



Acts Affecting Environment

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Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting the environment enacted during the 2021 regular session and June 2021 special session (JSS). OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Animals and Agriculture and Acts Affecting Energy and Utilities, are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website:

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

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden.

Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website:

<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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Boating

Connecticut Pilot Commission

A new law requires the attorney general to provide legal services to the Connecticut Pilot Commission and exempts the commission's directors, officers, and employees from personal liability under certain conditions. By law, the commission helps with and advises the Connecticut Port Authority on marine pilot licensing, safe vessel conduct, and protection of the state's ports and waters ([PA 21-179](#), §§ 5 & 6, effective upon passage).

Impaired Boating

As part of the act legalizing recreational cannabis, the legislature made several changes to laws on impaired boating. These changes mirror changes made to laws on impaired driving and, among other things, (1) expand the administrative sanctions process to allow for sanctions on boaters who do not have an elevated blood alcohol content but are found to be boating under the influence based on things such as evidence of behavioral impairment and (2) apply the existing process to boaters who refuse the nontestimonial portion of a drug influence evaluation ([PA 21-1](#), JSS, §§ 122 & 123, effective April 1, 2022).

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Operations

Cannabis Use on Department-Managed Land or Water

The new law legalizing recreational marijuana prohibits using cannabis on state lands or waters managed by DEEP. It establishes a fine of up to \$250 for violations and allows only DEEP agents to enforce the ban ([PA 21-1](#), JSS, § 91, effective July 1, 2022).

Emergency Vehicles

A new law expands the definition of "emergency vehicles" to include DEEP vehicles operated by an authorized DEEP employee who, in the course of his or her employment, is traveling to a fire or responding to an emergency call. It expands this term in the laws establishing those vehicles' rights and motorists' responsibilities with respect to them, thereby allowing, among other things, operators of these DEEP vehicles to exceed posted speed limits and prohibits motorists from obstructing or impeding them ([PA 21-106](#), § 34, effective upon passage).

Regulating Radiation Sources

Provisions in the law implementing the biennial budget expand the DEEP commissioner's authority to regulate radiation sources. The act requires her to adopt specific regulations on sources of

ionizing radiation and radioactive materials, instead of only general regulations to carry out prior ionizing radiation sources provisions. By requiring her to adopt these regulations, the new law allows Connecticut to pursue “agreement state status” from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which authorizes states to assume NRC responsibility for regulating and licensing byproduct materials, source materials, and certain amounts of special nuclear materials. NRC remains responsible for nuclear power plants (e.g., Millstone); using nuclear material, such as in nuclear medicine; and nuclear waste ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 40-50, effective October 1, 2021).

Staffing and Resources Report

A new law requires the DEEP commissioner to submit a report to the Environment Committee by January 15, 2022, that includes an (1) accounting of each position paid for out of the Passport to the Parks account and (2) assessment of the foreseeable impacts of retirements anticipated in 2022 ([SA 21-23](#), effective upon passage).

Environmental Health and Racial Equity

Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health

The legislature passed a new law establishing, within the Legislative Department, a Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health to document and make recommendations to decrease racism’s effect on public health. Among other responsibilities, the commission must develop and periodically update a comprehensive strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and inequities.

The plan must consider air and water quality, natural resources and agricultural land, and the impact of climate change, among other things. It must address incorporating health and equity into specific policies, programs, and government decision-making processes and include disparities in, among other things, access to quality health care and resources such as healthy food and environments free of excess pollution ([PA 21-35](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective upon passage).

Study on Environmental Health Quality Programs

Another new law requires DEEP to assess racial equity within its environmental health quality programs. By January 1, 2022, DEEP must report to the Environment Committee on the assessment’s results and any legislative recommendations to improve racial equity within these programs ([PA 21-35](#), § 6, effective upon passage).

Water Company Tier 1 Notices

A new law requires water companies to (1) provide Tier 1 written communications to customers in the languages predominantly spoken in their service area and (2) update their emergency response

plans to include information on providing these multilingual communications. Tier 1 notices are those required when a situation occurs that may immediately impact human health (e.g., contaminants exceed federal or state drinking water standards) ([PA 21-121](#), § 83, effective October 1, 2021).

Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping

Disability Certification for Free Lifetime Licenses

Provisions in a new law allow physician assistants to certify medical information in several situations that previously required a physician's or advanced practice registered nurse's certification, including an individual's (1) physical disability to receive a free lifetime hunting, sport fishing, or trapping license or (2) intellectual disability to receive a free lifetime sport fishing license ([PA 21-196](#), §§ 52 & 53, effective October 1, 2021).

Group Fishing License

A new law increases the number of participants allowed under a group fishing license, which DEEP issues, from 50 to 100 people. It also prohibits the state from having a closed trout fishing season ([PA 21-12](#), §§ 3 & 4, effective upon passage).

Possessing Certain Endangered Species

A new law bans possessing, importing, selling, offering for sale, or transporting in Connecticut a specimen (dead or alive) of certain elephants, lions, leopards, giraffes, and rhinoceros unless covered by the act's exemptions (e.g., federal permit; ivory; certain circuses, zoos, institutions, and taxidermy services). It has a graduated penalty structure for violations, ranging from no penalty for someone who, unaware and in good faith, violates the ban to a class D felony for someone with at least two prior violations subject to penalty. A specimen or other property or item used in connection with a violation must be seized and held. If there is a conviction or judgement restraining someone from violating the ban, the specimen or property must be forfeited and destroyed unless alive ([PA 21-52](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Greenways

Bond Funding

This year's bond act authorizes \$6 million for FYs 22 and 23 for the bikeway, pedestrian walkway, recreational trail, and greenway grant program ([PA 21-111](#), § 61, effective July 1, 2021).

Greenways License Plate Revenue

A new law requires that revenue collected from the special fee for greenways license plates be deposited into a dedicated account and used by DEEP for the greenways capital grant program and the bikeway, pedestrian walkway, recreation trail, and greenways grant program. Under prior law, the General Fund received this revenue and it was not reserved for a specific purpose ([PA 21-28](#), § 14, effective October 1, 2021).

Harbors and Long Island Sound

Dredging

A new law requires the DEEP commissioner, by November 1, 2021, to report to the Environment Committee on the approval process for maintenance marine dredging projects for the last four years. The report must (1) describe each project application, (2) analyze how long it took DEEP to act on each application, and (3) specify whether DEEP approved or denied each ([PA 21-88](#), § 5, effective upon passage).

Additionally, this year's bond act includes \$50 million in FY 22 for grants for improvements to deep water ports, including dredging, with at least \$20 million to be used for ports outside of New London ([PA 21-111](#), § 13, effective July 1, 2021).

Harbor Masters

A provision in the budget implementer gives the governor more discretion in appointing a harbor master in municipalities in which a local harbor management commission has not submitted at least three nominees for the position. By law, harbor masters take care of and supervise the harbors and navigable waterways over which they have jurisdiction and are subject to the DEEP commissioner's direction and control ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 195, effective July 1, 2021).

Long Island Sound Blue Plan

This session, the legislature adopted by resolution the [Long Island Sound Blue Plan](#). The blue plan provides (1) an inventory of the natural resources and uses of Connecticut's portion of the Sound and (2) a spatial plan to guide future uses. By law, the blue plan must be considered when reviewing applications to conduct certain coastal activities ([HJR 53](#)).

Zoning Regulations

A new law specifies that when a municipality is contiguous to, or on a navigable waterway that drains to, Long Island Sound, its zoning regulations must consider a proposed development's environmental impact on the sound's "coastal resources" (as defined in the state's Coastal

Management Act), rather than impacts on the Sound generally ([PA 21-29](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds

Aquatic Invasive Species Report

The legislature required DEEP to report to the Environment Committee by October 1, 2021, on the (1) amount of revenue collected from the aquatic invasive species (AIS) fee and (2) grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations from the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account. DEEP may also recommend additional ways to fund municipalities' and lake authorities' AIS control or eradication projects ([PA 21-12](#), § 2, effective upon passage).

Lake Beseck Draw Down

A new law provides for a longer six-foot draw down period of Lake Beseck in odd-numbered years. It requires DEEP to enter into an agreement with Middlefield and the Lake Beseck Association about the lake's annual water level draw down by November 1, 2021 ([PA 21-12](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2021).

Property Remediation

Bond Funds

This year's bond act includes the following authorizations in FYs 22 and 23 related to property remediation:

1. \$21 million for grants to identify, investigate, contain, remove, or mitigate contaminated industrial sites in urban areas;
2. \$10 million for grants to contain, remove, or mitigate hazardous waste disposal sites; and
3. \$50 million for the Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization program ([PA 21-111](#), §§ 13 & 32, effective July 1, 2021, for the FY 22 authorizations, and July 1, 2022, for the FY 23 authorizations).

Dry Cleaning Establishment Remediation Fund

A new law makes several changes to the Dry Cleaning Establishment Remediation Fund, which is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and provides grants for eligible dry cleaning businesses to prevent, contain, and remediate pollution from hazardous chemicals the businesses use, in addition to other specified purposes. Among other things, it (1) expands the fund's pool of eligible applicants to generally include certifying parties, as

defined in the state's Transfer Act; (2) allows applicants to use grants for environmental site assessments; and (3) eliminates DECD's authority to provide grants for services not yet completed ([PA 21-193](#), § 3, effective upon passage).

Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS)

Bond Funds

This year's bond act authorizes \$2.3 million in FYs 22 and 23 for municipal grants to (1) provide potable water and (2) assess and take remedial action to address pollution from PFAS ([PA 21-111](#), §§ 13 & 32, effective July 1, 2021, for the FY 22 authorization, and July 1, 2022, for the FY 23 authorization).

Bottled Water Testing

A new law requires water bottlers to annually collect water samples before any water treatment from each Department of Public Health (DPH)-approved source and test them for PFAS and other unregulated contaminants. A DPH-registered environmental laboratory with EPA-approved certification must test the samples to determine compliance with DPH microbial standards. Bottlers must report the test results to DPH and the Department of Consumer Protection within nine days after receiving them. If the results exceed DPH standards for PFAS and other unregulated contaminants, DPH may require the bottler to stop using the source until it no longer poses an unacceptable health or safety risk ([PA 21-121](#), §§ 86 & 87, effective October 1, 2021).

Product Restrictions: Firefighting Foam and Food Packaging

During the regular session, the legislature passed a law restricting the use of two products with PFAS: class B firefighting foam and food packaging.

First, it prohibits the use of class B firefighting foam with intentionally added PFAS except in certain circumstances (e.g., federal law requires its use). Additionally, the DEEP commissioner must develop or identify a take-back program for municipally owned class B firefighting foam with PFAS that applies best management practices for its disposal ([PA 21-191](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

The new law also bans (1) beginning January 1, 2024, offering for sale or promotional purposes food packaging and packaging components with PFAS that was intentionally introduced during manufacturing or distribution and (2) using a material that replaces a chemical (i.e., PFAS) regulated by the state packaging and packaging components law in an amount or way that creates an equal or greater hazard than the regulated chemical ([PA 21-191](#), §§ 2-4, effective October 1, 2021).

Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation

Energy and Environmental Lease Financing for State Buildings

A new law caps consumption and environmental impact leases for state agencies at \$15 million for leases in effect on or after July 1, 2021. The state enters into these leases directly or through a state agency to improve state-owned buildings by reducing energy consumption or environmental impacts ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 192, effective July 1, 2021).

On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion Facilities

A new law makes changes to the siting and permitting requirements for on-farm anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities. It (1) requires an animal feeding operation that is collocated on a farm with an AD facility to have a comprehensive nutrient management plan and (2) increases an on-farm AD facility feed stock requirement for food scraps, food processing residuals, and soiled or unrecycled paper from 5% to 40% by volume. The new law also requires DEEP to act within 180 days after receiving a solid waste permit application from an on-farm AD facility operator ([PA 21-16](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Property Tax Exemption for Energy Sources

By law, Class I renewable energy sources (e.g., wind and solar) installed on or after October 1, 2007, for private residential or on-farm use are exempt from property tax. A new law prevents a facility from being disqualified from the exemption because it (1) uses or participates in net metering, a tariff policy, or another state program or (2) is owned by someone other than the property owner (e.g., leased solar panels). Prior law did not limit the size or number of installed facilities that were eligible for the exemption, but the new law limits it to those whose estimated annual production does not exceed the estimated annual load of the facility's location ([PA 21-180](#), effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years starting on or after that date).

Zoning Regulations

Prior law allowed municipalities to adopt zoning regulations that encouraged using certain energy conservation tools, including solar. A new law instead allows the regulations to require or promote these and expands them to include distributed generation or freestanding wind and combined heat and power. It also expands the conservation tools that municipalities can incentivize developers to use to include any solar and other renewable forms of energy; combined heat and power; water conservation, including demand offsets; and other energy conservation techniques ([PA 21-29](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Soil and Erosion Matters

Concrete Aggregate

A new law requires the operator of each quarry that produces concrete aggregate to (1) prepare and quadrennially update a geological source report and submit it to the state geologist and DEEP commissioner and (2) annually provide them an operations plan and a report with the results of a third-party test of the aggregate's sulfur content and further testing for pyrrhotite, if applicable. It authorizes the DEEP commissioner to adopt regulations on aggregate testing and impose restrictions on aggregate with pyrrhotite ([PA 21-120](#), §§ 8 & 9, as amended by [PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 59 & 60, effective July 1, 2021).

Flood and Erosion Control Boards

Provisions in a new law related to climate change adaptation broaden the authority of municipal flood and erosion control boards to include flood prevention and climate resilience. By law, these boards are already charged with preventing hazards from flooding, stream bank erosion, or beach erosion. Municipalities may establish a separate taxing district for these purposes. The new law also (1) allows municipalities to enter into agreements to form joint boards and (2) requires the boards to report biannually ([PA 21-115](#), §§ 4-17, effective July 1, 2021).

Soil Health

A new law expands the Council on Soil and Water Conservation's responsibilities to include developing guidelines for improving and preserving soil health. By law, the council coordinates the activities of soil and water conservation districts and their boards with those of state, regional, and local agencies. The new law also (1) requires the DEEP commissioner to update regulations on the districts and boards to include soil health matters and (2) allows her to have soil health research done and take certain actions to provide the districts and boards with federal resources to study and improve soil health ([PA 21-88](#), §§ 2-4, effective October 1, 2021).

Solid Waste Management

Beverage Container Redemption

A new law revamps the state's beverage container redemption law (i.e., bottle bill). Among other things, it does the following:

1. expands, beginning January 1, 2023, the list of beverages subject to the bottle bill's requirements to include things such as hard cider, juice, tea, coffee, and sports or energy drinks, and exempts containers of less than 150mL;

2. increases, beginning January 1, 2024, the beverage container deposit amount to at least 10 cents, rather than five cents;
3. increases, beginning October 1, 2021, the handling fee to two and one-half cents or three and one-half cents per beverage container, depending on the type of container involved that distributors must pay to dealers and redemption centers;
4. incrementally reduces the amount of unclaimed deposits that distributors must remit to the General Fund from 100% currently to 45% by FY 26;
5. requires certain retailers, beginning October 1, 2021, to have at least two reverse vending machines at their place of business; and
6. requires the DEEP commissioner to approve stewardship organizations for beverage containers ([PA 21-58](#), §§ 1-5, 7 & 9, various effective dates).

Additionally, a provision in the budget implementer act requires DEEP to have a grant program to provide forgivable grants for new beverage container redemption centers in urban centers and environmental justice communities that lack access to redemption sites. It caps the grant amount at \$150,000 in any fiscal year ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 65, effective upon passage).

Fill Materials Pilot Program

Under a new law, the DEEP commissioner may establish a pilot program to use as fill certain reclaimed materials that may have very minor amounts of solid waste if (1) there is an engineering need for fill materials and (2) using it will help reclaim or redevelop environmentally impaired or underused land. The new law caps at four the number of projects that may use these materials, subject to certain conditions such as there being no harm or threat to human health, safety, or the environment ([PA 21-88](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2021).

“Nip” Surcharge

A provision in the law making changes to the state’s bottle bill establishes a five-cent surcharge on the sale of spirit or liquor beverage containers of 50mL or less (commonly called “nips”), which must be provided to municipalities for environmental measures aimed at reducing solid waste or reducing litter’s impact ([PA 21-58](#), § 10, effective October 1, 2021).

Organic Material Composting and Food Waste

The legislature passed a new law about organic material composting and food waste that does the following:

1. broadens the scope of the law requiring certain generators of organic materials to separate the materials and recycle them at composting facilities by applying the law's requirements to smaller generators;
2. requires the DEEP commissioner to participate in an outreach and education campaign on using certain composting facilities to divert food waste from the waste stream;
3. allows the DEEP commissioner to adopt regulations with specifications for compost made from source-separated organic materials and mixed municipal solid waste; and
4. exempts, under certain circumstances, permitted solid waste facilities from needing to modify their permit in order to start receiving or storing a certain amount of containerized food scrap, food processing residuals, and soiled or unrecycled paper ([PA 21-16](#), §§ 2-5, effective October 1, 2021, except the provisions about DEEP's outreach and education efforts and compost regulations are effective upon passage).

Recycled Content Requirements

The legislature passed a law requiring the DEEP commissioner to develop, by December 1, 2022, recommendations for (1) recycled content requirements for products sold in Connecticut and (2) multi-state coordination in developing the standards. She must do this in consultation with retailers, manufacturers, recycling businesses, and regional organizations ([SA 21-9](#), effective upon passage).

Solid Waste Reduction Program

A provision in the law implementing the biennial budget requires the DEEP commissioner to, within available resources, develop and implement a program to support solid waste reduction strategies, which may include solid waste and organic materials diversion, unit-based pricing, and reuse and recycling strategies, among others ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 288, effective July 1, 2021).

Unit-Based Pricing Incentive Program

Part of a new law requires the DEEP commissioner, by July 1, 2022, to develop an incentive program to help municipalities that want to adopt a unit-based pricing program for solid waste disposal (also known as "pay-as-you-throw") ([PA 21-58](#), § 6, effective July 1, 2021).

Wine and Liquor Container Processing

The new law revising the state's bottle bill requires DEEP to develop the terms for a memorandum of agreement that, by 2023, provides for in-state processing of at least 80% of the wine and liquor beverage containers sold in the state. The processing must turn the containers into furnace-ready cullet or byproduct that is melted or otherwise used in cement, glass, or fiberglass products ([PA 21-58](#), § 8, effective upon passage).

Water Quality

Alternative Drinking Water Sources

A new law requires water companies and small community water systems to update their emergency contingency plans and emergency response plans, respectively, to include information on providing temporary alternative drinking water sources during a water supply emergency ([PA 21-121](#), § 82, effective October 1, 2021).

Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority

The legislature passed a special act allowing the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority to expand its wastewater system into Coventry and take any action necessary to implement the expansion. The act allows this regardless of any conflicting ordinance of Coventry, Bolton, or several neighboring towns; existing agreements between them; or state laws pertaining to DEEP oversight of and regulations regarding water pollution control authorities (WPCAs) and their receipt of Clean Water Funds ([SA 21-6](#), effective upon passage).

Clean Water Funding

This year's bond act authorizes \$718 million for DEEP to give Clean Water Fund grants and loans in FYs 22 and 23 ([PA 21-111](#), §§ 59 & 60, effective July 1, 2021).

Projects in Watersheds or Aquifer Protection Areas

A new law (1) broadens the circumstances under which applicants must notify water companies and DPH about certain projects in watersheds and aquifer protection areas and (2) requires the applicants to notify DPH by email. It eliminates the prior condition requiring this notice only in cases where certain maps have been filed. Instead, it generally requires applicants to (1) notify the water company and DPH and (2) determine if the project is within a water company's watershed by consulting the maps on DPH's website. As under existing law, the company and DPH have the right to be heard at any hearing on the application ([PA 21-121](#), §§ 3 & 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Public Water System Contaminant Testing

A new law requires an environmental laboratory that tests a public water system sample to notify DPH and the test requestor, or the requestor's designee, within 24 hours after obtaining a result showing a contaminant at a level that violates certain federal drinking water standards ([PA 21-121](#), § 88, effective October 1, 2021).

Sewage Spill Reporting

A new law expands the (1) reporting requirements for sewage treatment plants or collection systems, DEEP, and local authorities when there is a sewage spill; (2) types of spills and discharges subject to reporting; and (3) list of local authorities who must receive the spill information. It also requires DEEP to (1) implement a real-time public notification system that allows the public to choose to be notified of sewage spills or permitted sewage bypasses and (2) annually publish and make publicly available on its website certain information about sewage spills in the state ([PA 21-42](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Stormwater Authorities

Provisions in a new law on climate change adaptation authorize all municipalities, rather than just the three that participated in DEEP's municipal stormwater pilot program, to establish a stormwater authority. The provisions generally do the following:

1. expand the authorities' powers to assess fees and specify a process by which municipal legislative bodies approve the fees and
2. restrict the fees for certain hospital-owned properties; farm, forest, open space, or state or local government-owned land; and property owners who use certain stormwater best management practices ([PA 21-115](#), §§ 1-3, effective July 1, 2021).

Water Pollution Control Plans

A new law allows municipal WPCAs to delineate in the water pollution control plans they create the specific capacity allocations to serve developable areas for residential or mixed-use buildings with at least four dwelling units. Under existing law, these plans delineate areas such as those (1) served by the municipal sewerage system, (2) where sewerage facilities are planned, and (3) where sewers should be avoided ([PA 21-29](#), § 11, effective October 1, 2021).

Miscellaneous

Commission on Connecticut's Development and Future

A new law establishes a Commission on Connecticut's Development and Future within the Legislative Department to evaluate policies related to land use, conservation, housing affordability, and infrastructure. Among other things, the commission must report on (1) existing categories of discharge that constitute alternative on-site sewage treatment systems, subsurface community sewerage systems, and decentralized systems; (2) current jurisdiction over these systems; and (3) the potential impacts of increasing the daily capacities of the systems, including changes in

jurisdiction over them and the timeframe for adopting regulations to implement the changes ([PA 21-29](#), § 13, upon passage).

Disclosure of Dams by Property Sellers

A new law adds a question about the presence of dams that have been, or must be, registered with DEEP to the standard written residential condition report that the law generally requires a residential property seller to provide to a prospective buyer before the transaction occurs. Buyers must also be informed that more information on dams is available from DEEP ([PA 21-41](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Environmental Infrastructure: Green Bank

Provisions in a new law related to climate change adaptation expand the Connecticut Green Bank's duties to include (1) developing separate programs to finance and otherwise support environmental infrastructure and (2) promoting investment in the infrastructure. Examples of "environmental infrastructure" include structures, facilities, and improvement projects related to water, waste and recycling; climate adaptation and resiliency; agriculture; land conservation; and environmental markets (e.g., carbon offsets and ecosystem services). Previously, the Green Bank's duties were limited to clean energy ([PA 21-115](#), §§ 19-23, effective July 1, 2021).

Geographic Information Systems Office

A new law establishes a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) office within the Office of Policy Management and a geographic information officer position to oversee the new office and its staff. The officer is generally responsible for coordinating the collection, analysis, and accessibility of GIS data and establishing the office's goals. The law also establishes a 14-member GIS Advisory Council to, among other things, consult with the officer on free and public GIS data ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 78-80, effective October 1, 2021).

Low-Carbon Fuel Blend for Heating Oil

The legislature established new requirements for heating oil sold in the state to be a low-carbon fuel blend with a specified percentage of biodiesel that increases over time, beginning in July 1, 2022. The minimum biodiesel requirement starts at 5% and increases to 50% in 2035. The new law lets DEEP waive the requirements in certain circumstances and allows it to adopt regulations on related disclosure requirements for heating oil retailers ([PA 21-181](#), effective July 1, 2021).

KLM:kl