General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **8598**

Offered by:
REP. STAFSTROM, 129th Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.
SEN. KISSEL, 7th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **7255** File No. 773 Cal. No. 484

"AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES AND THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL."

In line 33, after "and" insert "may perform the following"

In lines 45 and 53, after "recorded" insert "and each succeeding page number within a document that contains personal information that needs to be redacted"

In lines 57 and 62, after "number" insert "and each succeeding page number within a document that contains personal information that needs to be redacted"

Strike lines 69 and 70 in their entirety

Strike lines 82 and 83 in their entirety and insert "in good faith." in lieu thereof

In line 88, after the period, insert the following:

"(h) Nothing in this section shall require the removal or redaction of personal information contained in records required to be published in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes, including agendas, minutes, videos or transcripts of public meetings."

Strike section 16 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 16. Section 51-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

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

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

(3) If either or both the plaintiff or the defendant are residents of this state, to the judicial district where either the plaintiff or the defendant resides, except:

(A) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

(B) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(C) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

(D) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(E) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district of Bridgeport.

(F) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(G) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Avon **[**, Canton, Farmington**]** or Simsbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of **[**New Britain**]** Litchfield.

(H) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in rules of court.

(I) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Middlesex.

(J) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(K) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial district of Tolland.

(b) In all actions involving the title to land, for trespass to land and to foreclose or redeem mortgages or liens upon real property, civil process shall be made returnable to the judicial district where the real property is located, either entirely or in part, except:

(1) If the land is located in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

(2) If the land is located in the town of Plymouth and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(3) If the land is located in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

(4) If the land is located in the town of Southbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(5) If the land is located in the town of Weston, Westport or Wilton and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in any one of these towns, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district of Bridgeport.

(6) If the land is located in the town of Watertown or Woodbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

(7) If the land is located in the town of Avon **[**, Canton, Farmington**]** or Simsbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Avon **[**, Canton, Farmington**]** or Simsbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of **[**New Britain**]** Litchfield.

(8) If the land is located in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in rules of court.

(9) If the land is located in the town of New Milford and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

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

(1) If the plaintiff is a domestic business organization and the defendant is a resident, either (A) to the judicial district where the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hartford or the judicial district of **[**New Britain**]** or Litchfield.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the

plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Middlesex.

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

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

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

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

(d) In all actions involving consumer transactions, civil process shall be made returnable to the judicial district where the consumer resides or where the transaction occurred. For the purposes of this subsection, "consumer transaction" means a transaction in which a natural person obligates himself or herself to pay for goods sold or leased, services rendered or moneys loaned for personal, family or household purposes.

(e) In all actions for the partition or sale of any property, civil process shall be made returnable to the judicial district where the parties, or one of them, reside; but, if none of them resides in this state, then to the judicial district where all or a part of the property is located.

(f) In all actions by a nonresident executor, trustee under a will or administrator, civil process shall be made returnable to the same judicial district as would be proper if the plaintiff resided in the town where the

Probate Court which granted administration is held.

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

(h) (1) In all actions involving housing matters, as defined in section 47a-68, civil process shall be made returnable to the judicial district where the premises are located, except that actions described in subdivision (6) of section 47a-68 shall be heard in the geographical area where the premises are located unless otherwise provided in subsection (d) of section 51-348.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection concerning the judicial district to which civil process shall be made returnable:

(A) If the premises are located in **[**Avon, Canton, Farmington,**]** Newington, Rocky Hill **[**, Simsbury**]** or Wethersfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.

(B) If the premises are located in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Oxford, Seymour or Shelton, the action shall be made returnable to the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford. After the filing of the action, the plaintiff or the defendant may request a change in venue to the judicial district of New Haven or the judicial district of Waterbury.

(C) If the premises are located in Milford, Orange or West Haven, the

action shall be made returnable to the judicial district of New Haven.

(D) If the premises are located in Avon or Simsbury, the action shall be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of Litchfield."

Strike section 24 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 24. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to conduct a review of the habeas corpus procedures utilized by the federal government and other states and, after conducting such review, make recommendations to the General Assembly, that include, but are not limited to, best practices that could be implemented in this state to: (1) Ensure a timely review and adjudication of habeas corpus claims; (2) establish standards for the presentation of repeated habeas corpus claims associated with the same incident; (3) prioritize credible habeas corpus claims and limit the filing of repetitive or meritless habeas corpus claims; and (4) provide balance between providing public counsel in habeas corpus claims and the cost of litigating repetitive or meritless claims.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members: (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; (7) one appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary; (8) one appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary; (9) one appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary; (10) one appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly

having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary; (11) the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee; (12) the Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee; and (13) the Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's designee.

(c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) Judicial Branch employees as designated by the Chief Court Administrator shall serve as administrative staff to the task force.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later."

After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and internal references accordingly:

"Sec. 501. Subsection (e) of section 4b-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(e) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Administrative Services may select consultants to be on a list established for the purpose of providing any consultant services. Such list shall be established as provided in sections 4b-56 and 4b-57, as amended by this act. The commissioner may enter into a

contract with any consultant on such list to perform a range of consultant services or to perform a range of tasks pursuant to a task letter detailing services to be performed under such contract.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Administrative Services may (A) compile a list of architects, professional engineers and construction administrators for the limited purpose of providing consultant services for a particular program involving various projects for the construction of new buildings or renovations to existing buildings where such buildings are under the operation and control of either the Military Department, **[**or**]** the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the Judicial Branch, and (B) enter into a contract with any architect, professional engineer or construction administrator on such list for such limited purpose, except that (i) the Adjutant General may perform the functions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision for any such building under the operation and control of the Military Department, and (ii) the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee, may perform the functions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision for any such building under the operation and control of the Judicial Branch when the cost of such consultant services is estimated to not exceed three hundred thousand dollars.

(3) As used in this subsection, "consultant" means "consultant" as defined in section 4b-55, "consultant services" means "consultant services" as defined in section 4b-55, and "program" means multiple projects involving the planning, design, construction, repair, improvement or expansion of specified buildings, facilities or site improvements, wherein the work (A) will be of a repetitive nature, (B) will share a common funding source that imposes particular requirements, or (C) would be significantly facilitated if completed by the same design professional or construction administrator.

Sec. 502. Subsection (c) of section 4b-57 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

2025):

(c) In the case of consultants selected under subsection (e) of section 4b-51, as amended by this act, except consultants selected under subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 4b-51, as amended by this act, the responses received shall be considered by the selection panel. The panel shall select, from among those persons responding, a list of those persons most qualified to perform the consultant services. Knowledge of the state building and fire code and whether the consultant is a micro business, as defined in subsection (c) of section 4a-59, shall be considered in determining a consultant's qualifications.

Sec. 503. Subsection (a) of section 4b-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Except in the case of a project, a priority higher education facility project, a project, as defined in subdivision (16) of section 10a-109c, undertaken by The University of Connecticut, a community court project, a correctional facility project, a juvenile residential center project, a project undertaken by the Judicial Branch in which the cost of the consultant services is estimated not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars and the downtown Hartford higher education center project, the commissioner shall negotiate a contract for consultant services with the firm most qualified, in the commissioner's judgment, at compensation which the commissioner determines is both fair and reasonable to the state. (2) In the case of a project, the commissioner shall negotiate a contract for such services with the most qualified firm from among the list of firms submitted by the panel at compensation which the commissioner determines in writing to be fair and reasonable to the state. If the commissioner is unable to conclude a contract with any of the firms recommended by the panel, the commissioner shall, after issuing written findings of fact documenting the reasons for such inability, negotiate with those firms which the commissioner determines to be most qualified, at fair and reasonable compensation, to render the

particular consultant services under consideration. (3) Whenever consultant services are required for a priority higher education facility project, a project in which the cost of such consultant services is estimated to exceed three hundred thousand dollars involving the construction, repair or alteration of a building or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or property where the Judicial Department is the primary occupant, a community court project, a correctional facility project, a juvenile residential center project, or the downtown Hartford higher education center project, the commissioner shall select and interview at least three consultants or firms and shall negotiate a contract for consultant services with the firm most qualified, in the commissioner's judgment, at compensation which the commissioner determines is both fair and reasonable to the state. Except for the downtown Hartford higher education center project, the commissioner shall notify the State Properties Review Board of the commissioner's action not later than five business days after such action for its approval or disapproval in accordance with subsection (i) of section 4b-23, except that if, not later than fifteen days after such notice, a decision has not been made, the board shall be deemed to have approved such contract.

Sec. 504. Section 51-9 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Under the supervision and direction of the Chief Court Administrator, the staff of the Office of Chief Court Administrator shall:

(1) Audit all bills to be paid from state appropriations, except bills of the Division of Criminal Justice, for the expenses of the Judicial Department and its constituent courts prior to taxation or final approval thereof by any judge;

(2) Maintain adequate accounting and budgetary records for all appropriations by the state for the maintenance of the Judicial Department, except the Division of Criminal Justice, and all other appropriations assigned by the legislature or state budgetary control

offices for administration by the Judicial Department, except the Division of Criminal Justice;

(3) Prepare and submit to the appropriate budget agency of the state government estimates of appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the Judicial Department, including therein estimates submitted for the Division of Criminal Justice as provided in section 51-279, and make recommendations in respect to those appropriations;

(4) Act as secretary of any meetings, conferences or assemblies of judges, or committees thereof, of the Judicial Department and of its constituent courts;

(5) Supervise all purchases of commodities and services for the Judicial Department, except for the Division of Criminal Justice, to be charged to state appropriations, and issue all orders therefor for the department, excluding orders for the Division of Criminal Justice;

(6) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in the Judicial Department and its constituent courts and agencies, except the Division of Criminal Justice, and develop and implement programs for the improvement thereof and for securing uniform administration and procedures;

(7) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts of the Judicial Department to ascertain the need for assistance by any court and to implement programs for the fair and prompt disposition of cases therein;

(8) Collect and compile statistical and other data concerning the business transacted by the Judicial Department and its constituent courts and the expenditure of public moneys for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system;

(9) Assist in the preparation of the assignments of the judges of the Superior Court and attend to the printing and distribution for the Superior Court of an annual directory containing relevant information

pertaining to the operation of the court;

(10) Serve as payroll officer for the Judicial Department, excluding the Division of Criminal Justice, and for the Supreme Court, Appellate Court and Superior Court;

(11) Supervise the assignment of court reporters of the Superior Court;

(12) Conduct research and planning activities for the Judicial Department and its constituent courts and offices as deemed feasible by, or in the discretion of, the Chief Justice or the Chief Court Administrator;

(13) Develop education programs for the judges and other personnel of the Judicial Department;

(14) Develop personnel standards, policies and procedures, and make recommendations concerning all personnel matters, including requests for salary increases or for additional positions, for consideration by the Supreme Court or the appropriate appointing authorities;

(15) Report periodically to the Chief Court Administrator concerning all matters which have been entrusted to such staff;

(16) Attend to matters assigned to such staff by the Chief Justice, or the Chief Court Administrator or by statute;

(17) Design, implement and maintain, as deemed feasible by the Chief Court Administrator, computerized automatic data processing systems for use in the Supreme Court, Appellate Court and Superior Court or divisions of the Superior Court;

(18) Supervise administrative methods employed in clerks' offices and in the various offices of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court and Superior Court; and

(19) Supervise the care and control of all property where the Judicial

Department is the primary occupant, which supervision shall include planning, execution of contracts, **[**except for**]** including contracts for consultant services, **[**which shall be**]** except when such contracts are estimated to exceed three hundred thousand dollars and are subject to section 4b-58, as amended by this act, oversight and supervision of work involving the construction, repair or alteration of a building or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, when construction contracts do not exceed **[**one million two hundred fifty thousand**]** three million dollars. For the purposes of this subdivision, "Judicial Department" does not include the courts of probate, the Division of Criminal Justice and the Public Defender Services Commission, except where they share facilities in state-maintained courts."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 16	*October 1, 2025*	51-345
Sec. 24	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 501	*July 1, 2025*	4b-51(e)
Sec. 502	*July 1, 2025*	4b-57(c)
Sec. 503	*July 1, 2025*	4b-58(a)
Sec. 504	*July 1, 2025*	51-9