



Acts Affecting Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting crime and public safety enacted during the 2021 regular session and June special session (JSS). OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting First Responders, 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 bonding provisions. 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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Table on Penalties

The law authorizes courts to impose imprisonment, fines, or both when sentencing a convicted criminal. Table 1 displays the range of prison terms and fines that judges may impose for each classification of crime. Some crimes have a mandatory minimum sentence not specified in the table. Also, repeated or persistent offenders may face higher sentences than specified here.

Table 1: Crime Classifications and their Penalties

<i>Felony or Misdemeanor</i>	<i>Prison Term</i>	<i>Fine</i>
Class A felony—murder with special circumstances	Life without the possibility of release	Up to \$20,000
Class A felony—murder	25 to 60 years	Up to \$20,000
Class A felony—aggravated sexual assault of a minor	25 to 50 years	Up to \$20,000
Class A felony	10 to 25 years	Up to \$20,000
Class B felony—1 st degree manslaughter with a firearm	5 to 40 years	Up to \$15,000
Class B felony	1 to 20 years	Up to \$15,000
Class C felony	1 to 10 years	Up to \$10,000
Class D felony	Up to 5 years	Up to \$5,000
Class E felony	Up to 3 years	Up to \$3,500
Class A misdemeanor	Up to 1 year	Up to \$2,000
Class B misdemeanor	Up to 6 months	Up to \$1,000
Class C misdemeanor	Up to 3 months	Up to \$500
Class D misdemeanor	Up to 30 days	Up to \$250

Crimes and Penalties

Abuse of an Oath Document

A new law creates the crime of abuse of an oath document, executed subsequent to an oath taken by a judicial officer, and makes a person guilty of the crime when he or she disseminates the oath document by telegraph, mail, computer network, fax, or any other form of written communication with the intent to defraud, deceive, intimidate, injure, or harass a judicial officer. Under the new law, abuse of an oath document is a class D felony ([PA 21-104](#), § 55, effective upon passage).

Back Seat Passenger Seat Belt Use

The legislature enacted a new law that generally requires all motor vehicle occupants to wear seat belts while the vehicle is moving. Prior law required only the driver, front seat passenger, and certain back seat passengers (e.g., those under age 16) to wear them. Under the new law, the failure to wear a seat belt by any back seat passenger age 16 or older is a secondary offense, meaning that officers cannot stop a vehicle for this offense unless another violation has occurred. Violations are infractions ([PA 21-175](#), §§ 15 & 16, effective October 1, 2021).

Centralized Infractions Bureau

Fines Payable by Mail. A new law makes assessed fines payable by mail without appearing in court for (1) manufacturing hemp without a license or (2) noncompliance with a Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) order concerning mobile manufactured home parks ([PA 21-37](#) § 18, effective upon passage).

Agriculture-Related Violations. Regarding the list of agricultural-related violations handled by the centralized infraction bureau, another new law:

1. adds certain agriculture-related violations (e.g., improper use of brand name, unlicensed cultivating, processing, or manufacturing of hemp) and
2. removes violations associated with (a) certain kennel owners' and keepers' failure to get a town-issued license and (b) animal shelters' failure to register ([PA 21-104](#) § 58, effective upon passage).

Distracted Driving Fines

A new law increases the fines for violating the distracted driving law from (1) \$150 to \$200 for a first violation, (2) \$300 to \$375 for a second violation, and (3) \$500 to \$625 for a third or subsequent violation ([PA 21-28](#), § 13, effective October 1, 2021).

“Dooring”

The legislature enacted a new law that generally prohibits a person from causing physical contact between a vehicle door and moving traffic (including cyclists and pedestrians) by opening the door or leaving it open longer than needed to load or unload passengers (i.e., dooring). Violations of this provision are infractions ([PA 21-28](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Impaired Boating

As part of the act legalizing recreational cannabis, the legislature made a number of changes to DUI laws and impaired boating laws. Among other things, the act:

1. deems that drivers give their implied consent to submit to the nontestimonial portion of a drug influence evaluation conducted by drug recognition experts (DREs) and establishes procedures and conditions for requesting, administering, and documenting the evaluations on people arrested for DUI or impaired boating;
2. allows (a) a defendant’s refusal to submit to the nontestimonial portion of a drug influence evaluation to be used as evidence in DUI or impaired boating prosecutions and (b) the court to take judicial notice that ingesting cannabis can impair a person’s driving or boating ability and related functions; and
3. sunsets the current pretrial alcohol education program for people charged with DUI or impaired boating and establishes a new, generally similar, pretrial impaired driving intervention program.

The act also makes it a (1) class C misdemeanor to smoke, otherwise inhale, or ingest cannabis while driving a motor vehicle and (2) class D misdemeanor to do so as a passenger in a motor vehicle ([PA 21-1](#), JSS, §§ 85, 112-124, 161, 169 & 171-172, various effective dates).

Enticing a Juvenile to Commit a Criminal Act

A new law establishes the crime of “enticing a juvenile to commit a criminal act” and makes (1) a first violation a class A misdemeanor and (2) subsequent offenses a class D felony. Under the act, a person is guilty of this crime if he or she is at least age 23 and knowingly causes, encourages, solicits, recruits, intimidates, or coerces a person under age 18 to commit or participate in the commission of a criminal act (i.e., conduct constituting a felony or a misdemeanor but does not include recruiting a member of a criminal gang) ([PA 21-33](#), § 12, effective October 1, 2021).

Family Violence Crime

Under existing law, “family violence crime” means a crime other than a delinquent act that, in addition to its other elements, contains an element of an act of family violence to a family or household member. A new law expands the definition of family violence crime to include 1st and

2nd degree violation of conditions of release and criminal violation of a protective order, standing criminal protective order, or restraining order when the condition of release or court order is issued for an act of family violence or a family violence crime ([PA 21-78](#), § 4, effective July 1, 2021).

Fine for Failing to Pay or Act for Certain Infractions or Violations

Under prior law, a person charged with certain infractions or violations who, among other things, fails to pay the fine and additional fee or willfully fails to appear in court, is guilty of a class C or A misdemeanor. A new law reduces these penalties to an unclassified misdemeanor for which violators may be subject to up to 10 days in prison ([PA 21-102](#), § 20, effective October 1, 2021).

Fire Safety Code Citations, Injunctions, and Penalties

New legislation extends to the Fire Safety Code certain provisions related to fire marshal orders, citations, and penalties under the Fire Prevention Code. These include provisions allowing the State Fire Marshal or local fire marshals to (1) order a building owner or occupant to remedy code violations, (2) file an injunction to close or restrict the property's use until the condition has been remedied, and (3) issue a citation instead of an order. They also include the following penalties: (1) \$50 per day for each day a violation continues when a fire marshal has ordered a building owner or occupant to remedy a condition and (2) a fine of up to \$250 for anyone issued a citation ([PA 21-165](#), § 4, effective July 1, 2021).

Gambling Ban Exemptions

New legislation exempts online casino gaming, online and retail sports wagering, and fantasy contests from the state's illegal gambling law, along with the devices or equipment used to participate in those types of gaming, if done or used in accordance with the new law's requirements. Furthermore, criminal laws on illegal gambling do not apply to advertising, operating, or participating in online casino gaming, online sports wagering, and retail sports wagering ([PA 21-23](#), §§ 40-42, effective July 1, 2021).

Hate Crimes

Under prior law, the crimes of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias (C, D, and E felonies, respectively) address certain actions that intimidate or harass another person because of his or her actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. A new law expands these crimes to include actions that are motivated in whole or in substantial part by any of the attributes listed above, whether actual or perceived ([PA 21-78](#), §§ 17-19, effective October 1, 2021).

Intimate Images

The legislature enacted a new law that prohibits unlawful dissemination of an intimate image when the other person is not identifiable but there is other identifying information included (such dissemination is already illegal if the person is identifiable). It also increases the penalty, from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony, when dissemination is to more than one person over certain electronic platforms ([PA 21-102](#), § 9, effective October 1, 2021).

Malicious Prosecution

A new law extends the statute of limitations for malicious prosecution actions by beginning the three-year statute of limitations from the date the criminal proceeding that is the subject of the action ends instead of within three years from the date of the act or omission complained of as under prior law. By law, a person commits “malicious prosecution” when he or she falsely prosecutes another person for a criminal charge, without probable cause and with malicious intent unjustly to vex and trouble the other person. Offenders must be fined up to \$100 or imprisoned up to one year ([PA 21-104](#), § 60, effective July 1, 2021, and applicable to any cause of action arising from a criminal proceeding terminating prior to, on, or after July 1, 2021).

Municipal Surcharge

The legislature increased, from \$20 to \$25, the surcharge paid, in addition to a fine, by people who violate specified motor vehicle laws, regulations, and ordinances, such as speeding and reckless driving. By law, the state must remit this fee to the municipality in which a violation occurs ([PA 21-28](#), § 5, effective October 1, 2021).

Narcotic Drug Storage and Pretrial Program

A new law adds a specific penalty of a class D misdemeanor for failing to keep a narcotic in the original container. It also allows violators to take the pretrial drug education and community service program ([PA 21-102](#), §§ 14 & 19, effective October 1, 2021).

New Residents and Driver’s Licenses

The legislature enacted a new law that lengthens, from 30 to 60 days, the time period within which a person with an out-of-state driver’s license must obtain a Connecticut license after establishing Connecticut residency. By law, a first offense for violating this provision is an infraction punishable by a fine of \$75 to \$90 and any subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of \$250 to \$350, up to 30 days in prison, or both ([PA 21-106](#), § 9, effective July 1, 2021).

Online Harassment

A new law, among other things, expands the definition of various crimes related to harassment to include conduct initiated through electronic methods. This expansion includes the following crimes: 1st and 2nd degree stalking, 2nd degree harassment, and trafficking in personal identifying information. These crimes carry penalties ranging from a class C misdemeanor to a class D felony ([PA 21-56](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Out-Of-State Motor Vehicle Registrations

The legislature extended, from 60 to 90 days after establishing residency, the grace period during which a resident may drive a vehicle registered out-of-state without penalty. The act also lowers the fine, from \$1,000 to \$250, for residents who drive a vehicle registered out-of-state after the grace period and requires that the fine be suspended for first-time violators who provide proof that they registered their vehicles. By law, this fine is remitted to municipalities ([PA 21-106](#), § 30, effective October 1, 2021).

Overweight Vehicles on Bridges

Existing law prohibits driving over, on, through, or under any bridge or structure if the vehicle's height or load exceeds the height of the posted clearance or load shown on a sign. A new law (1) expands this prohibition to include doing so when the weight of the vehicle or the vehicle and load exceeds the posted weight limit and (2) increases the penalty for violations from an infraction with a \$50 fine plus surcharges to a fine of up to \$1,000 for a first violation and up to a \$2,500 fine for each subsequent offense ([PA 21-175](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective October 1, 2021).

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 law'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 violates the ban unaware and in good faith, to a class D felony for someone with at least two prior violations ([PA 21-52](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Produce Safety or Seed Law Violations

A new law revises the penalties for violating Connecticut's produce safety laws, setting specific dollar fines as follows: \$50 for a first offense and \$200 for a subsequent offense. It also reduces the penalty for violating the state's seed law (e.g., labeling, sales, and record keeping requirements) by eliminating it as a class D misdemeanor and keeping the existing fines of \$100 for a first

offense and \$200 for a subsequent offense ([PA 21-155](#), §§ 4 & 5, effective October 1, 2021; the same change regarding seed law violations is made in [PA 21-104](#), § 59).

Recreational Cannabis

A new law legalizes the possession of cannabis (marijuana) for adult recreational use (age 21 or older) of up to 1.5 ounces of cannabis plant material and five ounces if locked in certain places (e.g., home) and establishes a regulatory structure for cannabis businesses. It erases certain cannabis-related criminal convictions and allows for home growing within certain limits, starting this October for medical marijuana patients age 18 or older and starting in July 2023 for anyone else age 21 or older.

The law establishes a Social Equity Council to encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by people from communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. It requires the council to establish criteria and review social equity applications. Under the law, DCP must reserve 50% of the maximum number of applications for these applicants, who generally pay 50% of the applicant fees for the first three years.

Furthermore, the law establishes criminal penalties for various actions, such as (1) consumers possessing cannabis in excess of the possession limit, (2) underage individuals possessing cannabis or attempting to buy it, (3) retailers selling cannabis to customers under age 21, and (4) property owners allowing persons under age 21 to possess cannabis at the property. It also generally lowers existing penalties for illegally selling cannabis and related actions.

Among numerous other criminal justice-related provisions, the law:

1. prohibits minors from being adjudicated delinquent for certain cannabis possession offenses;
2. limits when cannabis odor or possession can justify a search or motor vehicle stop;
3. limits when cannabis possession or use can be grounds to revoke parole, special parole, or probation; and
4. sunsets the current pretrial drug education and community service program for people charged with drug possession or paraphernalia crimes, but establishes a new, generally similar program ([PA 21-1](#), JSS, various effective dates).

Right-of-Way and Buses

New legislation requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to a bus traveling in the same direction when the bus appropriately signals (i.e., by using a hand and arm, signal lamp, or mechanical signal

device) to reenter the flow of traffic. A violation is an infraction ([PA 21-106](#), § 37, effective October 1, 2021).

Safety Code for Boilers and Hot Water Heaters Exemptions

A new law exempts certain hot water heaters from the state Safety Code for Boilers and Hot Water Heaters. Among other things, boilers and hot water heaters subject to the code must be registered with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and inspected by a boiler inspector. By law, a person who violates the code must be fined up to \$100 for a first offense and subsequent offenses are class C misdemeanors ([PA 21-165](#), § 14, effective upon passage).

Sale or Possession of Drugs in Drug-free Zones

A new law reduces the scope of laws enhancing the penalties for illegal drug activities near schools, licensed child care centers, and public housing projects (i.e., drug-free zones). It (1) reduces the size of these zones from 1,500 to 200 feet and (2) provides that for the enhanced penalty to apply for some of these crimes, the offender must commit the crime with the intent to do so in a specific location which the jury or judge determines is within the zone ([PA 21-102](#), §§ 22-24, effective October 1, 2021).

Service Vehicles and Vulnerable User Law

New legislation expands the state’s vulnerable user law to include people operating a (1) commercial motor vehicle equipped with a garbage compactor, detachable container, or curbside recycling body; (2) tank vehicle; (3) vehicle authorized by the U.S. government to carry mail; or (4) vehicle operated by an express delivery carrier. By law, a driver operating a motor vehicle on a public way faces a penalty of up to \$1,000 if he or she fails to exercise reasonable care and causes substantial bodily harm to, or the serious physical injury or death of, a “vulnerable user,” provided the vulnerable user exercised reasonable care in using the public way ([PA 21-195](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Sex Crimes

A new law broadens the crimes of “sex trafficking,” “patronizing a prostitute,” and “commercial sexual abuse of a minor” to include taking these actions in exchange for anything of value, instead of only for paying a fee, as under prior law. It similarly broadens the crimes of patronizing a prostitute and commercial sexual abuse of a minor to include when they are committed based on an agreement to exchange anything of value, instead of an agreement for a fee, as under prior law. The law also narrows the trafficking in persons crime by including only actions a person commits knowingly ([PA 21-103](#), §§ 3-5, effective October 1, 2021).

Smoke Detectors

New legislation requires the Fire Safety Code to require smoke detectors in single-family homes built before October 1, 1978. By law, a person who violates the Fire Safety Code must be fined up to \$1,000 with a \$200 mandatory minimum, up to six months in prison, or both ([PA 21-165](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2021).

Soliciting Sexual Acts

The legislature enacted a new law that replaces references to the crime of “patronizing a prostitute” to “soliciting sexual acts” ([PA 21-102](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective October 1, 2021).

Stalking

1st Degree Stalking. A new law (1) limits 1st degree stalking of someone under age 16 to situations in which the actor is at least age 22 and (2) expands 1st degree stalking to include situations in which the actor intentionally directs the conduct at the other person based on bias (e.g., race, sex, or disability). By law, 1st degree stalking is a class D felony ([PA 21-56](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2021).

2nd Degree Stalking. A new law expands what constitutes 2nd degree stalking to include certain conduct:

1. concerning a specific person (unchanged by the new law, it includes conduct directed at a specific person);
2. that causes fear of harm to an animal; and
3. involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information through electronic communications in a manner that causes fear or serious distress.

The new law also allows those harmed by a disclosure to bring a civil action to recover damages and other relief. By law, 2nd degree stalking is a class A misdemeanor ([PA 21-56](#), §§ 2 & 4, effective October 1, 2021).

Electronic Stalking. A new law increases the penalty for electronic stalking and broadens the crime’s definition to include instances where, with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate, an electronic system is used to watch another person or engage in other conduct that (1) places the person, person’s family, or intimate partner in a reasonable fear of death or serious injury or (2) causes substantial distress to these individuals. It also increases the penalty from a class B misdemeanor to a class D felony ([PA 21-102](#), § 8, effective October 1, 2021).

Street Racing

New legislation modifies the definition of illegal street racing by specifying that it means driving on a public road for any race, contest, or demonstration of speed or skill. Among other penalties under existing law and the new law, a first offense is punishable by a fine of \$150 to \$600, up to one year in prison, or both; and any subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of \$300 to \$1,000, up to one year in prison, or both ([PA 21-175](#), § 23, effective October 1, 2021).

Striped Bass Fishing Penalties

A new law eliminates the enhanced penalties for violating the striped bass sportfishing regulations. By doing so, it makes a violation of the striped bass regulations an infraction, which is the same penalty that applies to other marine district sportfishing regulation violations ([PA 21-124](#), effective upon passage).

Criminal Procedure

Affirmative Defense for Trafficking Victims

Under a new law, it is an affirmative defense in any human trafficking prosecution or delinquency proceeding that the defendant was a minor (under age 18) and his or her participation in the offense was a result of having been a victim of another person's conduct that constitutes human trafficking ([PA 21-103](#), § 3, effective October 1, 2021).

Conditions of Release

The legislature enacted a new law that expands the factors the court may consider when determining what release conditions will reasonably ensure an arrested person's appearance in court and that the safety of any other person will not be endangered. Under the new law, in the case of a 2nd degree violation of a condition of release that was issued for a family violence crime, the court may also consider the heightened risk posed to family violence victims by violations of release conditions. Similarly, it allows the court to consider the heightened risk posed to family violence victims by violations of release conditions and protection orders when determining release conditions for people charged with class A felonies, most class B or C felonies, and other specified crimes, including family violence crimes ([PA 21-78](#), § 16, effective October 1, 2021).

Depositions for Those Infirm and Age 75 and Older

A new law allows the state to ask the Superior Court or judge to depose witnesses who are infirm and age 75 and older in any case involving an offense where the punishment may be imprisonment of more than one year. Prior law allowed these witness depositions to be taken before a

commissioner or magistrate that the court or judge designates. The new law also allows these depositions to be before a judge ([PA 21-102](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2021).

Jury Selection

A new law adjusts the method for summoning jurors from each town to reflect how many complied with the summons in the past year. It also (1) expands eligibility for jury service (e.g., by including certain permanent residents and shortening the time frame barring certain convicted felons from serving) and (2) requires additional questions on the juror questionnaire and the judicial branch to compile demographic information on those who participate in the jury process ([PA 21-170](#), various effective dates).

Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Operator Implicit Consent

By law, motor vehicle operators implicitly consent to chemical analyses of their blood, breath, or urine; and if the operator is a minor, his or her parents or guardians have implicitly consented for him or her. This applies to all vehicles used on public roads. A new law also applies it to snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The implied consent law establishes administrative license suspension procedures for operators who refuse to submit to a test or whose test results indicate an elevated blood alcohol content. The act's specific inclusion of snowmobiles and ATVs align the implied consent law with the state's criminal DUI laws ([PA 21-106](#), § 26, effective July 1, 2021).

Unfavorable Inference

New legislation allows a judge or jury to draw an unfavorable inference from the deliberate failure of a police officer who wears a body camera to record his or her use of force or other relevant incidents in civil cases involving depriving someone's equal protection or privileges and immunities ([PA 21-33](#), §§ 8 & 9, effective July 1, 2021, for civil cases provision and January 1, 2022 for use of force provision).

Departments and Commissions

Attorney General's Powers Regarding Hate Crimes and Civil Rights Violations

New legislation expands the attorney general's powers to include (1) investigating allegations of certain hate crimes and civil rights violations; (2) initiating related legal proceedings, with certain exceptions; and (3) seeking relief for the affected person. When conducting investigations, the attorney general may issue subpoenas and interrogatories consistent with how he investigates Connecticut Antitrust Act violations. But the act prohibits information obtained from these

investigations from being used in a criminal proceeding. It generally prohibits the attorney general from asserting a claim against a state agency, officer, or employee acting in their official capacity.

Among other things, it also establishes a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for each hate crime or civil rights violation that is established by clear and convincing evidence ([PA 21-128](#), effective July 1, 2021).

Department of Correction (DOC)-Related Statutes

A new law makes various changes to DOC-related statutes, such as:

1. establishing a reentry employment advisory committee to advise the DOC commissioner on aligning the department's education and job training programs with the needs of community employers;
2. repealing the requirement for DOC to establish public safety or advisory committees in municipalities with correctional facilities, and instead allowing these municipalities to establish public safety committees;
3. specifying that, for purposes of the state's Data Privacy Act, "personal data" must not be construed to make available certain records concerning DOC facilities or Whiting Forensic Hospital that are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (e.g., security manuals or staff assignment logs); and
4. requiring DOC to provide inmates, upon their release, with debit cards (rather than checks) for compensation they earned performing jobs ([PA 21-85](#), various effective dates).

Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

A new law amends the process for nominating CJC members by requiring a referral to the Judiciary Committee rather than the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. It also gives CJC more oversight over the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) by, among other things (1) requiring the chief state's attorney to notify CJC whenever there are certain promotions and (2) allowing CJC to call state's attorneys before the commission for questions related to their merit and performance rating.

The new law also adds a nonvoting member, that the CJC designates, to the Division of Criminal Justice Advisory Board ([PA 21-8](#), §§ 1 & 3-5, effective October 1, 2021).

Inspector General Appointment

New legislation amends the process for nominating the inspector general and restructures the Office of the Inspector General by making it a separate, rather than an independent, office within

DCJ. By law, the inspector general investigates peace officers' use of force and prosecutes cases to determine whether use of force was justified. The law requires the CJC to appoint, rather than nominate, one deputy chief state's attorney to serve as inspector general and eliminates General Assembly confirmation ([PA 21-8](#), §§ 2, 6 & 7, effective upon passage).

Domestic Violence

Coercive Control and Civil Restraining Orders

A new law establishes a general definition of domestic violence that includes the coercive control of a family or household member, which under the new law is a pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a person's free will and personal liberty. Among other things, it:

1. makes victims subject to coercive control by a family or household member eligible for civil restraining orders;
2. requires the court to sanction a party that files frivolous and fabricated pleadings or motions;
3. creates a grant program to provide free legal assistance to indigent restraining order applicants; and
4. prescribes a specific notice the court must give to each person who receives a family violence protective order or standing criminal protection order ([PA 21-78](#), §§ 1, 2, 6, 7, 10 & 15, effective October 1, 2021, except the definition provision is effective upon passage).

Ex-Parte Civil Protection Orders

By law, a victim of sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking may apply for an ex-parte civil protection order (i.e., one issued without a hearing) if he or she is not eligible for a civil restraining order. A new law adds a provision requiring the court, under specific circumstances, to extend an ex parte order up to another 14 days from the originally scheduled hearing date to allow more time for service of process. The court must do so upon the request of the applicant and based on the information in the original application. This provision already applies under existing law to civil restraining orders ([PA 21-104](#), § 17, effective upon passage).

Fee Waivers

Background check Fee Waiver for Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Companies

A new law exempts volunteer fire companies or departments, as well as volunteer ambulance services or companies, from the fees that the law otherwise requires the Department of Emergency

Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to charge for certain services (i.e., fingerprinting and name, fingerprint, personal record, letters of good conduct, bar association, and criminal history record information searches). It also prohibits the DESPP commissioner from requiring these volunteer fire and ambulance organizations to provide proof of insurance as a condition of receiving the fee waivers ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, § 84, effective July 1, 2021).

Criminal History Search

The legislature enacted a new law that allows DESPP to waive the \$75 fee for a criminal history information record search for indigent individuals requesting the search in connection with their pardon application ([PA 21-32](#), § 7, effective July 1, 2021).

Diversions Programs or Treatments

For certain indigent individuals a public defender represents, a new law waives the fee for certain diversionary programs and treatments, such as the accelerated pretrial rehabilitation program. It also prohibits courts from requiring community service in lieu of any fees for indigent persons ([PA 21-102](#), §§ 11-18, effective October 1, 2021).

Firearms and Other Weapons

Electronic Defense Weapons

A new law allows individuals age 21 and older to carry an electronic defense weapon if they possess a valid firearm credential (i.e., an eligibility certificate or permit to carry or sell handguns or long guns or an ammunition certificate). An electronic defense weapon is a stun gun or other conductive energy device. The law additionally makes it a class D felony to sell or transfer these weapons to anyone who is younger than age 21 or does not possess a valid firearm credential ([PA 21-31](#), effective July 1, 2021).

Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee

The legislature enacted a new law that establishes a committee to advise the Public Health and Human Services committees on establishing a commission to coordinate the funding and implementation of programs and strategies to reduce street-level gun violence. Among other things, the committee must (1) identify effective, evidence-based community violence and gun violence reduction strategies; (2) identify funding opportunities for related initiatives; and (3) report on its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2022 ([PA 21-35](#), § 9, effective upon passage).

Misdemeanor Convictions and Firearm Credentials or Possession

A new law reduces the circumstances in which certain misdemeanor convictions make someone (1) ineligible to obtain certain firearm credentials or (2) guilty of criminal possession of handguns or other firearms, electronic defense weapons, or ammunition. It removes certain drug possession convictions before October 1, 2015, (principally, a first offense for possessing under four ounces of marijuana) from the list of misdemeanors that bar eligibility for these credentials or items. For other disqualifying misdemeanors, the act limits the scope to only those occurring within the prior 20 years ([PA 21-67](#), §§ 3-7, effective June 1, 2022).

Risk Warrants and Risk Protection Orders

Existing law allows any two police officers or a state's attorney or assistant state's attorney, under limited circumstances, to apply to court for a warrant ("risk warrant") to seize firearms and ammunition from someone who poses an imminent risk of injuring himself or herself or someone else. This year, the legislature expanded this law's scope to (1) apply to other deadly weapons; (2) allow these officials to apply for a risk protection order prohibiting such a person from acquiring or possessing firearms, other deadly weapons, or ammunition; and (3) allow adult family or household members or medical professionals to apply to court for a risk protection order investigation.

Under the new law, if a judge issues a risk protection order and there is probable cause to believe that the person possesses firearms or other deadly weapons, the judge must issue a risk warrant along with or following that order, under specified procedures. The new law makes other changes to risk warrant procedures, such as removing the one-year maximum period on the state's hold of items seized under a risk warrant ([PA 21-67](#), § 1, effective June 1, 2022).

Juvenile Justice

Definition of Child for Delinquency Proceedings

A new law increases the minimum age of a child who may be subject to juvenile court jurisdiction for delinquency matters and proceedings from age seven to age 10 ([PA 21-174](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2021).

Feasibility Study on Reducing Child Recidivism

A new law requires the judicial branch to study the feasibility of (1) decreasing the time between a child's arrest and initial court appearance and (2) establishing a diversionary program for arrested children where program participants would report to various people (e.g., a judge) on a weekly basis. The law requires the judicial branch to report its findings to the Children and Judiciary committees by January 1, 2022 ([PA 21-33](#), § 13, effective upon passage).

Free Phone Calls for Detained Juveniles

A new law requires the Court Support Services Division (CSSD), beginning October 1, 2022, to provide free phone services to children detained in a juvenile detention facility. The CSSD executive director may supplement phone services with other telecommunications services, including video communication and email, as long as the service is free to the children and to people initiating or receiving the communication ([PA 21-54](#), effective upon passage).

Juvenile Records

CSSD. New legislation generally allows information obtained about a child during a detention screening or assessment to be disclosed to CSSD. It also requires CSSD to provide a child and the child's parent or guardian written notice that they may file a petition in Superior Court for erasure of certain juvenile records if the child meets certain requirements ([PA 21-174](#), §§ 9 & 14, effective upon passage for the disclosure provision and October 1, 2021, for the erasure provision).

Judicial Review Council Members. Another new law gives the Judicial Review Council's members and employees access to juvenile records when required in the performance of their duty on the council, including for investigations ([PA 21-104](#), §§ 25, 26, 39, 40 & 48, effective upon passage).

Juvenile Residential Center

A new law creates a general definition for the term "juvenile residential center" to replace prior references to the term "juvenile detention center" throughout the statutes. Under the new law, a "juvenile residential center" is a hardware-secured residential facility operated by CSSD that includes direct staff supervision, surveillance enhancements, and physical barriers that allow for close supervision and controlled movement in a treatment setting for pre-adjudicated juveniles and juveniles adjudicated as delinquent. ([PA 21-104](#), §§ 2-10, 12-14, 24, 27 & 29-33, effective January 1, 2022).

Telephone Call Rates and Commissary Needs of Incarcerated Juveniles

The legislature enacted a new law that establishes a committee, with Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee-appointed members, to study telephone call rates and commissary needs for 18- to 21-year-olds incarcerated in DOC facilities. The law also allows the committee to recommend legislation based on the study and requires the committee to report recommendations to DAS and the Judiciary Committee by January 1, 2022 ([PA 21-174](#), § 10, effective upon passage).

Treatment of Children in the Juvenile Justice System

A new law makes several changes affecting the treatment of children in the juvenile justice system. Among other things, it requires:

1. the DOC commissioner to review the department's use of chemical agents on anyone under age 18 in a juvenile detention center or correctional facility,
2. a team to develop plans for mandatory prearrest diversion of low-risk children, and
3. the judicial branch to develop an implementation plan to securely house in its custody anyone under age 18 who is arrested and detained prior to sentencing or disposition ([PA 21-174](#), §§ 11-13, effective upon passage).

Visitations and Interactions at Juvenile Residential Centers

A new law authorizes the judicial branch, subject to policies and procedures approved by the chief court administrator, to allow certain education and service providers (e.g., judicial branch and Department of Children and Families employees) to enter, physically or virtually, a juvenile residential center and interact with the staff and juveniles without a court order, if the entry and interaction are required by the individual to perform his or her duties. It prohibits disclosure of confidential information. Under the new law, violators are guilty of a class B misdemeanor ([PA 21-104](#), § 54, effective upon passage).

Law Enforcement

Civilian Police Review Board Objections

A new law provides a process for a person to object to a subpoena issued by a civilian police review board. It allows the person issued the subpoena to file an objection with the court within specified timeframes. The law also allows the court to order the person to appear, give testimony, or produce the evidence ([PA 21-33](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2021).

Consent Searches on the Person

A new law allows a law enforcement officer to ask a person if he or she may conduct a search of their person, if the officer has reasonable and articulable suspicion that (1) weapons, contraband, or other evidence of a crime is contained on the person or (2) the search is reasonably necessary to further an ongoing law enforcement investigation. Under prior law, an individual's consent to conduct a search of his or her body was not justification for a law enforcement official to conduct the search, unless there was probable cause ([PA 21-33](#), § 6, effective October 1, 2021).

CRISIS Initiative Expansion

The legislature enacted a new law that requires the State Police, in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, to expand the Connection to Recovery through Intervention, Support, and Initiating Services Initiative pilot program (i.e., CRISIS Initiative) to Troop D. The new law also establishes a task force to study the costs and benefits of expanding the pilot program throughout the state. This expanded program would include at least the components of the pilot program that require state police officer training, coordination between state police officers and mental health professionals, and referrals to mental health services facilities. The task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2022 ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 75 & 76, effective July 1, 2021).

Law Enforcement Use of Force

A new law delays, from April 1, 2021, to January 1, 2022, the effective date of 2020 legislative changes affecting law enforcement use of force (PA 20-1, JSS, § 29). Among other things, these provisions limit the circumstances under which an officer's use of deadly physical force is justified and establish factors to consider when evaluating whether the officer's action was objectively reasonable.

The new law also modifies these circumstances established under the 2020 act, by, among other things:

1. basing the objective reasonableness standard on the officer's given circumstances at that time;
2. requiring officers to have reasonably determined that no reasonable alternatives exist, rather than having exhausted those alternatives, if using deadly force when making an arrest or preventing escape; and
3. establishing the condition that the escaping person poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to others ([PA 21-4](#), effective March 31, 2021, for the effective date provision and January 1, 2022, for the provision modifying the use of deadly force justification).

No-Knock Warrants

A new law prohibits certain law enforcement officials from seeking, executing, or participating in the execution of a no-knock warrant. It requires search warrants to require officers to provide notice of their identity, authority, and purpose before entering the place to be searched ([PA 21-33](#), § 7, effective October 1, 2021).

Opportunity for Police to Review Certain Recordings

New legislation allows a police officer whose image or voice is captured on certain recordings (e.g., body cameras) to review the recordings before they are disclosed in certain instances where there is a request for public disclosure ([PA 21-33](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2021).

Police Officer Decertification

A new law expands the grounds upon which the Police Officer Standard Training Council (POST) may cancel or revoke a police officer's certification, by expanding the definition of undermining public confidence to include issuing orders that are not lawful. Unchanged by the new law, the law enforcement unit, under its procedures, must have found that the officer engaged in this conduct before cancelling or revoking an officer's certification ([PA 21-33](#), § 11, effective October 1, 2021).

Project Longevity Initiative Expansion

New legislation expands the "Project Longevity Initiative" to include Waterbury. Project Longevity is a comprehensive community-based initiative to reduce gun violence in Connecticut's cities through a joint effort among community members, law enforcement, and social service providers to focus an anti-violence message on highly active street groups. The project is already in place in New Haven, Hartford, and Bridgeport. Under the act, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary must submit a plan to implement the Project Longevity Initiative statewide to the Public Safety and Security Committee by February 1, 2022 ([PA 21-153](#), effective upon passage).

Requests to Detain Children

A new law requires a law enforcement officer who requests a court order to detain an arrested child in a juvenile detention center to attach, along with the summons, a copy of the completed form to detain prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Operator. Under the new law, the judicial branch must (1) compile data concerning officers' requests for a court order to detain an arrested child in a juvenile detention center, (2) sort the data by judicial district, and (3) categorize the data based on how many requests were made and denied. Starting by January 15, 2023, the judicial branch must annually report this data from the previous calendar year to the Judiciary Committee ([PA 21-104](#), § 61, effective October 1, 2021).

Security Guards

A new law adds decertification as a police officer in other states, including cancellation, revocation, or refusal to renew a certification, to the list of criteria that make a person ineligible for security guard and other related jobs ([PA 21-33](#), §§ 4 & 5, effective October 1, 2021).

U Nonimmigrant Status Certification

By law, each law enforcement agency must designate at least one officer with supervisory duties to expeditiously process, upon the request of a family violence or other crime victim who is an undocumented individual applying for U Nonimmigrant Status, a certification of helpfulness and any subsequent certification the victim requires. (U Nonimmigrant Status is for victims of certain crimes, such as human trafficking, who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.)

A new law defines the term “expeditiously,” and in so doing requires each law enforcement agency, starting July 1, 2021, to provide the certification (i.e., certain information required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security):

1. within 60 days after receiving the request for certification of helpfulness or
2. within 14 days after receiving the request if (a) the victim is in federal immigration removal proceedings or detained or (b) the victim’s child, parents, or siblings would become ineligible for an immigration benefit by virtue of the victim or his or her sibling attaining age 18 years or the victim’s child attaining age 21 years ([PA 21-78](#), § 5, effective July 1, 2021).

Prison

Counting of Prison Populations for Redistricting

As the legislature begins the decennial redistricting process, a new law creates a process to adjust U.S. census population data and count most prison inmates at their address before incarceration, instead of at their prison address. The law requires that this adjusted data, as well as the unadjusted data, serve as the basis for determining state legislative districts and municipal voting districts. However, it excludes inmates serving a life sentence without the possibility of release from the adjusted data ([PA 21-13](#), effective upon passage).

DOC Vocational Village Program

New legislation establishes a vocational village program, administered by the DOC commissioner in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide skilled trades training to inmates. The program must provide inmates opportunities to earn nationally recognized industry certifications and credentials, which may include those in computer coding, carpentry, computerized numerical control manufacturing, welding, electrical, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and plumbing ([PA 21-188](#), § 6, effective October 1, 2021).

Free Phone Calls for Incarcerated Individuals

A new law requires DOC, beginning July 1, 2022, to provide free phone services to incarcerated individuals in correctional facilities. The commissioner may supplement phone services with other telecommunications services, including video communication and email, as long as the service is free to the inmates and to people initiating or receiving the communication. Each incarcerated person is eligible to use telephone services for at least 90 minutes each day he or she is confined, as long as doing so does not interfere with the facility's standard operations ([PA 21-54](#), as amended by [PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 52 & 53, effective upon passage).

Prison Education Program Office Task Force

The legislature established a 16-member task force to study the costs and benefits of establishing a Postsecondary Prison Education Program Office within DOC. Among other things, the task force must examine the process and standards for approving education programs, curriculum, and course materials at correctional facilities. It must report its findings to the Higher Education and Judiciary committees by January 1, 2022 ([PA 21-132](#), § 2, effective upon passage).

Voting Rights for Individuals Convicted of a Felony

A new law eliminates the forfeiture of convicted felons' electoral privileges (i.e., voting rights) if they are committed to confinement in a community residence. The act also restores these privileges to convicted felons who are on parole or special parole ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 96-98, effective July 1, 2021).

Sentencing, Immunities, and Erasures

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Under a new law, members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles must take annual training on the pardons process, including information on the collateral consequences of having a criminal record (such as when applying for housing or employment). It also prohibits the board from denying a pardon application unless the board provides the applicant a written statement (1) listing the factors considered to determine whether an applicant qualifies for a pardon and (2) explaining which factors the applicant did not satisfy ([PA 21-32](#), § 1 & 2, effective October 1, 2021, for the training provisions and January 1, 2023, for the pardon denial provision). (An existing law, unchanged by the new law, mandates that the board's regulations require board members provide a written statement with the reasons for rejecting any pardon application ([CGS § 54-124a\(j\)](#))).

Criminal Record Erasure

Starting in 2023, a new law provides for the erasure of certain criminal conviction records after a specified period following the person's most recent conviction. Under the new law, eligible convictions are generally subject to erasure seven years (for misdemeanors) or 10 years (for felonies) after the person's most recent conviction.

Under the act, this erasure does not apply to (1) class A, B, or C felonies; (2) unclassified felonies with longer than five-year prison terms; (3) family violence crimes; (4) certain crimes requiring sex offender registration; (5) specified class D felonies and class A misdemeanors; and (6) any offense for which the person has not completed serving the sentence, including probation or parole.

Among other related provisions, the act also (1) prohibits discrimination in various contexts based on someone's erased criminal history record information and (2) extends certain requirements for purchasers of public criminal records purchased from all criminal justice agencies, not just the judicial branch ([PA 21-32](#), as amended by [PA 21-33](#), § 10, most provisions are effective January 1, 2023).

Immunity for Minors Possessing Alcohol Who Seek Assistance

A new law gives minors (i.e., under age 21) immunity from criminal prosecution for possessing alcohol when they call 9-1-1 to prevent another person's death or serious injury under certain conditions (e.g., the minor is the first to make the call and provide certain identifying information). By law, a first violation for possession of alcohol as a minor is an infraction, and a second violation is punishable by a fine of \$200 to \$500. Convicted minors also face driver's license sanctions (e.g., a 60-day suspension if the minor possessed alcohol in public) ([PA 21-142](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Misdemeanor Sentences

A new law reduces the maximum sentence for misdemeanors by one day, from one year to 364 days. Previously, the maximum sentence for a class A misdemeanor, and certain unclassified misdemeanors, was one year. Among other things, the law (1) allows anyone previously sentenced to a one-year prison term for a misdemeanor to apply to court to modify the sentence to 364 days and (2) requires the court to issue the modification unless the sentencing records have been destroyed.

Under federal law, certain categories of crimes render a non-citizen removable from the United States or otherwise affect immigration status. In some situations, immigration consequences are

triggered based on whether the crime was punishable by at least one year in prison ([PA 21-32](#), § 35, effective October 1, 2021).

Persistent Offender Sentencing

For determining persistent offenders, a new law limits the look-back period to 10 years for prior convictions of controlled substance possession and certain felonies. It also extends the exemption for these felony offenders to include class E felonies ([PA 21-102](#), § 10, effective October 1, 2021).

Pre-sentence Confinement Credit

The legislature enacted a new law that (1) allows for pre-sentence confinement credit on concurrent sentences and (2) requires that this confinement count only once when applied to consecutive sentences. It only applies to people whose sole reason for pre-sentence confinement is bail denial or an inability to obtain bail. In the case of a fine, each day spent confined before sentencing is credited against the sentence at a per diem rate equal to the average daily cost of incarceration as the correction commissioner determines ([PA 21-102](#), § 21, effective October 1, 2021).

Sentence Modifications

A new law expands eligibility for sentence modification (i.e., sentence reduction, defendant discharge, or placement of the defendant on probation or conditional discharge). It does so by allowing the court to modify sentences without an agreement between the defendant and the state, including those under plea agreements with seven years or less of actual incarceration ([PA 21-102](#), § 25, effective upon passage).

Vacatur Relief (Vacating Convictions)

Existing law and a new law require the court to vacate a conviction for prostitution (a class A misdemeanor) if the defendant proves that his or her participation in the offense was a result of having been a victim of another person's conduct that constitutes a human trafficking violation under state or federal law.

The new law also allows the court, at its discretion, to vacate a judgment of conviction for any other misdemeanor offense; class C, D, or E felony; or unclassified felony offense carrying up to a 10-year prison term applied for by a human trafficking victim. The court must dismiss any charges related to an offense it vacates ([PA 21-103](#), § 7, effective October 1, 2021, as amended by [PA 21-104](#), § 62).

Victim Rights and Services

Access to Juvenile Proceedings

A new law allows victims and their next of kin to access the private proceedings of juveniles being tried on the adult criminal docket. It does so by prohibiting the court from excluding them from the proceedings.

Under the new law (1) a “victim” is the victim of the crime; his or her parent, guardian, or legal representative; a victim advocate; or a person designated by a victim for decision making and (2) “next of kin” is a spouse, adult child, parent, adult sibling, aunt, uncle, or grandparent ([PA 21-104](#), §§ 1 & 28, effective upon passage).

Crime Victim Notification

The legislature enacted a new law that allows a member of a crime victim’s immediate family to request that the Judicial Branch’s Office of Victim Services (OVS) or the Department of Correction’s (DOC) Victim Services Unit (VSU) notify them about certain events, such as when (1) an inmate applies for a review of sentence, (2) an inmate is scheduled to be released other than on furlough, and (3) certain felony sex offenders are exempt from sex-offender registration ([PA 21-104](#), § 52, effective upon passage).

Family Violence Victim Compensation

To be eligible for compensation, prior law required that the victims of family violence disclosed their alleged personal injury to a domestic violence or sexual assault counselor. A new law instead allows family violence victims to report to the same list of professionals existing law allows for reporting personal injury from other crimes. The new law also (1) adds child advocacy center employee to the list of professionals to whom a victim may disclose alleged personal injury and (2) generally allows compensation if an eligible victim reports personal injury in a restraining order application ([PA 21-104](#), § 51, effective upon passage).

Family Violence Victim Advocates

A new law expands the number of judicial districts within which the chief court administrator must allow one or more family violence victim advocates to provide services to domestic violence victims. Additionally, under the new law, a family violence victim advocate providing services in the Superior Court’s Family Division or a geographical area court must be given, upon request, a copy of any police report required to perform his or her duties that is in the possession of the state’s attorney, the State Police, a municipal police department, or any other law enforcement agency ([PA 21-78](#), § 12, effective July 1, 2021).

Right to Notice Before Court Vacates Conviction or Dismisses Charge

The legislature enacted a new law that requires a defendant who applies to have their conviction vacated or charges dismissed to notify the victim of the crime by registered or certified mail about the (1) application for vacatur relief and (2) victim's opportunity to be heard by the court on the application. The law also requires the court to give the victim an opportunity to be heard regarding the defendant's application ([PA 21-103](#), § 7, effective October 1, 2021).

Secure Courthouse Room

A new law requires the chief court administrator to provide a separate, secure room for family violence crime victims and advocates in all courthouses constructed after July 1, 2021. For those built before that date, the space must be provided if the room is available and its use is practical. By law, this room must be separate from any public or private court area and the state's attorney's office ([PA 21-78](#), § 11, effective July 1, 2021).

Miscellaneous

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD)

A new law makes various changes and updates to the reporting requirements of CJPPD within OPM. Among other things, it:

1. eliminates the requirement for CJPPD to develop a plan to promote a more effective and cohesive state criminal justice system and biennially update the governor and the Appropriations and Judiciary committees on it;
2. requires CJPPD to annually track, in its trends and outcomes reporting system, the recidivism of offenders who received earned risk reduction credits; and
3. requires CJPPD to conduct a data analysis of state criminal justice system trends and annually report the data and analysis to the governor and the Judiciary Committee ([PA 21-97](#), effective October 1, 2021).

Ice Cream Truck Safety

The legislature passed a law to enhance the safety of children buying from ice cream trucks. Among other things, the new law (1) requires trucks to install, by May 1, 2022, and use certain safety equipment; (2) establishes operating rules for ice cream trucks that generally limit selling locations and conditions; and (3) requires drivers, when approaching an ice cream truck displaying flashing lights and its signal arm, to stop and proceed past the truck at 5 mph or less, yielding to any pedestrians. First violations of the law's requirements are generally infractions, but warnings must be given for violations occurring between July 1 and September 30, 2021. The law also requires

towns that require ice cream trucks to get vendor or peddlers permits to include the link to DMV's site on their permit applications and their website ([PA 21-20](#), most provisions effective July 1, 2021).

Landlord-Tenants and Protection Orders

A new law requires landlords to change a dwelling unit's locks or allow a tenant to do so upon a tenant's request if:

1. when the tenant makes the request, he or she is named as a protected person in a court-issued civil restraining or protection order; family violence protective order; criminal protective order; foreign order of protection registered in Connecticut; or a protective order issued in cases of stalking, harassment, sexual assault, risk of injury to or impairing morals of a child;
2. the order requires the respondent or defendant to stay away from the tenant's home or stay a minimum distance away from the tenant; and
3. the tenant provides a copy of the order to the landlord.

The new law establishes requirements that apply when either the landlord or the tenant changes the locks, including the required timelines ([PA 21-78](#), §§ 20-22, effective October 1, 2021).

Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice

The legislature declared in a new law that racism is a public health crisis in Connecticut and will continue to be a crisis until the state reduces, by at least 70%, racial disparities in four areas, including criminal justice (i.e., rates of involvement with the justice system). The law requires the newly established Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health to determine the percentages of racial disparity in the state in these areas ([PA 21-35](#), §§ 1-4, effective upon passage).

Work Zone Speed Camera Pilot Program

A new law allows the Department of Transportation to establish a two-year pilot program beginning January 1, 2022, to operate speed cameras at up to three highway work zones at any one time. The law establishes conditions and procedures for camera operation, violation enforcement, and data collection and retention, including (1) tasking sworn or authorized members of the State Police with reviewing recordings and issuing violation notices and (2) requiring the Centralized Infractions Bureau to process them ([PA 21-2](#), JSS, §§ 297-305, October 1, 2021).

Youth Camps and Youth Sports Comprehensive Background Checks

Starting October 1, 2022, a new law requires certain municipalities and other operators of youth

athletic activities to require prospective employees or volunteers who are age 18 or older and applying for a position as coach, instructor, or athletic trainer to submit to comprehensive background checks.

The new law establishes criteria for these background checks, including specifying who may conduct them, what databases must be checked, the frequency of the checks, the exemptions from the requirements, the crimes that are generally disqualifying, the required protocols when a criminal record or certain convictions are found, notification requirements and associated penalties for failure to report, and record retention requirements ([PA 21-82](#), effective October 1, 2021).

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