



ACTS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES



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Rute Pinho, Principal Analyst

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NOTICE TO READERS

This report provides summaries of new laws (Public Acts and Special Acts) affecting municipalities enacted during the 2016 regular session and May Special Session (MSS). It does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Each summary indicates the Public Act (PA) or Special Act (SA) number.

Not all provisions of the acts are included. Complete summaries of Public Acts are or will soon be available on OLR's webpage:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/olrsums.asp>.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library, House Clerk's Office, or General Assembly's website:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov>.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City and Town Development Act

Municipalities seeking to implement the economic development tools in the Connecticut City and Town Development Act must adopt a resolution determining that specific conditions exist in the municipality. A new law allows, rather than requires, municipalities to submit this resolution for voter approval, which they must do by vote of their legislative bodies. It also broadens the conditions that must exist in the municipality in order to implement the tools ([PA 16-133](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Connecticut Antiques Trail Signage

Under a new law, businesses on the Connecticut Antiques Trail may display temporary signs or flags, for up to 16 hours a day, indicating that they are on the trail. But these businesses must still comply with municipal ordinances or regulations concerning a sign or flag's size.

The new law also requires DECD to develop criteria to identify antiques dealers located within municipally designated antiques corridors ([PA 16-202](#), effective upon passage).

Innovation Place Program

The legislature established a statewide innovation place program to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in compact, mixed use geographic areas with start-ups, growth stage businesses, anchor institutions, and

access to public transit. Entities such as corporations, colleges, and municipalities may submit applications to designate an innovation place; applicants are eligible for planning and development grants.

Applicants must submit a letter of support from the chief elected official of the affected municipality, including a statement that the municipality's legislative body has, by majority vote, indicated its support for the proposal ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§§ 5-9), most provisions effective July 1, 2016).

Knowledge Center Enterprise Zones

Under a new law, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner may establish up to 10 knowledge center enterprise zones in the state's distressed municipalities, based on proposals submitted by colleges and universities. The new law outlines the components institutions must include in their proposals and criteria the commissioner must consider in approving a zone. Businesses that locate in knowledge center enterprise zones receive the same state and local tax benefits, subject to the same conditions, as those located in general enterprise zones ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 24), effective October 1, 2016).

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Clean Water Fund Grants for Phosphorus Removal Projects

Municipalities undertaking eligible phosphorus removal projects qualify for increased Clean Water Fund grants to help finance the projects. A new law expands eligibility for these increased grants to municipalities that undertook these projects in the past or do so in the future, before July 1, 2019. Under prior law, only municipalities that entered into contracts for the projects by July 1, 2018 qualified for the increased grants. The new law also modifies the permitted phosphorus levels for eligible projects ([PA 16-57](#), effective upon passage).

Electricity Purchasing Pool

Municipalities may no longer elect to participate in the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) electricity purchasing pool ([PA 16-173](#) (§ 2), effective upon passage).

Energy Savings Performance Contracts

State law allows municipalities to contract with third parties to implement energy efficiency measures that will help cut their energy costs. A new law extends the limit on the financing payback period for these contracts from 15 to 20 years ([PA 16-173](#) (§ 3), effective upon passage).

Virtual Net Metering

The state's virtual net metering law allows municipal, state agency, and agricultural electric customers that install certain renewable generation systems ("hosts") to receive a billing credit for excess power their system generates and then share this credit with certain other accounts ("beneficial accounts"). Prior law capped the total amount of credits provided to beneficial accounts at \$10 million per year and limited the three categories of hosts to 40% of this amount, but a new law requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to authorize an additional \$6 million of virtual net metering credits per year to municipal customer hosts that submitted their interconnection and virtual net metering applications to an electric distribution company (i.e., Eversource and United Illuminating) by April 13, 2016 ([PA 16-216](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Water Main Grants

A new law prohibits DEEP from reducing the grant amount municipalities receive for certain water main projects in areas next to a state Superfund Priority List site. Under the new law, if the municipality upgrades the minimum size water main needed to address the pollution, for fire flow or public water supply purposes, it must pay only the incremental cost of installing the larger water main ([PA 16-88](#) (§ 1), effective upon passage).

ENVIRONMENT

Agricultural Noisemaking Devices

By law, the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner issues permits for people to use agricultural noisemaking devices to deter wildlife from damaging crops. He may deny or cancel a permit if a municipal legislative body adopts a resolution asking him to do so and he determines that a device causes or will cause undue hardship to nearby residents. A new law defines “undue hardship” as causing significant injury to the health and comfort of a person while on his or her property. It also allows the DoAg commissioner to institute best practices for use of the device at a municipality's request, instead of denying or cancelling a permit, if he determines it is feasible to limit excessive use of the device while allowing it to be effective ([PA 16-89](#), effective on passage).

Consumer Packaging Task Force

A new task force will study methods for reducing consumer packaging that generates solid waste. Among other things, the task force must study strategies for (1) improving the efficacy of state, municipal, and local solid waste recycling infrastructures and systems and (2) reducing, by at least 25%, the consumer packaging in Connecticut's waste stream beginning in 2024 and decreasing municipal costs associated with managing the solid waste stream. Its findings and

recommendations are due to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2017 ([SA 16-6](#), effective upon passage).

Littering Penalty

A new law allows municipalities to assess, after a hearing, an administrative penalty of up to \$500 on a property owner or person who violates the state's littering law when the litter includes furniture, automobile parts, large appliances, tires, bulky waste, hazardous waste, or other similar material. This penalty is in addition to penalties allowed under existing law ([PA 16-122](#) (§ 1), effective October 1, 2016).

Notice of Shrub Removal or Pruning

The law requires municipal or borough tree wardens to post notices at least 10 days before removing or pruning a shrub under their control unless its condition requires immediate action. Under a new law, they must post the notices on groups of shrubs, rather than on each individual shrub.

The new law also requires municipalities to make publicly available the annual utility vegetation management plans they require utilities to submit before conducting vegetation management work ([PA 16-86](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Water Level Draw Downs at Bashan Lake

Under a new law, the DEEP commissioner must enter into an agreement with the town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association by November 1, 2017 regarding a schedule for annual water level draw downs of Lake Bashan to control weeds and prevent property damage, property erosion into the lake, and association property devaluation. The Bashan Lake Association must monitor Bashan Lake and submit to East Haddam any petition about a draw down at least 60 days before a draw down is to begin ([PA 16-141](#), effective on passage).

FINANCE

Authority to Amend Adopted Municipal Budgets

A new law authorizes municipalities, through June 30, 2017, to amend an adopted budget if (1) state aid to the municipality is reduced below the amount projected for the adopted budget, (2) the budget amendment does not exceed the amount of the reduced state aid, and (3) the budget amendment is approved in the same manner as the original budget. It applies regardless of conflicting (1) statutes affecting boards of education, municipalities, and property tax levy and collection; (2) special acts; or (3) municipal charters or home rule ordinances ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 204), effective upon passage).

"Blocking the Box" Fines to Certain Municipalities

Under a new law, select municipalities will now receive 50% of the fines imposed for blocking a designated intersection (i.e. "blocking the box") in the municipality in which the violation occurred. It applies to the eight most populous municipalities: Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, and Waterbury ([PA 16-207](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Bridgeport's Contributions to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System

With Bridgeport facing financial difficulties, the legislature has allowed the city to defer a portion of its amortization payments to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System for the unfunded accrued liability of its police and firefighters. The city must pay 35% of the amortization payments in FY 17 and FY 18 and make up the difference with additional payments in FY 21 through FY 23 ([SA 16-16](#), as amended by [PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 177), effective upon passage).

Fee for Drivers Failing to Yield or Exercise Care

A new law increases the penalty for two motor-vehicle infractions to violations punishable by a fine of up to \$500. The new law's fine is also subject to a \$15 additional fee, which the state must remit to the municipality where the violation occurred.

The violations are subject to the same procedures as those governing infractions, which allow a person to pay the fine by mail without a court appearance or contest the fine in court. By law, infractions and violations subject to the infraction procedures are not considered crimes ([PA 16-54](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Local Admissions Surcharge

Municipalities may now enact an ordinance to impose a local surcharge on admission charges to events, with certain exceptions. The surcharge may be up to 5% of the admission charge, except for events held at Dunkin' Donuts park, which may be up to 10% ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 186), effective upon passage).

Municipal Reserve Funds

A new law expands the purposes for which a municipality may create a reserve fund to include costs associated with preparing, amending, or adopting a municipal plan of conservation and development. Prior law restricted the use of these reserve funds to (1) property tax revaluation costs and (2) capital and nonrecurring expenditures to acquire a specific piece of equipment or plan, construct, reconstruct, or acquire a specific capital improvement ([PA 16-180](#) (§§ 3-5), effective October 1, 2016).

Pension Obligation Bonds

Municipalities may now issue pension obligation bonds or temporary notes to

fulfill obligations related to lump sum payments due to beneficiaries of a closed pension fund. They may do so without complying with existing law's procedures for issuing pension obligation bonds ([PA 16-180](#) § 2, effective upon passage).

Sales Tax on Parking Fees in Certain Municipal Lots

A new law exempts from state sales and use tax parking fees in (1) municipally-owned lots with 30 or more spaces or (2) seasonal lots with 30 or more spaces operated by political subdivisions ([PA 16-72](#) and [PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 180), effective upon passage and applicable to sales made on or after that date).

GRANTS AND AID

Bond Authorizations for Municipal Programs

The bond act authorizes new general obligations bonds for grants to:

1. Waterbury to acquire, construct, reconstruct, renovate, or improve property for a Waterbury urban development project (\$7 million);
2. West Hartford for a wireless fidelity and broadband network initiative for West Hartford Center (\$0.5 million); and
3. Glastonbury to acquire open space for conservation or municipal purposes (\$ 10 million).

It also earmarks \$2.5 million of an existing bond authorization for the Capital Regional Development Authority for (1) a new pilot program in Hartford designed to foster neighborhood safety and reduce neighborhood gun violence and (2) related public construction projects ([PA 16-4, MSS](#) (§§ 2, 9, 206 & 260), effective July 1, 2016).

Grant to Middlefield

The legislature has required OPM to pay the town of Middlefield a \$381,000 grant from the small town economic assistance (STEAP) program to reimburse the town for rehabilitating the Miller Road Bridge over the Coginchaug River ([SA 16-15](#) (§9), effective upon passage).

Local Bridge Program

The local bridge program provides grants to municipalities for removing, replacing, reconstructing, rehabilitating, or improving local bridges. A new law changes the grant calculation from a formula to a flat percentage (50% of the project's total cost), effectively increasing the grant amount available to many municipalities. The law also makes more bridges eligible for the program by changing the standards used to determine bridge eligibility ([PA 16-151](#) (§ 1), effective July 1, 2016).

Motor Vehicle Property Tax Grants and Municipal Revenue Sharing Grants

Prior law required OPM to use Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA) funds to distribute motor vehicle property tax grants and municipal revenue sharing grants to municipalities. The former mitigated the revenue loss attributed to the motor vehicle mill rate cap, while the latter shared a portion of state sales tax revenue with municipalities.

The budget act effectively merges the two grant programs for FY 17 by eliminating the motor vehicle property tax grants and modifying the municipal revenue sharing grant amounts. OPM must pay the grants by August 1, 2016 ([PA 16-2, MSS](#) (§§ 40 & 42), effective July 1, 2016).

MRSA

The budget act eliminates the sales tax revenue diversion to MRSA for FY 17 and instead appropriates \$185 million to a newly established Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund (MRSF) to pay for specified municipal grant programs for FY 17. Under the act, OPM must use MRSF to fund (1) municipal revenue sharing grants, (2) regional services grants to councils of governments, (3) supplemental payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs), and (4) supplemental education cost sharing (ECS) grants

([PA 16-2, MSS](#) (§§ 40-43 & 46); sales tax diversion and MRSF provisions are effective upon passage and municipal grant program provisions are effective July 1, 2016).

Municipal Spending Cap

The legislature made various changes to the municipal spending cap that is tied to municipal revenue sharing grants beginning in FY 18. It specified that the cap is based on a municipality's adopted budget expenditures (general fund and any nonbudgeted funds), rather than general budget expenditures. It also expanded the types of expenditures excluded from the cap to include (1) budgeting for an audited deficit, (2) nonrecurring grants, (3) capital expenditures, and (4) payments on unfunded pension liabilities.

In addition, it barred OPM from reducing a municipality's grant in any year in which its adopted budget expenditures exceed the cap by an amount proportionate to its population increase over the previous fiscal year ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 189), effective July 1, 2016).

PILOT Grants

The budget act reduced the FY 17 appropriation for state-owned property and college and hospital property PILOTs and specified the grant amounts eligible municipalities will receive. It also reduced the supplemental PILOT grants that certain municipalities will

begin receiving in FY 17 and required that these grants be funded through a new MRSF ([PA 16-2, MSS](#) (§§ 21, 22 & 43, effective July 1, 2016).

The legislature also extended, to FYs 18 and 19, existing requirements for proportionately reducing PILOT grants if the amount appropriated is not enough to fund the full amount to every municipality and district. Under these requirements, (1) municipalities and districts must receive PILOTs that equal or exceed the reimbursement rates they received in FY 15 and (2) certain municipalities and districts receive a specified supplemental PILOT grant.

In extending the requirements, the legislature delayed, from FY 18 to FY 20, the implementation of a mechanism for increasing PILOT grants to municipalities with mill rates of at least 25 and a relatively high percentage of tax-exempt property on their grand lists ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 190), effective July 1, 2016).

PILOTs for Towns with Certain Connecticut Airport Authority-Owned Airports

A new law conforms to current practice by allowing municipalities with airports owned by the Connecticut Airport Authority (other than Bradley) to receive PILOT payments for the property, with a general reimbursement rate of 45% through FY 16 ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 83), effective January 1, 2015).

Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) Grants

RPIP grants are now open (1) to regional educational service centers and (2) for special education initiatives, local and regional boards of education serving a population of more than 100,000.

In addition, as of December 31, 2018, entities may no longer apply for RPIP grants to cover operating and capital costs associated with connecting to the Nutmeg Network ([PA 16-144](#) (§ 2), effective upon passage).

Regional Services Grants

Starting in FY 18, councils of governments will have to use 30% of their regional services grants to help regional educational service centers merge their human resource, finance, or technology services with such services provided by municipalities in the region ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 189), effective July 1, 2016).

State Aid for Child Care Centers for Disadvantaged Children

The law allows the state, through the Office of Early Childhood commissioner, to contract with municipalities, human resource development agencies, or nonprofit corporations to develop and operate child care centers for disadvantaged children. A new law allows such contracts, which provide state grants for these purposes, to provide grants of up to \$8,927 for each three- or four-year-old child enrolled in

the program, as well as for five-year-olds who are ineligible to enroll in kindergarten ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 93) effective July 1, 2016).

LAND USE

Hospice Zoning

Existing law requires local zoning regulations in cities with 100,000 or more residents to treat as single-family homes certain licensed inpatient hospice facilities serving up to six people. A new law extends this requirement to outpatient hospice residences. In addition to other existing conditions, it specifies that this requirement applies only if the residence was built in compliance with the applicable building code for occupancy by six or fewer people who are not capable of self-preservation ([PA 16-66](#) (§ 37), effective October 1, 2016).

Municipal Golf Course Land

The legislature repealed a law under which a municipality could use land it purchased in 1999 for a municipal golf course if the land was (1) previously used for agricultural purposes and (2) watershed land or next to watershed land ([PA 16-61](#), effective upon passage).

New Britain Water Company-Owned Land

Under a new law, New Britain must commission an independent third-party environmental study of the potential impact of the city changing the use of its water company-owned land to allow

it to lease a tract it owns in Plainville, for stone and mineral extraction.

Among other things, (1) the Water Planning Council (WPC), in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), must approve the party conducting the study; (2) the city must hold a public hearing; and (3) the WPC, in consultation with CEQ, must report on the study and the councils' recommendations to the Environment and Public Health committees ([PA 16-61](#), effective upon passage).

Plans of Conservation and Development

Municipalities, regional councils of governments, and OPM must now consider, when updating their respective plans of conservation and development, the need for technology infrastructure in their respective jurisdictions ([PA 16-144](#) (§§ 6-8), effective October 1, 2016).

Temporary Health Care Structures Zoning Task Force

A new task force will study the zoning of temporary health care structures and develop a model zoning ordinance for such dwellings. These small, cottage-like dwellings (1) allow a caregiver to provide care for an individual with mental or physical impairments and (2) arrive at the installation site primarily pre-assembled. The task force must report to the legislature by January 1, 2017 ([SA 16-5](#), effective from passage).

PROPERTY TAX

Assessing Commercial Property Based on Net Profits

A pilot program launched in 2015 allows municipalities to assess up to three commercial properties based on the net profits of their business occupants instead of the properties' fair market value. Now, participating municipalities can assess all commercial property based on net profits, if, as the law requires, their owners and tenants agree ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 31), effective October 1, 2016).

Delinquent Property Tax Waiver for Certain Active Military Members

Under a new law, municipalities must waive the interest on delinquent property taxes owed by certain active military members serving out-of-state, rather than only by those serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. The interest waiver applies to any state resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or their reserve components, has been called to active service, and who either (1) is serving outside of Connecticut on the final day the property tax is due or (2) has been residing in Connecticut for less than one year since returning from outside the state ([PA 16-191](#), effective October 1, 2016 and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date).

Economic Development Property Tax Incentive

Municipalities now have more latitude to set the terms and conditions for exempting the increase in a property's tax assessment after it was developed or improved for apartments, stores, factories, or other uses. Previously, they had to use a statutory schedule, which based the exemption and its duration on the amount spent to develop or improve the property ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 32), effective October 1, 2016 and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date).

Emergency Services Personnel

A new law extends the existing optional municipal property tax relief program for certain non-retired volunteer personnel to retired volunteer firefighters, fire police officers, and emergency medical technicians who volunteered for at least 25 years in the municipality. The relief may take the form of a tax (1) abatement of up to \$1,000 in property taxes due in any fiscal year or (2) exemption applicable to the assessed value of real or personal property up to \$1 million divided by the mill rate (expressed as a whole number per \$1,000 of assessed value) at the time of the assessment ([PA 16-99](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Exemption for Real Estate Signs

A new law exempts from the property tax signs placed on properties indicating that the properties are for sale or lease. It does so by excluding

the signs from the list of tangible personal property taxpayers must include in their annual property declarations ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 203), effective July 1, 2016).

Filing Deadlines for Certain Property Tax Exemptions

The legislature passed laws allowing taxpayers in Berlin, Middletown, Milford, Monroe, New Britain, North Branford, Waterbury, Watertown, and West Haven to claim various property tax exemptions on specified grand lists even if they missed the mandatory filing deadlines ([SA 16-15](#) (§§ 1-8) and [PA 16-88](#) (§ 2), effective July 1, 2016, except provisions for New Britain and Waterbury are effective upon passage).

Land Value Taxation Pilot Program

Municipalities now have until December 31, 2020 to submit land value taxation plans to the legislature. The deadline had previously expired on December 31, 2015 ([PA 16-80](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Local Option Veterans' Property Tax Exemption

By law, wartime veterans and surviving unmarried spouses of such veterans are eligible for state-mandated property tax exemptions. Under prior law, a municipality, with its legislative body's approval, could provide an additional property tax exemption to these individuals if their income did not exceed a specified amount set by OPM

each year. A new law doubles, from \$10,000 to \$20,000, the amount a municipality can provide as an additional exemption. By law, a municipality may choose to exempt up to 10% of the property's assessed value rather than a dollar reduction ([PA 16-191](#), effective October 1, 2016 and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date).

Motor Vehicle Property Taxes

In 2015, the legislature capped the mill rates municipalities, districts, and boroughs may impose on motor vehicles. A new law increases the cap from (1) 32 to 37 mills for the 2015 assessment year and (2) 29.36 mills to 32 mills for the 2016 assessment year and later. It also establishes the motor vehicle mill rate for certain municipalities, districts, and boroughs that previously set a mill rate for the 2015 assessment year ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 187), effective upon passage and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2015).

New Local Option Exemption for Disabled Veterans

Veterans rated by the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) as having a disability are eligible for a larger state-mandated property tax exemption than those available to wartime veterans. A new law allows a municipality, with its legislative body's approval, to provide an additional property tax exemption to these disabled veterans if their income does not exceed the amount (1) OPM

annually sets or (2) the municipality sets, which can be up to \$25,000 more than the limit OPM sets. If the municipality chooses to provide this exemption, it must be at least \$3,000 and applied to the assessed value of the veteran's property ([PA 16-191](#), effective October 1, 2016 and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date).

Property Tax Incentive for Arts and Culture

Municipalities can now abate up to 100% of the property taxes on otherwise taxable art galleries, studios, movie theaters, stores, restaurants, and other property used for arts and culture ([PA 16-177](#), effective October 1, 2016 and applicable to assessments years beginning on or after that date).

Reassessment for Residential Properties with Defective Foundations

A new law allows residential property owners with defective concrete foundations to apply to their local assessors to have their properties reassessed for property tax purposes. Assessors must inspect the properties and reassess them to reflect their current value. The new assessment is valid for five assessment years or until the foundation is repaired or replaced, whichever is earlier ([PA 16-45](#) (§ 2), effective upon passage and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2016).

Tax Freeze Program Reimbursements

A new law requires OPM to proportionately reduce reimbursements it issues to municipalities under the Tax Freeze Program if appropriations for the program are less than the amount required for full reimbursements. The program has been closed to new applicants since 1979 ([PA 16-3, MSS](#) (§ 81), effective July 1, 2016).

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Building and Fire Code Adoption Process

A new law changes the process for adopting the state building and fire codes, which are now adopted under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA), the act that agencies must follow when adopting regulations. The new law maintains many of UAPA's essential elements, including (1) notice requirement, (2) a public comment period, and (3) approval by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee. But the committee may waive its review, and if it fails to meet or act on a proposed code or amendment within prescribed deadlines, the code is deemed approved ([PA 16-215](#), effective upon passage).

Fire Marshals

Local fire marshals may now delegate to deputy fire marshals or fire inspectors their authority to write citations for fire code violations, just as

they may currently delegate their authority to issue orders or permits ([PA 16-157](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Health Directors Serving in a Full-Time Capacity

A new law requires district health directors to serve in a full-time capacity, instead of devoting their "entire time" to performing the duties of the positions, as was required under prior law. (Existing law already requires this of certain municipal health directors.) The new law also prohibits district health directors, as well as municipal health directors in towns with a population of at least 40,000 for five consecutive years, from having a financial interest or engaging in a job, transaction, or professional activity that substantially conflicts with their duties ([PA 16-66](#) (§§ 39 & 40), effective July 1, 2016).

Impropriety on Behalf of Local Health Department Directors or Employees

Under a new law, the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner must take certain action if he reasonably suspects impropriety on the part of a municipal or district health director, or the director's employee, related to the performance of their duties. The commissioner must notify the local health department's governing authority and provide any evidence of the impropriety for the purposes of reviewing and assessing job compliance. The governing authority must report its findings to the

commissioner within 90 days after completing the review and assessment ([PA 16-66](#) (§ 41), effective October 1, 2016).

Local EMS Plans and Access to Opioid Antagonists

A new law requires each municipality, by October 1, 2016, to amend its local EMS plan to ensure that the EMS responder (e.g., EMS personnel or resident state trooper) who is likely to be the first person to arrive on the scene of a medical emergency is equipped with an opioid antagonist and has received DPH-approved training in administering it ([PA 16-43](#) (§ 1), effective upon passage).

Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs

A new law (1) requires DPH to establish needle and syringe exchange programs in any community impacted by HIV or hepatitis C, not just the three cities with the most HIV cases among injection drug users, but requires the programs only within available appropriations, and (2) expands these programs' service components ([PA 16-87](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Regulating Mini-Motorcycles, Dirt Bikes, and ATVs

Municipalities may now regulate the operation and use of mini-motorcycles on public property and impose penalties for their improper use up to the same

limits applicable under existing law to dirt bike, ATV, and snowmobile ordinance violations.

Those with a population of 20,000 or more may enforce their ordinances concerning mini-motorcycle, dirt bike, or ATV operation by confiscating and selling at a public auction a vehicle used to violate them ([PA 16-208](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Sharing Law Enforcement Personnel

Under a new law, non-adjointing municipalities may enter into an agreement to share the services of a resident state trooper or other law enforcement personnel. Existing law allows adjoining municipalities to share a resident state trooper and specifies municipalities' financial responsibilities with regard to such a trooper ([PA 16-144](#) (§3), effective on passage).

Splash Pads and Spray Parks

Splash pads and spray parks no longer have to be fenced ([PA 16-75](#), effective October 1, 2016). (A splash pad or spray park is a recreational play area fitted with a nonslip or rubber matting surface and various nozzles and features that can shower, spray, mist, and shoot water. As water splashes onto the surface, it is collected, filtered, and recirculated to keep it flowing.)

Wells for Semipublic Use

A new law extends several existing provisions concerning private residential wells to “wells for semipublic use.” For example, this law allows local health directors to require wells to be tested for certain contaminants if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that contaminants are present in the groundwater ([PA 16-66](#) (§ 20), October 1, 2016).

MISCELLANEOUS

Approval of Subregistrars for Burial Permits

A new law requires a town’s chief elected official, rather than the selectmen, to approve the local registrar of vital statistics’ appointment of subregistrars authorized to issue removal, transit, and burial permits and cremation permits when the registrar’s office is closed ([PA 16-22](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Child Care Licensing and Exempt Programs

A new law requires all child care programs that are exempt from Office of Early Childhood (OEC) licensing requirements, including those run by municipalities and boards of education, to notify the parents or guardians of participating children that the program is not OEC licensed ([PA 16-100](#) (§ 2), effective July 1, 2016).

Concrete Foundations on New Residential or Commercial Construction

Individuals seeking a certificate of occupancy for a new residential or commercial building for which a concrete foundation was installed must now provide the local building official with documentation showing the name of the concrete supplier and installer ([PA 16-45](#) (§ 1), effective October 1, 2016).

Demolition Waiting Period

By law, municipalities may impose a waiting period before granting a demolition permit for a building or structure. Under a new law, individuals that apply for demolition permits in municipalities imposing such a period may not take any action toward demolition (e.g., site remediation or asbestos abatement) during that time ([PA 16-9](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Firefighters Cancer Relief Program

For several years there has been debate in the legislature about whether firefighters are subject to higher rates of cancer due to the hazardous nature of their jobs. A new law creates a firefighters cancer relief program to provide wage replacement benefits to eligible volunteer and paid state and local firefighters diagnosed with cancer. The act establishes a new cancer relief subcommittee of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association to award the benefits to individual firefighters,

provided the benefits (1) do not exceed 100% of the average weekly earnings of all workers and (2) are limited to two years. Firefighters are not eligible until July 1, 2019.

The program will be funded through a diversion from the enhanced emergency 9-1-1-program, which is funded through an existing monthly subscriber fee imposed on phone service ([PA 16-10](#), effective February 1, 2017).

Goods and Services Contracts

A new law authorizes municipalities to purchase equipment, supplies, materials, or services from certain entities. These entities are persons that have a contract with a regional educational service center or regional council of governments to sell such goods or services to the state, other municipalities, nonprofits, or public purchasing consortia ([PA 16-144](#) (§ 1), effective upon passage).

License and Registration Transactions

The Department of Motor Vehicles may now contract with municipal departments or offices, among others, to renew driver's licenses and identity (ID) cards, issue duplicate licenses and ID cards, or conduct registration transactions ([PA 16-55](#) (§ 24), effective upon passage).

Mandatory Saturday Registrar Session

Registrars of voters will no longer be required to hold a voter registration session from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday of the third week before a regular election ([PA 16-31](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Minor Party Representation

The law generally requires minority party representation on state and municipal boards, commissions, legislative bodies, and similar entities, and sets a maximum number of members who can be from one party. For appointed boards and commissions, a new law requires appointing authorities to notify all other appointing authorities within five calendar days after making an appointment and provide the appointee's name, town of residence, and political affiliation. Notice may be by electronic means ([PA 16-185](#) (§ 15), effective upon passage).

Notice of Workers' Compensation Claim

A new law requires a municipal employee who files a claim with the Workers' Compensation Commission to send a copy of the notice of the claim to the town clerk of the municipality where he or she works. By law, an employee must notify his or her employer or a workers' compensation commissioner of the claim and a state employee must send a copy of the notice to the administrative services commissioner.

The notice must state the (1) date and place of the accident and nature of the injury or date an occupational disease's symptom first became clear and the nature of the disease and (2) name and address of the employee and person in whose interest compensation is claimed ([PA 16-112](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Post-Election Audits

The law requires registrars of voters to audit the state's voting districts, selected through a random drawing, after a federal, state, or municipal regular election or primary. The legislature reduced, from 10% to 5%, the minimum percentage of voting districts in the state, municipality, or district, whichever applies, that must be audited ([PA 16-76](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Reporting Municipal Election Results

A new law changes how local elections officials report municipal election results. Generally, it requires them to follow the same procedures they follow for reporting state election results. For multi-district towns, it also requires (1) election officials to meet after municipal, not only state, elections to identify any errors in the election night returns previously submitted to the secretary of the state and (2) head moderators to file any amended election returns with town clerks, not only the secretary and registrars of voters ([PA 16-14](#), effective upon passage).

Replacing or Eliminating Housing Projects

The law generally prohibits state-assisted housing authorities from selling, leasing, or destroying a housing project if the project would no longer be available for low- or moderate-income rental housing. But the Department of Housing (DOH) commissioner may approve the action if she finds, after a public hearing, that various conditions are met. A new law requires the commissioner, in deciding whether to grant such an approval, to consider the extent to which the project's housing units will be replaced with housing that is affordable to households with incomes less than (1) 25% of the area median income (AMI) and (2) 50% of the AMI ([PA 16-108](#), effective October 1, 2016).

Security Deposits

A new law requires certain entities, including municipal housing authorities, providing state-assisted public housing to the elderly and individuals with disabilities to allow these tenants to pay security deposits in installments, pursuant to a written agreement. It also eliminates the requirement that these entities return security deposits to elders and individuals with disabilities after the tenant has lived in the housing for one year. It instead requires them to return security deposits when the tenancy terminates ([PA 16-74](#), effective October 1, 2016 and applicable to individuals whose tenancy begins on or after that date).

Senior Center Task Force

A new taskforce will explore how senior centers and municipalities can work together to facilitate the delivery of health and human services related information. The task force will study, among other things, senior center resources and training needs, best practices, and barriers to accessible information ([SA 16-7](#), effective July 1, 2016).

Workers' Compensation Exemption for Sole Proprietors

A new law allows sole proprietors to contract with the state or municipalities to build or renovate a public works project without first proving that they have complied with workers' compensation insurance requirements. To do so, they must have liability insurance instead of workers' compensation insurance and cannot (1) use a subcontractor to perform the contract, (2) act as a principal employer, or (3) have opted-in to the workers' compensation system ([PA 16-73](#), effective October 1, 2016).

RP:bs