative process, the executive director shall not
1686 schedule the appeal for hearing without first seeking and obtaining
1687 leave of the commission. The commission shall provide due notice to the
1688 parties and review affidavits and written argument that the parties may
1689 submit and grant or deny such leave summarily at its next regular
1690 meeting. The commission shall grant such leave unless it finds that the
1691 appeal: (i) Does not present a claim within the commission's jurisdiction;
1692 (ii) would perpetrate an injustice; or (iii) would constitute an abuse of
1693 the commission's administrative process. Any party aggrieved by the
1694 commission's denial of such leave may apply to the superior court for

1695 the judicial district [of New Britain] in which the public agency is
1696 located, not later than fifteen days of the commission meeting at which
1697 such leave was denied, for an order requiring the commission to hear
1698 such appeal.

1699 (3) In making the findings and determination under subdivision (2)
1700 of this subsection the commission shall consider the nature of any
1701 injustice or abuse of administrative process, including, but not limited
1702 to: (A) The nature, content, language or subject matter of the request or
1703 the appeal, including, among other factors, whether the request or
1704 appeal is repetitious or cumulative; (B) the nature, content, language or
1705 subject matter of prior or contemporaneous requests or appeals by the
1706 person making the request or taking the appeal; (C) the nature, content,
1707 language or subject matter of other verbal and written communications
1708 to any agency or any official of any agency from the person making the
1709 request or taking the appeal; (D) any history of nonappearance at
1710 commission proceedings or disruption of the commission's
1711 administrative process, including, but not limited to, delaying
1712 commission proceedings; and (E) the refusal to participate in settlement
1713 conferences conducted by a commission ombudsman in accordance
1714 with the commission's regulations.

1715 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, in the case of
1716 an appeal to the commission of a denial by a public agency, the
1717 commission may, upon motion of such agency, confirm the action of the
1718 agency and dismiss the appeal without a hearing if it finds, after
1719 examining the notice of appeal and construing all allegations most
1720 favorably to the appellant, that (A) the agency has not violated the
1721 Freedom of Information Act, or (B) the agency has committed a technical
1722 violation of the Freedom of Information Act that constitutes a harmless
1723 error that does not infringe the appellant's rights under said act.

1724 (5) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, in the case of
1725 an appeal to the commission of a denial by a public agency where, after
1726 a hearing, the commission finds the public agency is engaging in a
1727 practice or pattern of conduct that constitutes an obstruction of any right

1728 conferred by the Freedom of Information Act or reckless, wilful or
1729 wanton misconduct with regard to the delay or denial of responses to
1730 requests for public records under said act, the commission may impose
1731 a civil penalty of not less than twenty dollars nor more than five
1732 thousand dollars against a custodian or other official of such public
1733 agency, and order such other relief that the commission, in its discretion,
1734 determines is appropriate to rectify such obstruction or misconduct and
1735 to deter such public agency from violating the Freedom of Information
1736 Act. In case of any failure or refusal to comply with any order issued
1737 under this subdivision, the commission may apply to the superior court
1738 for the judicial district [of New Britain] in which the public agency is
1739 located for an order requiring such public agency to comply with such
1740 order.

1741 (6) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, a public agency
1742 may petition the commission for relief from a requester that the public
1743 agency alleges is a vexatious requester. Such petition shall be sworn
1744 under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-157b, and
1745 shall detail the conduct which the agency alleges demonstrates a
1746 vexatious history of requests, including, but not limited to: (A) The
1747 number of requests filed and the total number of pending requests; (B)
1748 the scope of the requests; (C) the nature, content, language or subject
1749 matter of the requests; (D) the nature, content, language or subject
1750 matter of other oral and written communications to the agency from the
1751 requester; and (E) a pattern of conduct that amounts to an abuse of the
1752 right to access information under the Freedom of Information Act or an
1753 interference with the operation of the agency. Upon receipt of such
1754 petition, the executive director of the commission shall review the
1755 petition and determine whether it warrants a hearing. If the executive
1756 director determines that a hearing is not warranted, the executive
1757 director shall recommend that the commission deny the petition
1758 without a hearing. The commission shall vote at its next regular meeting
1759 after such recommendation to accept or reject such recommendation
1760 and, after such meeting, shall issue a written explanation of the reasons
1761 for such acceptance or rejection. If the executive director determines that
1762 a hearing is warranted, the commission shall serve upon all parties, by

1763 certified or registered mail or electronic transmission, a copy of such
1764 petition together with any other notice or order of the commission. The
1765 commission shall, after due notice to the parties, hear and either grant
1766 or deny the petition not later than one year after its filing. Upon a grant
1767 of such petition, the commission may provide appropriate relief
1768 commensurate with the vexatious conduct, including, but not limited
1769 to, an order that the agency need not comply with future requests from
1770 the vexatious requester for a specified period of time, but not to exceed
1771 one year. Any party aggrieved by the commission's granting of such
1772 petition may apply to the superior court for the judicial district [of New
1773 Britain] in which the public agency is located, not later than fifteen days
1774 after the commission meeting at which such petition was granted, for an
1775 order reversing the commission's decision.

1776 Sec. 34. Subsection (a) of section 51-344a of the general statutes is
1777 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1778 *1, 2024*):

1779 (a) Whenever the term "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain" or
1780 "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford" is used or referred
1781 to in the following sections of the general statutes, it shall be deemed to
1782 mean or refer to the judicial district of Hartford on and after September
1783 1, 1998: Sections [1-205, 1-206,] 2-48, 3-21a, 3-62d, 3-70a, 3-71a, 4-61, 4-
1784 160, 4-164, 4-177b, 4-180, 4-183, 4-197, 5-202, 5-276a, 8-30g, 9-7a, 9-7b, 9-
1785 369b, 10-153e, 12-208, 12-237, 12-268l, 12-312, 12-330m, 12-405k, 12-422,
1786 12-448, 12-454, 12-456, 12-463, 12-489, 12-522, 12-554, 12-565, 12-572, 12-
1787 586f, 12-597, 12-730, 13b-34, 13b-235, 13b-315, 13b-375, 14-57, 14-66, 14-
1788 67u, 14-110, 14-195, 14-311, 14-311c, 14-324, 14-331, 15-125, 15-126, 16-41,
1789 16a-5, 17b-60, 17b-100, 17b-238, 17b-531, 19a-85, 19a-86, 19a-425, 19a-498,
1790 19a-517, 19a-526, 19a-633, 20-12f, 20-13e, 20-29, 20-40, 20-45, 20-59, 20-
1791 73a, 20-86f, 20-99, 20-114, 20-133, 20-154, 20-156, 20-162p, 20-192, 20-
1792 195p, 20-202, 20-206c, 20-227, 20-238, 20-247, 20-263, 20-271, 20-307, 20-
1793 341f, 20-363, 20-373, 20-404, 20-414, 21a-55, 21a-190i, 22-7, 22-228, 22-248,
1794 22-254, 22-320d, 22-326a, 22-344b, 22-386, 22a-6b, 22a-7, 22a-16, 22a-30,
1795 22a-34, 22a-53, 22a-60, 22a-62, 22a-63, 22a-66h, 22a-106a, 22a-119, 22a-
1796 180, 22a-182a, 22a-184, 22a-220a, 22a-220d, 22a-225, 22a-226, 22a-226c,

1797 22a-227, 22a-250, 22a-255l, 22a-276, 22a-310, 22a-342a, 22a-344, 22a-361a,
1798 22a-374, 22a-376, 22a-408, 22a-430, 22a-432, 22a-438, 22a-449f, 22a-449g,
1799 22a-459, 23-5e, 23-65m, 25-32e, 25-36, 28-5, 29-143j, 29-158, 29-161z, 29-
1800 323, 30-8, 31-109, 31-249b, 31-266, 31-266a, 31-270, 31-273, 31-284, 31-285,
1801 31-339, 31-355a, 31-379, 35-3c, 35-42, 36a-186, 36a-187, 36a-471a, 36a-494,
1802 36a-587, 36a-647, 36a-684, 36a-718, 36a-807, 36b-26, 36b-27, 36b-30, 36b-
1803 50, 36b-71, 36b-72, 36b-74, 36b-76, 38a-41, 38a-52, 38a-134, 38a-139, 38a-
1804 140, 38a-147, 38a-150, 38a-185, 38a-209, 38a-225, 38a-226b, 38a-241, 38a-
1805 337, 38a-470, 38a-620, 38a-657, 38a-687, 38a-774, 38a-776, 38a-817, 38a-
1806 843, 38a-868, 38a-906, 38a-994, 42-103c, 42-110d, 42-110k, 42-110p, 42-
1807 182, 46a-56, 46a-100, 47a-21, 49-73, 51-44a, 51-81b, 51-194, 52-146j, 53-
1808 392d and 54-211a.

1809 Sec. 35. Section 51-14 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1810 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

1811 (a) The judges of the Supreme Court, the judges of the Appellate
1812 Court, and the judges of the Superior Court shall adopt and promulgate
1813 and may from time to time modify or repeal rules and forms regulating
1814 pleading, practice and procedure in judicial proceedings in courts in
1815 which they have the constitutional authority to make rules, for the
1816 purpose of simplifying proceedings in the courts and of promoting the
1817 speedy and efficient determination of litigation upon its merits. The
1818 rules of the Appellate Court shall be as consistent as feasible with the
1819 rules of the Supreme Court to promote uniformity in the procedure for
1820 the taking of appeals and may dispense, so far as justice to the parties
1821 will permit while affording a fair review, with the necessity of printing
1822 of records and briefs. Such rules shall not abridge, enlarge or modify
1823 any substantive right or the jurisdiction of any of the courts. Such rules
1824 shall become effective on such date as the judges specify but not in any
1825 event until sixty days after such promulgation, except that such rules
1826 may become effective prior to the expiration of the sixty-day time period
1827 if the judges deem that circumstances require that a new rule or a change
1828 to an existing rule be adopted expeditiously.

1829 [(b) All statutes relating to pleading, practice and procedure in

1830 existence on July 1, 1957, shall be deemed to be rules of court and shall
1831 remain in effect as such only until modified, superseded or suspended
1832 by rules adopted and promulgated by the judges of the Supreme Court
1833 or the Superior Court pursuant to the provisions of this section. The
1834 Chief Justice shall report any such rules to the General Assembly for
1835 study at the beginning of each regular session. Such rules shall be
1836 referred by the speaker of the House or by the president of the Senate to
1837 the judiciary committee for its consideration and such committee shall
1838 schedule hearings thereon. Any rule or any part thereof disapproved by
1839 the General Assembly by resolution shall be void and of no effect and a
1840 copy of such resolution shall thereafter be published once in the
1841 Connecticut Law Journal.]

1842 [(c)] (b) The judges or a committee of their number shall hold public
1843 hearings, of which reasonable notice shall be given in the Connecticut
1844 Law Journal and otherwise as they deem proper, upon any proposed
1845 new rule or any change in an existing rule that is to come before said
1846 judges for action, and each such proposed new rule or change in an
1847 existing rule shall be published in the Connecticut Law Journal as a part
1848 of such notice. A public hearing shall be held at least once a year, of
1849 which reasonable notice shall likewise be given, at which any member
1850 of the bar or layman may bring to the attention of the judges any new
1851 rule or change in an existing rule that he deems desirable.

1852 [(d)] (c) Upon the taking effect of such rules adopted and
1853 promulgated by the judges of the Supreme Court pursuant to the
1854 provisions of this section, all provisions of rules theretofore
1855 promulgated by the judges of the Superior Court shall be deemed to be
1856 repealed.

1857 Sec. 36. Section 52-278b of the general statutes is repealed and the
1858 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

1859 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the
1860 contrary, no prejudgment remedy shall be available to a person in any
1861 action at law or equity (1) unless he has complied with the provisions of
1862 sections 52-278a to 52-278g, inclusive, except an action upon a

1863 commercial transaction wherein the defendant has executed a waiver as
1864 provided in section 52-278f, [or] (2) for the garnishment of earnings as
1865 defined in subdivision (5) of section 52-350a, or (3) for information
1866 compelling disclosure of the names and addresses of clients of an
1867 individual or entity that provides professional services, as defined in
1868 subdivision (20) of section 4e-1, when the disclosure of such names and
1869 addresses would constitute a violation of state or federal law, or the
1870 applicable rules of professional conduct governing such profession, as
1871 the case may be.

1872 Sec. 37. Subsection (a) of section 51-345 of the 2024 supplement to the
1873 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1874 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1875 (a) Except as provided in section 51-348, as amended by this act, and
1876 subsections (b) to (h), inclusive, of this section, all civil process shall be
1877 made returnable to a judicial district, as follows:

1878 (1) If all of the parties reside outside this state, to the judicial district
1879 where (A) the injury occurred, (B) the transaction occurred, or (C) the
1880 property is located or lawfully attached.

1881 (2) If the defendant is not a resident, to the judicial district where the
1882 attached property is located.

1883 (3) If either or both the plaintiff or the defendant are residents of, or
1884 have an office or place of business in, this state, to the judicial district
1885 where either the plaintiff or the defendant resides, or has an office or
1886 place of business, except:

1887 (A) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1888 or place of business in, the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South
1889 Windsor or Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of
1890 the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial
1891 district of Tolland.

1892 (B) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1893 or place of business in, the town of Plymouth, the action may be made

1894 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
1895 New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

1896 (C) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1897 or place of business in, the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or
1898 Woodbridge, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
1899 plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial
1900 district of Ansonia-Milford.

1901 (D) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1902 or place of business in, the town of Southbury, the action may be made
1903 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
1904 Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

1905 (E) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1906 or place of business in, the town of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan,
1907 Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport or Wilton, the action may be
1908 made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district
1909 of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district of Bridgeport.

1910 (F) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1911 or place of business in, the town of Watertown or Woodbury, the action
1912 may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
1913 district of Waterbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

1914 (G) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1915 or place of business in, the town of Avon, Canton, Farmington or
1916 Simsbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
1917 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
1918 of New Britain.

1919 (H) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
1920 or place of business in, the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or
1921 Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
1922 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
1923 of New Britain, except for actions where venue is in the geographical
1924 area as provided in section 51-348, as amended by this act, or in rules of

1925 court.

1926 (I) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office or
 1927 place of business in, the town of Cromwell, the action may be made
 1928 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
 1929 Hartford or the judicial district of Middlesex.

1930 (J) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office or
 1931 place of business in, the town of New Milford, the action may be made
 1932 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
 1933 Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

1934 (K) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in, or has an office
 1935 or place of business in, the town of Windham or Ashford, the action may
 1936 be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
 1937 district of Windham or the judicial district of Tolland.

1938 Sec. 38. Sections 51-59 and 51-185 of the general statutes are repealed.
 1939 (*Effective July 1, 2024*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	4a-60(a)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	14-140(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	29-38c(c)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	46b-3(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	46b-123
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	46b-142(a)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	46b-207
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	47a-35a
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	47a-69(a)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	51-27b
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	51-51v
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	51-60(b)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	51-90c(a)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	51-90d(a)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	51-164m
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	51-193c(d)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	51-237

Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	51-348(a)
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	54-33a(d)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	54-63c
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	54-91c(b)
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	54-201
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	54-203
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	54-210(a)
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	54-211
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	1-84(d)
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	22-329a
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	22-358
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	52-380a
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	51-274
Sec. 32	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-205(d)
Sec. 33	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-206(b)
Sec. 34	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	51-344a(a)
Sec. 35	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	51-14
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	52-278b
Sec. 37	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	51-345(a)
Sec. 38	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 27(a)(4), "subsection (c)" was changed to "subsection (b)" and in Section 27(g)(9), "45a-479" was changed to "45a-579" for accuracy; in Section 29(h)(4) and (h)(6), "22-328," was added for internal consistency and the title was changed.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Judicial Dept. (Office of Victim Services)	CICF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: CICF=Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
All Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes changes to victim compensation application requirements and changes to the statutes regarding dog bites, which results in a potential cost to the Criminal Injuries and Compensation Fund (CICF) and to municipalities as described below. The bill also makes various technical and clarifying changes that are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.

Section 25 extends the timeframe from two to three years in which a victim may file an application for compensation and eliminates the requirement that the incident must be reported to police within five days, which results in a potential cost to CICF to the extent that more applications are filed and approved by the Office of Victim Services (OVS).

Section 29 makes various changes to statutes regarding dog bites that result in a potential cost to municipalities beginning in FY 25 associated with holding a prehearing meeting. The section requires animal control

officers to hold a prehearing meeting that includes all parties involved in an animal biting or attack.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of victim compensation applications and prehearing meetings.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 426

AN ACT CONCERNING COURT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

SUMMARY

§ 1 — NONDISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS

Adds domestic violence victims to the list of people protected under existing nondiscrimination provisions that must be in most state agency, municipal public works, and quasi-public agency project contracts

§ 2 — COURT REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Requires the court to report to the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner anyone who willfully fails to comply with remote events and deadlines the court sets for certain motor vehicle infractions and violations

§§ 3, 16 & 19 — ELECTRONIC OATHS AND SIGNATURES

Specifies that (1) affidavits for certain risk warrants, search warrants, and warrants to install a tracking device may be sworn to court officials either in person or electronically if there is simultaneous sight and sound and (2) court officials may electronically sign or verify warrants, warrant-related forms, affidavits, and findings

§§ 4-7, 9-15 & 17-18 — CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S ROLE

Conforms several judicial branch operational statutes to current practice by reassigning responsibilities from the executive committee of superior court judges to the chief court administrator

§ 8 — SUMMARY PROCESS STAY OF EXECUTION

Replaces the current security process for maintaining a stay of execution while appealing a summary process judgment with a similar one

§ 20 — VICTIM INFORMATION TO BAIL COMMISSIONERS

Requires police officers to give bail commissioners or intake assessment and referral specialists a crime victim's identifying information

§ 21 — PLEA AGREEMENT VICTIM STATEMENTS

Allows all crime victims to make a statement on any plea agreement prior to its acceptance by the court instead of just those where the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than what was originally charged

§§ 22 & 24 — VICTIM COMPENSATION FOR EMOTIONAL HARM AND PECUNIARY LOSS

Removes the requirement that a crime victim's mental or emotional impairment require treatment through services to be eligible for victim compensation and expands permitted victim compensation by allowing payment for pecuniary loss for attending certain Psychiatric Security Review Board hearings

§ 23 — CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME AND OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Increases the membership of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime from 15 to 20 and specifies that the council's members may represent victims of gun violence

§ 25 — OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Extends the time limits for applying to the OVS victim compensation program by one year and allows emotional harm victims to use the compensation for security measures

§ 26 — PROHIBITED ACTIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES

The bill eliminates current law's prohibition against public officials and state employees agreeing to accept, or being a member or employee of any kind of business that agrees to accept, compensation for representing a client before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or the Connecticut Siting Council

§ 27 — REMOTE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COURT RECORDS

Establishes the circumstances under which someone may acknowledge certain court documents remotely if specific requirements are met

§ 28 — ANIMAL NEGLECT OR CRUELTY

Increases, by \$5, the daily rate at which the return of certain bonds must be calculated when there is a specific court finding about neglected or cruelly treated animals; establishes confidentiality protections for the new owner of the animal

§ 29 — DOG BITE STATUTES

Generally replaces the current dog bite statute with provisions that (1) establish new procedures for owners, keepers, animal control officers, police officers, and injured persons and (2) specify factors an animal control officer must consider in deciding whether to issue an order to restrain or dispose of a biting or attacking dog

§ 30 — JUDGEMENT LIENS AND THE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Requires a judgement creditor to inform the judgement debtor about the foreclosure mediation program and gives the judgment debtor the option to participate in the program

§§ 31, 34, 35 & 38 — TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES AND REPEALERS

Makes technical and conforming changes and repeals obsolete provisions

§§ 32 & 33 — COURTS WITH JURISDICTION OVER FOIA-RELATED MATTERS

Allows FOIA-related matters to be brought before the court in the judicial district where the subject public agency is located, instead of in the New Britain Superior Court

§ 36 — PREJUDGMENT REMEDY

Makes a prejudgment remedy unavailable for information compelling certain professionals to disclose client information in violation of the law or their license

§ 37 — CIVIL PROCESS

Allows civil process to be made returnable to the judicial district where either or both the plaintiff or the defendant has an office or place of business in Connecticut

SUMMARY

This bill makes various unrelated changes in laws on court procedures and operations.

It also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, unless stated otherwise below.

§ 1 — NONDISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS

Adds domestic violence victims to the list of people protected under existing nondiscrimination provisions that must be in most state agency, municipal public works, and quasi-public agency project contracts

The bill adds domestic violence victims to the list of people with protected status under existing nondiscrimination provisions that must be part of most state agency, municipal public works, and quasi-public agency project contracts. Under existing law, these provisions already apply to various other people in protected classes (e.g., on the basis of their race, age, or disability status) and generally require the contractors to agree (1) that, in performing the contracts, they will not unlawfully discriminate or permit discrimination based on a person's status and (2) to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated without regard to their status.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 2 — COURT REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Requires the court to report to the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner anyone who willfully fails to comply with remote events and deadlines the court sets for certain motor vehicle infractions and violations

The bill requires the court to report to the Department of Motor

Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner anyone who willfully fails to comply with remote events and deadlines the court sets for motor vehicle infractions and certain violations. Specifically, this applies to motor vehicle violations under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court's Centralized Infractions Bureau, which is responsible for processing payments and not guilty pleas for them.

Existing law already requires the court to report to the DMV commissioner anyone charged with one of these infractions or violations who fails to pay the fine and any additional fee imposed, send in his or her not guilty plea by the answer date, or willfully fails to appear for any scheduled court appearance that may be required.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§§ 3, 16 & 19 — ELECTRONIC OATHS AND SIGNATURES

Specifies that (1) affidavits for certain risk warrants, search warrants, and warrants to install a tracking device may be sworn to court officials either in person or electronically if there is simultaneous sight and sound and (2) court officials may electronically sign or verify warrants, warrant-related forms, affidavits, and findings

The bill specifies that affidavits establishing the grounds for issuing certain warrants may be sworn to a judge or judge trial referee either in person or electronically with simultaneous sight and sound. Specifically, this may be done for a (1) risk warrant in connection with certain risk protection orders against an adult, (2) search warrant, or (3) warrant to install a tracking device.

The bill also specifies that warrants, warrant-related forms, affidavits, and findings are types of documents that court officials may electronically sign or verify. Existing law already expressly allows any notice, order, judgment, decision, decree, memorandum, ruling, opinion, mittimus, or similar document issued by certain court officials to be signed or verified by computer, fax, or other technology according to the chief court administrator's procedures and technical standards. As under existing law, the electronically signed or verified document has the same validity and status as a signed or verified paper document.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

Applicable Warrants

Existing law generally allows the police or a state's attorney or assistant state's attorney, under limited circumstances, to apply to court for a risk protection order prohibiting someone age 18 or older and at imminent risk of injuring themselves or someone else from obtaining or possessing firearms, other deadly weapons, or ammunition. As part of this process, the court may also issue a risk warrant for the police to seize these items if the person possesses them (CGS § 29-38c(a)).

Existing law also generally allows a state's attorney, assistant state's attorney, or two credible people, under limited circumstances, to apply to court for a (1) search warrant for the police to search a place, thing, or person and seize the property named in the warrant or (2) warrant to install a tracking device and use it in gathering evidence of a criminal offense (CGS §54-33(b) & (c)).

§§ 4-7, 9-15 & 17-18 — CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S ROLE

Conforms several judicial branch operational statutes to current practice by reassigning responsibilities from the executive committee of superior court judges to the chief court administrator

The bill conforms several judicial branch operational statutes to current practice by solely authorizing the chief court administrator, rather than, in most instances, the executive committee of superior court judges, to do the following:

1. appoint family relations personnel (§ 4);
2. appoint juvenile probation officers, probation aides, clerks, detention personnel, clerical assistants, and other personnel, including supervisory staff (§ 5);
3. establish districts for establishing venue in juvenile matters (§ 6);
4. establish and maintain Support Enforcement Services staff and offices (§ 7);

5. appoint housing mediators (§ 9);
6. designate the number and location of court offices (§ 10);
7. appoint most clerks (§ 11);
8. appoint official court reporters (§ 12);
9. appoint the state-wide bar counsel and assistant bar counsel (§ 13);
10. appoint grievance counsel and investigators (§ 14);
11. establish and maintain schedules of fines for infractions and specific violations handled through the Superior Court's Centralized Infractions Bureau (§ 15);
12. establish the civil penalty for failure to appear for jury service (§ 17); and
13. modify the geographical areas of the superior courts (§ 18).

Additionally, the bill authorizes superior court chief clerks, rather than superior court judges, to appoint, as they deem necessary, temporary assistant clerks or clerks for the superior court and to discharge them (§ 5(c)). It also eliminates the one-year term limits on the state-wide bar counsel, assistant bar counsel, grievance counsel, and grievance investigators (§§ 13 & 14).

The bill also eliminates obsolete provisions and makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes.

§ 8 — SUMMARY PROCESS STAY OF EXECUTION

Replaces the current security process for maintaining a stay of execution while appealing a summary process judgment with a similar one

The bill replaces the current security process for maintaining a stay of execution while appealing a summary process judgement with a similar one to guarantee payment for all rents that may accrue during the appeal.

By law, once a Superior Court judge has issued a summary process judgment against a defendant occupying a dwelling unit, the defendant has five days to appeal the decision (i.e., a five-day stay of execution). If the defendant appeals within that period, the execution is further stayed until final action, unless, among other things, the defendant fails to comply with the security process in another law (CGS § 47a-35).

Currently, under this other law and during the five-day period to appeal, the defendant must give the adverse party a surety bond to guarantee payment for (1) all rents that may accrue while the appeal is pending or (2) if there is no lease, the reasonable value for using and occupying the unit. However, the defendant may alternatively file a motion for an order to make payments to the court, which the court must issue after a hearing, for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy of the unit during the appeal accruing from the date of the order. The courts have also held that a defendant may alternatively file a motion to set the bond, because the current law is silent on the precise procedure for setting the bond amount and does not expressly state whether an appeal should be dismissed if no bond is set in the first place (see *City of Norwich v. Shelby-Posello*, 140 Conn. App. 383 (2012) and *Santander Bank, N.A. v. Harrison*, No. NWHCV186003659S, 2019 WL 7498755 (Conn. Super. Ct. Oct. 24, 2019)).

The bill replaces these options with the following steps that must be taken by the courts and the parties once an appeal has been filed:

1. the chief clerk of the Appellate Court, or his or her designee, must notify the Superior Court that rendered the summary process judgment that the judgment is being appealed;
2. within 14 days after receiving the notice, the Superior Court must schedule and hold a hearing to guarantee payment for all rents that may accrue during the appeal;
3. after the hearing, the Superior Court may order the defendant to deposit with the court an amount equal to (a) the defendant's portion of the last-agreed upon rent for the dwelling unit or (b) if

there was no lease, the reasonable value for using and occupying it that may accrue; and

4. after the hearing the Superior Court must order the defendant to deposit with the court payments for the reasonable fair rental value of using and occupying the premises during the appeal accruing from the date the appeal was filed.

As for deposit orders under current law, the orders under the bill must allow the amount to be paid in monthly installments, as it becomes due. Additionally, if any portion of the defendant's rent is being paid to the plaintiff by a housing authority, municipality, state agency, or similar entity, the defendant only needs to deposit an amount equal to the defendant's portion of the rent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 20 — VICTIM INFORMATION TO BAIL COMMISSIONERS

Requires police officers to give bail commissioners or intake assessment and referral specialists a crime victim's identifying information

Regardless of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and certain court procedure statutes, the bill requires police officers, presumably after someone has been arrested and criminally charged, to give bail commissioners or intake assessment and referral specialists identifying information about the victim of the charged crime or crimes, including the victim's name, address, and phone number, if available, to carry out the commissioner's or specialist's duties.

Existing law already requires police officers to immediately notify a bail commissioner or intake assessment and referral specialist if an arrested person does not post bail.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 21 — PLEA AGREEMENT VICTIM STATEMENTS

Allows all crime victims to make a statement on any plea agreement prior to its acceptance by the court instead of just those where the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than what was originally charged

By law and in criminal cases, before the court can accept a plea of guilty or nolo contendere through a plea agreement with the state, the court must allow certain victims of the crime to appear before the court to make a statement for the record, which may include the victim's opinion on any plea agreement. Current law limits this allowance to cases where the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than what was originally charged. The bill removes this condition, allowing all victims to make statements regardless of the circumstances for the plea agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§§ 22 & 24 — VICTIM COMPENSATION FOR EMOTIONAL HARM AND PECUNIARY LOSS

Removes the requirement that a crime victim's mental or emotional impairment require treatment through services to be eligible for victim compensation and expands permitted victim compensation by allowing payment for pecuniary loss for attending certain Psychiatric Security Review Board hearings

By law, certain crime victims may receive victim compensation for personal injury, including emotional harm (CGS Chapter 968). Under current law, eligible "emotional harm" must be a mental or emotional impairment that (1) requires treatment through services and (2) is directly attributable to a threat of physical injury or death to the affected person. The bill removes the requirement that the victim's impairment require treatment through services.

The bill also expands permitted victim compensation by allowing payment for pecuniary loss to an injured victim or an injured or deceased victim's relatives or dependents for attending Psychiatric Security Review Board hearings on the criminal case of who was charged with committing the crime that resulted in the victim's injury or death.

By law, the Office of Victim Service (OVS) or a victim compensation commissioner may order this payment. Existing law already allows compensation for similar pecuniary losses for attendance at court proceedings, juvenile proceedings, and Board of Pardons and Parole hearings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 23 — CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME AND OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Increases the membership of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime from 15 to 20 and specifies that the council's members may represent victims of gun violence

The bill increases the membership of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime from 15 to 20.

By law, this council must meet at least four times per year to recommend legislation to the OVS's program. The council's members are appointed by the chief justice and must include the chief victim compensation commissioner; representatives of the judicial and executive branch agencies involved with crime victims; and members who represent victim populations.

Under existing law, the represented victim populations expressly include homicide survivors and victims of family violence, sexual assault, drunk drivers, and assault and robbery. The bill specifies that victims of gun violence are a represented victim population.

Separately, the bill specifies that OVS's biennial report on the office's activities must be submitted to the Judiciary Committee. Current law requires the office to submit it to the committee with cognizance over victim services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 25 — OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Extends the time limits for applying to the OVS victim compensation program by one year and allows emotional harm victims to use the compensation for security measures

The bill makes several changes to the OVS victim compensation program. Generally, to be eligible for victim compensation under current law, all of the following conditions must be met:

1. the application must be made within two years after the date of the personal injury or death;

2. the personal injury or death was the result of specified incidents or offenses; and
3. the incident or offense was reported to the police within five days after it occurred or within five days after when a report could reasonably have been made, with certain exceptions for sexual assault victims.

The bill extends the application deadline to three years after the injury or death and eliminates the requirement that the incident or offense be reported to the police within the five-day time periods.

Additionally, the bill expands what compensation may be used for in cases of just emotional harm. Under current law, this compensation may only be used for medical and mental health care. The bill allows it to also be used for security measures.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 26 — PROHIBITED ACTIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES

The bill eliminates current law's prohibition against public officials and state employees agreeing to accept, or being a member or employee of any kind of business that agrees to accept, compensation for representing a client before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or the Connecticut Siting Council

Current law prohibits, with certain exceptions, public officials and state employees (and their employees) from agreeing to accept, or being a member or employee of a partnership, association, professional corporation, or sole proprietorship that agrees to accept, any employment, fee, or other thing of value, for appearing, agreeing to appear, or taking any other action on behalf of another person before specified boards, departments, commissions, and commissioners, such as the banking, consumer protection, and insurance departments; the claims commissioner; the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; and the Connecticut Siting Council.

The bill eliminates this prohibition's applicability to the Public

Utilities Regulatory Authority and the Connecticut Siting Council.

§ 27 — REMOTE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COURT RECORDS

Establishes the circumstances under which someone may acknowledge certain court documents remotely if specific requirements are met

The bill establishes the circumstances under which someone may acknowledge certain court documents remotely if specific requirements are met.

Remote Acknowledgement in the State

Except when prohibited (see below), the bill allows a document to be acknowledged by someone who is not in the physical presence of a commissioner of the Superior Court at the time of the acknowledgment if certain conditions are met.

In such a case, remote acknowledgment can be taken if:

1. the person and the commissioner of the Superior Court can communicate simultaneously, in real time, by sight and sound using communication technology and
2. when performing the remote acknowledgment, the commissioner of the Superior Court reasonably identifies the person at the time of the acknowledgment by one or more of the methods listed below.

Under the bill, “communication technology” is an electronic device or process that:

1. allows a commissioner of the Superior Court and a remotely located individual to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound and
2. when necessary and consistent with other applicable law, facilitates communication between a commissioner of the Superior Court and a remotely located person who has a vision, hearing, or speech impairment.

A “remotely located individual” is someone who is not in the physical presence of the commissioner of the Superior Court who takes the above acknowledgment. (This bill definition incorrectly cites to a different part of the bill.)

The court may use any of the following methods to reasonably identify the person:

1. personal knowledge of the person’s identity;
2. a government-issued identification document or record that has not expired and includes the person’s photograph, name, and signature, such as a driver’s license, government-issued identification card, or passport;
3. oath or affirmation by a credible witness who is (a) in the physical presence of either the commissioner of the Superior Court or the person; or (b) able to communicate in real time with the commissioner of the Superior Court and the person 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 individual’s identity and has been reasonably identified by the commissioner of the Superior Court by one of these methods; or
4. at least two different types of identity proofing processes or services by which a third person provides a way to verify the individual’s identity through a review of public or private data sources.

Under the bill, “identity proofing” is a process or service by which a third person gives a commissioner of the Superior Court a way to verify a remotely located individual’s identity by reviewing personal information from public or private data sources.

Remote Acknowledgement Outside of the State

Under the bill, when the person seeking remote acknowledgement is

physically located outside of Connecticut or outside the United States, the record being acknowledged must (1) be intended for filing or presentation in a matter before a court, governmental entity, public official, or other entity subject to Connecticut's jurisdiction or (2) not otherwise be prohibited by Connecticut law to be acknowledged outside the state.

"Outside the United States" is 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.

Acknowledgment Completed

Once the acknowledged record is signed by the person under the procedures above, the person must mail or otherwise cause to be delivered the signed original copy of it to the commissioner of the Superior Court.

The date and time of an acknowledgment conducted must be the date and time when the commissioner of the Superior Court witnessed the signature being performed by means of communication technology.

The Court's Authority

The bill specifies that it does not 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.

Documents Prohibited From Remote Acknowledgment

The bill prohibits the remote acknowledgement of a record in the

execution of any of the following:

1. a will, codicil, trust, or trust instrument (including the making of any of these documents);
2. health care instructions;
3. designation of a standby guardian;
4. designation of a person for decision-making and certain rights and obligations;
5. a living will;
6. a power of attorney;
7. a self-proving affidavit for an appointment of a health care representative or for a living will;
8. a mutual distribution agreement;
9. the execution of a disclaimer of property in a decedent's estate or passing under a nontestamentary instrument; or
10. a real estate closing.

Violation

The bill specifies that the performance of any acknowledgment in the making or execution of any of the above documents must be ineffective for any purpose and constitutes a violation of the law that prohibits the practice of law by someone who is not admitted as an attorney.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§ 28 — ANIMAL NEGLECT OR CRUELTY

Increases, by \$5, the daily rate at which the return of certain bonds must be calculated when there is a specific court finding about neglected or cruelly treated animals; establishes confidentiality protections for the new owner of the animal

Return of Bond After a Finding of Animal Abuse

By law, animal control officers may (1) take physical custody of any

animal they have reasonable cause to believe is in imminent harm and is neglected or cruelly treated in violation of the animal cruelty laws and (2) petition the court to have the animal removed from its owner. Among other things, the court may order that the animal be placed in the care and custody of a private or public agency or person, in which case the owner either relinquishes the animal or pays a \$1,000 bond to the person who has temporary care and custody of the animal for reasonable expenses.

Under existing law, if the court finds that the animal was abused it (1) may order the animal to be humanely euthanized or (2) vest ownership of the animal to an agency or person licensed to care for animals. If the court makes this finding within less than 30 days after it issued the order of temporary care and custody and the animal's owner posted a bond, the agency or person with whom the bond was posted must return the balance of the bond, if any, to the owner.

Under current law, the amount of the bond to be returned must be calculated at \$15 dollars per day, per animal, or \$25 dollars per day, per animal, if the animal is a horse or other large livestock, for the number of days less than 30 that the agency or person has not had temporary care and custody of the animal, less any veterinary costs and expenses incurred for the animal's welfare. The bill increases the daily rate by \$5, making it a rate of \$20 and \$30 respectively.

Confidentiality Protection of the New Owner

By law, if the court vests ownership of the animal in the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner or a municipality, they may publicly auction the animal or vest ownership of it in an individual or a public or private nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization.

Under the bill, any record containing the name, address, or other personally identifying information of the animal's new owner must be exempt from disclosure under state law, but it may be disclosed under a subpoena.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§ 29 — DOG BITE STATUTES

Generally replaces the current dog bite statute with provisions that (1) establish new procedures for owners, keepers, animal control officers, police officers, and injured persons and (2) specify factors an animal control officer must consider in deciding whether to issue an order to restrain or dispose of a biting or attacking dog

The bill generally eliminates current law's provisions that allow any owner or his or her agent, animal control officers, and police officers to kill a dog observed pursuing or worrying a domestic animal or poultry. It instead allows these individuals, as well as the animal's or poultry's keeper or his or her agent, to kill any dog while the dog is in the act of biting, attacking, or pursuing the owner's or keeper's animal or poultry.

Under the bill, as under existing law, anyone who kills a dog in accordance with state law must not be held criminally or civilly liable for doing it.

Complaint to Animal Control Officer

Under the bill, anyone who kills a dog, cat, or other animal under the circumstances described below must make complaint about the circumstances of the attack to an animal control officer of the town where the attack occurred. The animal control officer must investigate the circumstances of the attack set forth in the complaint.

This applies to a case in which any (1) owner, keeper, animal control officer, or police officer kills a dog described above or (2) person who is 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 the person is not on the owner's or keeper's premises.

Under the bill, "animal control officers" are those appointed by the DoAg commissioner (i.e., (1) a chief state animal control officer; (2) an assistant chief state animal control officer; and (3) not more than twelve state animal control officers and as many regional animal control officers and assistants as the commissioner deems necessary). They also include (1) municipal animal control officers appointed by the municipalities and (2) any regional animal control officers in the towns that agree to be served by regional officers (CGS §§ 22-328, -331 & -331a).

Investigation and Order Whether to Restrain or Dispose of Dog

Under the bill, if, after an investigation, the animal control officer determines that a person has in fact been bitten or attacked by a dog, the animal control officer may make any order on the restraint or disposal of the dog needed to protect public health and safety.

Factors to Consider. In determining the type of order to issue or conditions of restraint to impose, the animal control officer must consider factors that include the following:

1. the ability of the dog's owner or keeper, if any, to control the animal;
2. the severity of the injury the dog inflicted on the person;
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 owner's or keeper's property;
6. whether the dog was provoked; and
7. whether the dog was protecting its owner or keeper from physical harm.

Provisions That Must Apply to Restraint or Disposal Orders Issued Under the Bill

The bill requires all of the following provisions to apply to any restraint or disposal order issued under the bill.

Effective Date. In the interest of public health and safety, and the health and safety of animals, whenever an order requires the restraint of an animal, it must be effective upon its issuance and remain in effect during any appeal of the order.

Physical Custody of Animal. In the interest of public health and safety, and the health and safety of animals, whenever an order requires

the disposal of an animal, the issuing officer must take physical custody and retain possession of the animal during any appeal of the order.

The Order. Within 24 hours after the order is issued, a copy must be delivered to the person bitten or attacked, or to the owner or keeper of the animal which has been bitten or attacked. The order must include (1) the date, time, and place where the prehearing meeting must occur and (2) a statement informing the owner or keeper of the biting or attacking animal about their right to appeal the order after the prehearing meeting.

Prehearing Meeting. Within 15 days after the order is issued, the municipality in which the attack occurred must schedule and hold a prehearing meeting with the animal's owner or keeper and the person who was bitten or attacked, or the owner or keeper of the animal that was been bitten or attacked, to determine if the order is in dispute. At the 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.

Prehearing Meeting Statement. Within 10 days after the prehearing meeting, the municipality must give a statement about the meeting to the (1) owner or keeper of the animal subject to the order and (2) victim or the owner or keeper of the animal that was bitten or attacked. The statement must include only the names of the attending parties, the meeting date, and whether the order was modified. All settlement discussions that occurred during the meeting must be confidential and protected from disclosure under state law.

Appeal After the Prehearing Meeting. After the prehearing meeting, anyone aggrieved by an order, including an alternate order, issued by an animal control officer may appeal to the Superior Court of the judicial district where the municipality is located. They must appeal within 15 days after the prehearing meeting concluded.

Fees. The owner or keeper of an animal subject to an order must pay

all fees under a state law (presumably the redemption fee established by the municipality, which must not exceed \$15). If the owner or keeper fails to comply with the order, an animal control officer may seize the animal before or during the prehearing meeting or appeal, and until the appeal is complete, to ensure compliance. The owner must be responsible for any expenses resulting from the seizure.

Final Order. Once the order becomes a final order or judgment, it is enforceable on a statewide basis and any animal control officer will have the authority to enforce it.

Violation and Penalty. Any owner or keeper of an animal subject to a final order or judgment who fails to comply with the order or judgment is guilty of a class D misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 30 days in prison, a fine of up to \$250, or both.

Appeal to the Superior Court. Any person aggrieved by an order issued by the DoAg commissioner or an animal control officer may appeal to the Superior Court of the judicial district where he or she lives, but the appeal must be made within 15 days after the order was issued.

Damage to Other Animals

Poultry, Ratite, Domestic Rabbit, Animal or Livestock. Under the bill, a person who sustains damage or physical injury to his or her poultry, ratite, domestic rabbit, animal, or livestock, by a biting or attacking dog must make complaint about the circumstances of the bite or attack to the animal control officer for the town where the bite or attack occurred. As under existing law, the officer who receives the complaint must immediately investigate it.

Factors to Consider. If after investigation, the animal control officer determines that an animal has in fact been bitten or attacked by a dog, the animal control officer may make any order about the restraint or disposal of the dog needed 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 must consider factors that include:

1. the owner's or keeper's ability to control the dog;
2. the severity of injury inflicted by the 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, as long as the animal attacked was under the control of its owner or keeper or on its owner's or keeper's property;
6. whether the dog was provoked; and
7. whether the dog was protecting its owner or keeper from physical harm.

Military Animals and Service Animals

The bill creates the following exemptions for military animals and service animals.

Military. Any dog or other animal owned by the U.S. military or a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency is exempt from the bill's dog bite provisions when it is (1) owned by or in the custody and control of the agency; (2) under the direct supervision, care, and control of an assigned handler; (3) currently vaccinated for rabies; and (4) subject to routine veterinary care.

Service Animals. Any service animal owned by or in the custody and control of a person with a disability is exempt from the bill's dog bite provisions when it is (1) under the direct supervision, care, and control of the person with a disability; (2) currently vaccinated for rabies; and (3) subject to routine veterinary care.

Under the bill, a (1) "disability" is a physical, intellectual, mental, or

learning disability, or any combination of them, and (2) “service animal” is the same as under federal law (generally, a dog that is trained to work or perform tasks to benefit someone with a disability, including a service animal in training).

Background — Related Bills

HB 5257 (File 438), favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, makes a dog’s owner or keeper jointly and severally liable for any damage the dog causes to a person’s body or property. Therefore, under the bill, both the owner and keeper may be found liable.

sHB 5288 (File 190), favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, generally changes an exemption from restraint or disposal orders so that it applies to service animals instead of guide dogs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§ 30 — JUDGEMENT LIENS AND THE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Requires a judgement creditor to inform the judgement debtor about the foreclosure mediation program and gives the judgment debtor the option to participate in the program

Stay of Execution Alleging Default on a Consumer Judgment

By law, a judgment lien on real property may be foreclosed or redeemed in the same way as mortgages on the same property. For a consumer judgment, the complaint must indicate whether the court has entered a stay of execution and, if so, must allege any default on an installment payment order that is a precondition to foreclosure.

Notification of the Mediation Program

The bill further requires the judgment creditor to notify the judgment debtor about the Ezequiel Santiago Foreclosure Mediation Program (see below) by attaching the following, in the form the chief court administrator prescribes, to the front of the writ, summons, and complaint served on the judgment debtor:

1. a copy of the notice of foreclosure mediation,
2. a copy of the foreclosure mediation certificate form, and

3. a blank appearance form.

Under the bill, the notice of foreclosure mediation must instruct the judgment debtor to file the appearance and foreclosure mediation certificate forms with the court within 15 days from the return date for the foreclosure action.

Participation in the Mediation Program

Under the bill, if the judgment debtor chooses to participate in, and the court orders the case assigned to, the foreclosure mediation program, the:

1. judgment debtor must be entitled to the rights and assume the obligations of a mortgagor under the mediation program and
2. judgment creditor must be entitled to the rights and assume the obligations of a mortgagee under the program, except that the judgment creditor is not required to give the mortgage-specific information described in state statute, but instead must furnish a copy of the underlying judgment and an accounting of current interest and other charges incurred for the time period prescribed in state statute.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

Background — The Foreclosure Mediation Program

The state's foreclosure mediation program aims to help certain borrowers and lenders reach an agreed-upon resolution of a mortgage foreclosure action by having state judicial branch employees work as mediators. It is not mandatory for borrowers, but if an eligible person files a court appearance and requests mediation, the lender must participate. The legislature established the program in 2008 and it currently runs until June 30, 2029, after which the court may not accept new requests. Under existing law, the program ends when the mediation of all timely submitted requests concludes (CGS § 49-31k et seq.).

§§ 31, 34, 35 & 38 — TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES AND REPEALERS

Makes technical and conforming changes and repeals obsolete provisions

The bill makes technical and conforming changes and repeals obsolete provisions. Specifically, it removes obsolete:

1. references to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in a provision that addresses what court has jurisdiction over certain matters (§ 34);
2. provisions on the rules of the court (§ 35);
3. provisions that require Superior Court judges to determine when the clerk's offices are open for business (§ 38), and makes a technical and conforming change because of this repeal (§ 31); and
4. provisions that authorize each criminal session to hear civil matters after concluding criminal business or during a recess of the court (§ 38).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024, except October 1, 2024, for the provision eliminating the obsolete FOIA references.

§§ 32 & 33 — COURTS WITH JURISDICTION OVER FOIA-RELATED MATTERS

Allows FOIA-related matters to be brought before the court in the judicial district where the subject public agency is located, instead of in the New Britain Superior Court

By law the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) must, subject to FOIA, promptly review an alleged FOIA violation and issue an order on the violation. The commission may investigate alleged violations, hold related hearings, and examine and subpoena witnesses, among other things.

Under existing law, if someone refuses to comply with the subpoena or to testify to any matter on which he or she may be lawfully interrogated, FOIC may apply to the court for an order requiring the person to comply. The bill allows FOIC to apply to the Superior Court

in the judicial district where the subject public agency is located, instead of the New Britain Judicial District as under current law.

The bill also makes corresponding changes in statutes that address the court's jurisdiction over other FOIA-related matters that may be brought before the court. Under these statutes, for example:

1. the commission may apply to the court to issue an order requiring someone to pay a particular penalty if they have failed to do so,
2. an aggrieved party may petition the court for an order requiring the commission to hear the party's appeal, and
3. an aggrieved party may petition the court to reverse the commission's decision to provide relief to an agency regarding a vexatious requester.

In these additional FOIA-related matters the petitions may be submitted to the court in the judicial district where the public agency is located rather than the New Britain judicial district, as under current law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§ 36 — PREJUDGMENT REMEDY

Makes a prejudgment remedy unavailable for information compelling certain professionals to disclose client information in violation of the law or their license

By law, a "prejudgment remedy" is a remedy or combination of remedies that enables a person by way of attachment, foreign attachment, garnishment, or replevin to deprive the defendant in a civil action of, or affect the use, possession, or enjoyment by the defendant of, his or her property prior to final judgment, but excludes a temporary restraining order (CGS § 52-278a).

Under existing law, regardless of any statute to the contrary, prejudgment remedy is not available to anyone in any action at law or equity:

1. unless the person has complied with the prejudgment remedy provisions, except an action over a commercial transaction in which the defendant has waived the right to a notice and hearing, or
2. for the garnishment of earnings (i.e., any debt accruing by reason of personal services, including any compensation payable by an employer to an employee for the personal services, whether they are called wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise).

Under the bill, prejudgment remedy is also not available for information compelling disclosure of the names and addresses of the clients of an individual or entity that provides professional services (see below), when the disclosure would violate state or federal law, or the applicable rules of professional conduct governing the profession.

Professional Services

Under the law and the bill, “professional services” are any type of service to the public that requires members of a profession rendering the service to first obtain a license or other legal authorization, including, the professional services of architects and professional engineers (individually or jointly), landscape architects, certified public accountants and public accountants, land surveyors, attorneys-at-law, psychologists, licensed marital and family therapists, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical social workers, dentists, naturopaths, chiropractors, physicians and surgeons, physician assistants, doctors of dentistry, physical therapists, occupational therapists, podiatrists, optometrists, nurses, nurse-midwives, veterinarians, pharmacists, real estate brokers, and insurance producers (CGS §§ 4e-1(20) & 33-182a(1)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§ 37 — CIVIL PROCESS

Allows civil process to be made returnable to the judicial district where either or both the plaintiff or the defendant has an office or place of business in Connecticut

Under current law, with certain exceptions, if either or both the plaintiff or the defendant in the case are Connecticut residents, civil

process must be made returnable to the judicial district where either the plaintiff or the defendant resides. The bill expands this to include consideration of whether either or both has an office or place of business in Connecticut, in which case, civil process must be made returnable to the judicial district where either resides or has an office or place of business.

The bill makes a conforming change to the exceptions specified under current law that give the plaintiff the option of where the action may be returnable if either or both the plaintiff or the defendant live in certain towns or, under the bill, has an office or place of business, as shown in the table below.

Table: Plaintiff's Option of Judicial District

<i>Town of Residence or, Under the Bill, Location of Office or Place of Business</i>	<i>Judicial District (Plaintiff's Option)</i>
Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor, or Enfield	Hartford or Tolland
Plymouth	New Britain or Waterbury
Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge	New Haven or Anthonia-Milford
Southbury	Anthonia-Milford or Waterbury
Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, or Wilton	Stamford-Norwalk or Bridgeport
Watertown or Woodbury	Waterbury or Litchfield
Avon, Canton, Farmington, or Simsbury	Hartford or New Britain
Newington, Rocky Hill, or Wethersfield	Hartford or New Britain (except for actions where venue is in the Superior Court geographical area as provided in law or in court rules)
Cromwell	Hartford or Middlesex
New Milford	Danbury or Litchfield
Windham or Ashford	Windham or Tolland

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 2 (03/28/2024)