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SpecialReport

2026 Acts Affecting Municipalities

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Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts) significantly affecting municipalities enacted during the 2026 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Education, Acts Affecting Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and Acts Affecting Town Clerks and Elections, are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website.

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) 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.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the General Assembly's website or the Connecticut State Library.

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Elections

This session, the legislature made several changes to laws impacting elections. For example, a new law allows municipalities, starting January 1, 2027, to hold municipal elections every four years instead of every two, if authorized by their charter. That act also requires municipal officials and election workers to notify certain state officials about subpoenas, warrants, or other requests for (or to inspect) election records. Additionally, the General Assembly authorized municipalities to implement pilot programs to promote achieving 100% voter participation in the municipality, subject to certain election-related laws (PA 26-42, §§ 29, 33 & 72, effective dates vary).

For more information on this law, as well as other acts affecting elections, see 2026 Acts Affecting Town Clerks and Elections.

Employees and Employee Benefits

Allowing Municipal Employees to Serve on Boards of Finance

This year, the legislature created an additional exception to a statutory prohibition on municipal employees serving on the board of finance (BOF) in the municipality in which they work and live. The exception allows these employees, if they receive a stipend for their work, to serve on the BOF as long as the stipend they get is less than $10,000 in any rolling 12-month period (PA 26-136, effective October 1, 2026)

Contract Worker Retention

This session, the legislature enacted a law that generally requires entities that take over certain service contracts at covered locations such as schools and municipal facilities, contract out services, or receive property in a sale or transfer to retain the terminated contractor's employees for at least 90 days. Among other things, it requires advance notice to (1) a contractor whose contract will be terminated or not renewed, (2) employees, and (3) the union representing employees (PA 26-12, § 9, and PA 26-68, § 247, effective July 1, 2027).

Municipal Pensions

A new law generally (1) prohibits municipal or special taxing district pension systems from decreasing a retiree's pension rights or benefit because the retiree received permanent partial disability benefits on or after July 1, 2026, and (2) requires them to count an employee's temporary total disability and temporary partial disability benefits as wages when calculating his or her pension benefit (PA 26-1, § 48, effective upon passage).

The new law also requires the comptroller to study how a municipality that does not have a defined benefit pension plan for its police officers and firefighters can successfully transition them into the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) or a comparable plan (PA 26-1, § 49, effective upon passage).

Another new law allows any municipality that does not participate in CMERS to create a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) for its employees, subject to certain conditions. In general, an employee participating in a DROP continues working after they become eligible to retire. But instead of having the continued compensation and additional years of service counted toward their pension benefit, the employer deposits funds into a separate DROP account during each year of the continued employment, which earns interest or investment earnings, and is paid to the employee upon retirement instead of the increased pension amount (PA 26-12, § 15, effective October 1, 2026).

Municipal Youth Camps

A new law specifies that the existing mandated reporter requirement for youth camp staff applies to camps operated by a municipal agency. Prior law designated all paid youth camp staff age 21 or older as mandated reporters but did not specify if this applied to both licensed camps and license-exempt municipal camps. By law, people in many designated occupations or professions who have contact with children are mandated reporters with a legal duty to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

The new law also requires the Office of Early Childhood to report to the legislature, before the next regular session, on each municipal youth camp (including, among other things, information on their facilities, children served, and employee training) (PA 26-25, effective October 1, 2026, except the reporting requirement is effective upon passage).

Paycheck Transparency

A new law requires employers with at least 100 employees (including the state and municipalities) to create a guide for employees on pay codes for overtime and pay differentials, such as: shift differentials, on-call pay, hazard pay, call-back pay, holiday or weekend pay, or geographic pay differentials.

It specifically requires each guide, if applicable, to include at least 10 pay codes and be posted on the employer's website. The guide must also include contact information for the designated office or person who will handle employee disputes about calculations of hours and pay differentials. Employers must (1) update the guide each time a new pay code is added for overtime or a pay

differential; (2) include a link to the guide on each record of hours given to an employee; and (3) give new employees a link to the guide upon hire (PA 26-12, § 38, effective October 1, 2026).

Portal-to-Portal Workers' Compensation for Public Works Department Employees

This session, the legislature extended "portal-to-portal" workers' compensation coverage to public works department employees in three situations: (1) when they are subject to emergency calls while off duty, (2) when they are responding to a direct order to appear at work when nonessential employees are excused from working, or (3) after working two or more mandatory overtime shifts on consecutive days. With "portal-to-portal" coverage, an injury that occurs while the employee is traveling directly between his or her home and workplace is deemed to have occurred in the course of the employee's employment, making him or her eligible to receive workers' compensation benefits for the injury (PA 26-12, § 7, effective October 1, 2026).

Prevailing Wage Law Changes

This session, the legislature made changes to the record keeping requirements for employers covered by state prevailing wage laws (including similar laws that apply to certain projects funded by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), renewable energy projects, and work on state highways). It passed a law that generally requires these employers to keep daily attendance records of the workers on a covered project and submit them weekly to the agency overseeing the project (PA 26-68, §§ 371 & 373, effective October 1, 2026).

The new law also specifies that when the labor commissioner determines the prevailing wages required on a public works project, the portion that covers payments, contributions, and member benefits (such as health insurance and retirement benefits) must be determined at the journeyman rate. Prior law did not specify a particular rate to be used in this determination (PA 26-68, §§ 371 & 372, effective January 1, 2027).

Unemployment Negotiations With Reimbursing Employers

A new law allows the labor commissioner to negotiate and compromise with reimbursing employers who owe payments to the unemployment system if there is doubt about their liability for, or the collectability of, the amount in question. (Existing law already allows this for employers who contribute to the state unemployment fund through unemployment taxes.) Generally, reimbursing employers are those, like the state and municipalities, who directly reimburse the unemployment fund for benefits paid to former employees, rather than paying unemployment taxes (PA 26-68, § 196, effective October 1, 2026).

Grants, Aid, and Municipal Finance

Board of Education Fiscal Intervention

A new law creates a process by which a local or regional board of education may ask the State Department of Education (SDE) commissioner for a fiscal intervention and oversight plan. The SDE-created plan is reviewed by the Municipal Accountability Review Board and then needs to be approved by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary and the State Board of Education before the school board implements it (PA 26-68, § 388, effective July 1, 2026).

Classification of State Property as PA 490 Land

A new law requires OPM to collaborate with state agencies to identify state property that qualifies as PA 490 land and have local assessors classify and value it that way for purposes of making the grand list. (The PA 490 law allows farm, forest, open space, and maritime heritage land to be assessed at their current use value, rather than their fair market value.) Because the state does not pay property taxes, it makes annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) grants to municipalities for state-owned property, based in part on its assessed value (PA 26-137, § 2, effective upon passage and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2026).

Community Investment Fund 2030

The Community Investment Fund 2030 program generally supports projects proposed by an eligible municipality, community development corporation, or nonprofit organization to (1) promote economic or community development in the municipality (such as brownfield remediation, affordable housing, and water and sewer infrastructure improvements) and (2) further consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals. The board that oversees the fund recommends eligible projects to the governor for state funding. Prior law limited the total cost of these recommendations to $175 million per fiscal year. A new law instead limits their total cost to the funds available in any fiscal year (PA 26-68, § 349, effective upon passage).

Farmland Preservation Program

Existing law requires the Department of Agriculture commissioner to adopt regulations implementing a program to preserve agricultural land by acquiring development rights to these properties. A law passed this session removes requirements that these regulations (1) place a $20,000 per acre cap on the state's contribution to individual landowner applicants and (2) accordingly increase the state's contribution schedule for the joint purchase of development rights with municipalities (PA 26-75, § 6, effective July 1, 2026).

FY 27 Budget and Mill Rate Adjustments Due to Increased State Aid

This session, the legislature provided one-time supplemental aid grants to each municipality, totaling approximately $100 million (PA 26-76, § 54, effective upon passage). It also provided $172.9 million in supplemental education grants to municipalities for FY 27 (see "Public Schools" below). Relatedly, a new law generally allows municipalities and regional boards of education that adopted a budget or levied taxes for FY 27 before the state adopted its FY 27 budget adjustments to change their budgets and levies if the state's budget provides more state aid than the board or municipality projected (PA 26-130, § 15, effective upon passage).

Grant Program for Concentrated Poverty Census Tracts

A new law expands a grant program under which the DECD commissioner is required to fund eligible projects in qualifying concentrated poverty census tracts, including projects to (1) build or renovate mixed-income housing, (2) create or improve workforce development programs, and (3) build or renovate public infrastructure. The act allows the program to also fund eligible projects undertaken by a certified community development corporation. It also sets a 90-day deadline for DECD to review and evaluate program applications (PA 26-68, § 350, effective July 1, 2026).

Information Included in Itemized Estimates of School Expenses

A new law requires certain information on prior and current fiscal year line item appropriations and actual spending to be included in the itemized estimate of school expenses that local school boards must prepare during the local budget process. Under the new law, the superintendent must annually give the information to the board, and the board must include the information in the itemized estimate. By law, school boards must submit these estimates to the board of finance or other authority making appropriations to the school district at least two months before the meeting at which appropriations will be made (PA 26-1, §§ 31 & 32, effective July 1, 2026, except that the provision on information superintendents must give the board is effective January 1, 2027).

Maintaining Wartime Veterans' Graves

Under existing law, municipalities are responsible for the cost of caring for and maintaining the graves of anyone who served in a time of war (if this is not paid for by private individuals or cemetery trustees). A new law transfers $100,000 for FY 27 from the General Fund to the existing neglected cemetery account and allows account funds to additionally be used for grants to municipalities to care for and maintain these graves.

The new law also requires the veterans affairs commissioner to make a form available on the department's website, which people may use to submit information about these unmaintained

graves. The commissioner must notify a municipality's chief executive authority within seven days after receiving any submission for a burial ground or cemetery in the municipality (PA 26-111, effective July 1, 2026).

Municipal Spending Cap Hold Harmless

Existing law generally requires OPM to reduce a municipality's municipal revenue sharing grant if the municipality's budget expenditures exceed the statutory spending cap. But the law provides an exception for FY 26, allowing municipalities to exceed the cap without their grant amounts being reduced. A provision in a new law extends this exception to cover FY 27 as well.

By law, the spending cap is the greater of the inflation rate or 2.5% of the prior fiscal year's "adopted budget expenditures" (spending from a municipality's general fund and any nonbudgeted funds). The reduction is equal to 50 cents for every dollar the municipality spends over the cap (PA 26-68, § 175, effective October 1, 2026).

Open Space Acquisition Grants

This session, the legislature passed a law that expands eligibility for grants under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA). These are grants to municipalities, land trusts, and water companies to buy land to be preserved as open space or water supplies in perpetuity, as applicable. Among other things, the changes (1) expand the situations in which grants can be given to acquire land that is considered to be already committed for public use and (2) permit municipalities and nonprofits to target open spaces that are immediately adjacent to environmental justice communities for OSWA grant use (PA 26-124, §§ 1 & 2, effective upon passage).

PILOT Payments for Mashantucket Land

The PILOT program provides annual grants to municipalities and fire districts to compensate them for forgone property tax revenue for (1) state-owned property, municipally owned airports, and tribal reservation land and (2) private nonprofit college and hospital property. PILOT grant amounts are generally determined by multiplying the assessed value of the PILOT-eligible property by the statutory reimbursement rate for the given property type.

A new law makes additional Mashantucket Pequot reservation lands eligible for the 100% reimbursement rate under the PILOT program. Under prior law, this rate would have been paid on any land (1) designated within the 1983 settlement boundary and (2) taken into trust by the federal government for the Mashantucket Pequots. The new law removes the settlement boundary criteria, thus covering all land taken into trust for this tribe, regardless of whether it is within the 1983 settlement boundary area (PA 26-68, § 488, effective July 1, 2026).

Town Aid Road Grants

A new law expands the purposes for which municipalities may use Town Aid Road (TAR) grants, allowing them to buy certain equipment. Existing law allows municipalities to use these grants to do specified work, which includes building and maintaining highways and bridges. Under the new law, municipalities may also use TAR grant funds to buy and maintain equipment to do that work, such as equipment for street sweeping, roadside mowing, vegetation management, snow and ice removal, and cleaning catch basins. Unchanged by the new law, the OPM secretary may also approve a municipality's request to use grant funds for other purposes (PA 26-68, § 347, effective July 1, 2026).

Traffic Signal Grant Program

Existing law (1) requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner to establish a matching grant program to help municipalities modernize their traffic signal equipment and operations to make them responsive to congestion and to reduce idling and (2) earmarks $75 million from a DOT bond authorization for this purpose.

New legislation requires DOT to give priority under the grant program to projects located in heavily congested areas, rather than prioritizing applications submitted by two or more municipalities (and offering incentives for these projects) (PA 26-63, §§ 22 & 23, effective October 1, 2026, except a minor change to the earmark provision is effective July 1, 2026).

War Memorial Grant Program

A new law requires DECD to administer a grant program for municipalities and nonprofits providing human or social services for capital expenditure projects to place or maintain war or veterans' memorials or monuments. It also authorizes $2 million in general obligation bonds for the program (PA 26-68, §§ 297 & 342, effective July 1, 2026).

Zero-Emission School Bus and Infrastructure Grants

New legislation modifies the requirements for a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)-administered grant program for municipalities, school districts, and bus operators seeking to purchase or lease zero-emission school buses and electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure. Specifically, it broadens the purposes for which grants can be awarded by eliminating the requirement that the program provide matching funds for federal grants and instead requiring that it provide a portion of the funds needed to maximize federal or other sources of funding or financing (PA 26-124, § 4, effective upon passage, and PA 26-63, § 24, effective July 1, 2026).

One of these new laws relatedly requires DEEP to (1) administer the program in consultation with the Connecticut Green Bank and (2) give preference to grant applications for school buses that will operate in a distressed municipality, rather than an environmental justice community (PA 26-63, § 24, effective July 1, 2026).

Land Use and Planning

Alignment of Provisions in Off-Street Parking Law

The legislature made a minor change to the housing legislation passed as part of the 2025 November Special Session. The change aligns the provision on setting off-street parking minimums in conservation and traffic mitigation districts with the provision broadly limiting parking minimums for developments with fewer than 17 dwellings (PA 26-129, § 3, effective October 1, 2026).

Consideration of State Plan of Conservation and Development

This year, the legislature made several changes in laws related to the state plan of conservation and development (POCD). Among other things, the legislation generally raises, from $200,000 to $1 million (adjusted for inflation regularly), the threshold at which certain state agency capital projects and grant authorizations must be consistent with the state POCD. It also eliminates requirements in law related to priority funding areas (areas in which state agencies generally prioritize projects) (PA 26-126, effective July 1, 2026).

Deadline for Submitting Digital Parcel Filings

New legislation delays, from May 1 to September 1, the date by which each municipality must annually give its digital parcel files (data about plots of land) to its council of governments (COG) or, if it is not a member of one, to OPM. It correspondingly delays, from July 1 to October 1, the annual deadline for COGs to report to OPM and the Planning and Development Committee on municipalities that did not submit or do not have digital parcel files (PA 26-114, § 1, effective October 1, 2026).

Elimination of the Child Care Home Zoning Compliance Certification

A new law ends the requirement that municipalities annually certify to OPM (1) that their zoning regulations do not restrict family and group child care homes in a way the law prohibits or (2) the timeframe within which they will bring their zoning ordinances into compliance (PA 26-137, § 3, effective October 1, 2026).

Enforcing Special Act Zoning Regulations

This session, the legislature authorized municipalities that exercise zoning authority under a special act to enforce their regulations in the same way as municipalities that exercise zoning authority under the statutes can. These means of enforcement include, among others, asking the court (1) for an injunction; (2) to impose criminal penalties, including imprisonment; or (3) to impose a civil penalty of up to $2,500 (PA 26-9, effective October 1, 2026).

Moratorium on Approving Solar Facilities in Certain Municipalities

This year the legislature enacted a one-year moratorium (until July 1, 2027) on the Siting Council approving any solar facility in a municipality (1) where more than 5.5% of the total land area has solar installations and related solar infrastructure (East Windsor) or (2) that is contiguous with and to the north of the municipality described above and has solar installations and solar related infrastructure on more than 2% of its total land area (Enfield). The new law also requires the DEEP commissioner to recommend specific criteria for equitably distributing solar facility sites in the state (PA 26-127, § 16, effective upon passage).

Smart Solar Permitting Platform

A new law requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner to implement a smart solar permitting platform (such as the web-based SolarAPP+ platform) by July 1, 2028, to automatically review applications to build residential solar projects, alone or in combination with energy storage systems, and instantly release a building permit if the project complies with the state building code.

Municipalities must allow applications to be submitted through the DAS platform or through an alternative automated solar permitting platform that equally satisfies the act's requirements. The act allows municipalities to coordinate with their COG to select and implement an alternative automated solar permitting platform and sets various related requirements. Municipalities that allow permits through the DAS platform must revise their permitting fees by January 1, 2029, to reflect any reduction in cost or resources to permit residential solar energy systems (PA 26-127, § 15, effective July 1, 2026).

Training Local Inland Wetland Commissions

This year, the legislature passed a law requiring the DEEP commissioner to hire an employee to train inland wetland commissions. The training must be on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, including preserving riparian areas (PA 26-61, effective July 1, 2026).

Zoning for Accessory Dwelling Units

This year, the legislature made two changes to the law on zoning regulations' treatment of as-of-right accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The changes extend requirements related to zoning for as-of-right ADUs to municipalities that exercise zoning authority under a special act, making the law apply statewide. The changes also extend the law on utility providers' treatment of ADU utility connections, such as water and sewer connections, to cover investor-owned water companies (PA 26-7, effective October 1, 2026).

Property Taxes and Assessments

This session, the legislature enacted several property tax and assessment-related laws. For example, the legislature established a new $50,000 homestead property tax exemption that municipalities may give for certain primary residences (PA 26-68, §§ 224 & 225, effective upon passage and applicable to assessment years starting on or after October 1, 2027). It also made several changes to existing exemptions, such as those for veterans and first responders who are killed in action.

Related to the motor vehicle property tax, a new law modifies how older vehicles and commercial vehicles are valued and when late payment interest must be added to supplemental motor vehicle bills. This law also requires all municipalities to use a uniform, statewide method for valuing other types of personal property (under prior law, this method was optional and, in practice, most municipalities have already opted to use it) (PA 26-114, §§ 10-14, effective October 1, 2026, and applicable to assessment years starting on and after that date).

Other notable changes include (1) expanding the scope of solar photovoltaic systems subject to the municipal uniform solar capacity tax created under a 2025 law and (2) reinstating the 2025 PA 490 program land use value for forest land ($200 per acre) until the next valuation date of October 1, 2030 (PA 26-134, § 3, effective July 1, 2026, and PA 26-75, § 4, effective July 1, 2026).

For more information on these laws, as well as other acts affecting property taxes and local assessments, see 2026 Acts Affecting Taxes.

Public Health

Businesses That Pose an Immediate Threat

Existing law allows municipalities to take certain actions if a business poses an immediate threat to public health and safety. They may prohibit these businesses from operating in the municipality and apply to the Superior Court for an order directing the municipality's chief law enforcement officer to

take possession and control of any related merchandise from the business, including, among other things, any cannabis or tobacco product or related merchandise, and any proceeds from them. In addition to these actions, a new law allows the court to direct the officer to summarily close the business and seal the premises. It also broadens the circumstances under which a municipality may prohibit a business from operating by adding additional violations (PA 26-8, § 53, effective October 1, 2026).

Electronic Nicotine Delivery System Dealers

This session, the legislature expanded the requirements for e-cigarette dealer registrations and the circumstances under which the Department of Consumer Protection may deny a registration, including, for new registrations submitted on or after January 1, 2027, when the proposed business is located in a municipality that already has one dealer for every 2,500 residents (PA 26-100, § 33, effective January 1, 2027).

Food Code

This session, the legislature made minor and clarifying changes to laws related to the food code, such as updating terminology and specifying that the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner's authority to adopt regulations to implement food code-related laws includes a law on audits of local health department food protection programs (PA 26-68, §§ 189-191, effective upon passage).

Subsurface Sewage Enforcement Officer Certification

A new law creates a three-phase certification program for subsurface sewage enforcement officers who perform inspections and similar work related to subsurface sewage disposal systems (septic systems). Starting on October 1, 2026, it generally requires anyone performing the duties of these officers to (1) become certified by DPH and (2) be appointed by a local health director as the local department's or district's employee or contractor. It provides a grace period for people approved before October 1, 2026, under existing regulations to serve in a similar role (PA 26-142, §§ 21-25, effective upon passage, except certain conforming changes are effective July 1, 2026).

Public Safety and Criminal Justice

This session, the legislature enacted various public safety and criminal justice-related laws, including some directly impacting municipal authority and facilities. For example, a new law restricts detaining, arresting, or taking someone into custody based on a civil offense in certain locations, including at "municipal facilities" (buildings a municipal government owns, leases, occupies, controls, or uses for business), schools, playgrounds, recreation centers, social services

establishments, cemeteries, and places where disaster or emergency response is provided (PA 26-14, § 7, effective October 1, 2026). This same law sets conditions and restrictions on how law enforcement and public agencies may use automated license plate reader systems or associated data, including limits on (1) when they can use these systems or data or share the data and (2) how long they can keep the data (PA 26-14, §§ 13-15, as amended by PA 26-76, § 46, effective upon passage). And another new law requires municipalities to (1) establish local fire protection plans and review them every five years and (2) exercise their authority to provide fire protection services if the services in that municipality are discontinued or disrupted (PA 26-144, §§ 1 & 3, effective October 1, 2026).

For more information on these laws, as well as other acts affecting the police, public safety, and related topics, see 2026 Acts Affecting Criminal Justice and Public Safety and 2026 Acts Affecting First Responders.

Public Schools

Each session, the legislature passes numerous laws impacting school districts. As part of this year's budget adjustments, the legislature provided $172.9 million in supplemental education funding to municipalities for FY 27. The funds must be used for education, but the law addresses how municipalities that have already adopted their FY 27 budgets can amend their budgets or tax levies considering the new state aid (PA 26-68, §§ 178 & 390-395, various effective dates, and PA 26-130, §§ 12-16, effective upon passage). The legislature also passed new laws related to (1) homeschooling children, (2) background disclosures during the hiring process for school employees, (3) the teacher termination process, and (4) the timeline for transitioning to zero-emission school buses.

For more information on these laws, as well as other acts affecting public schools and education-related topics, see 2026 Acts Affecting Education.

Miscellaneous

Abandoned Boats

This session, the legislature passed a new law that makes several changes to Connecticut's boating regulations, including: (1) requiring owners of unregistered boats (generally smaller boats, such as kayaks) to attach their contact information to the boat before entering Connecticut waters; (2) increasing the minimum and maximum fines that generally may be imposed for abandoning a boat; and (3) allowing state and municipal law enforcement agencies to recover a broader range of costs related to removing abandoned boats (PA 26-60, effective upon passage).

Earmarks for COG Projects

New legislation creates FY 27 grants from OPM to COGs for two specific projects. One act gives the South Central Regional COG $250,000 to study public safety answering point consolidation and the other gives the Capitol Region COG $800,000 for CTFastrak east expansion (PA 26-76, § 47, effective upon passage, and PA 26-68, § 53, effective July 1, 2026).

Initiating Local Legislation in the General Assembly

This year, the legislature eliminated a statutory requirement that a unit of local government (such as a town or special taxing district) seeking a change to its special act powers (generally its charter) file a copy of the request with the secretary of the state at least 10 days before the start of the legislative session in which it will be considered (PA 26-132, effective October 1, 2026).

Juice Bar Restrictions

New legislation makes several changes related to "juice bars," which are generally areas within an alcohol-serving business in which nonalcoholic beverages are served to minors. Among other things, the act allows municipalities, by ordinance, to (1) prohibit their operation or set the hours when they may operate and (2) prohibit the sale of alcohol by a business whenever it is operating a juice bar (PA 26-100, § 62, effective October 1, 2026).

Marriage License Waiting Period

A new law requires vital statistics registrars (often town clerks) to wait at least 48 hours after receiving an application for a marriage license before issuing the license. It correspondingly delays the period during which the wedding can be held (no sooner than 48 hours after applying for the license and no later than 65 days after the license's issuing date, rather than the application date) (PA 26-141, §§ 6 & 7, effective October 1, 2026).

Municipal Agents for Aging

By law, each municipality must appoint a municipal agent to help seniors learn about community resources and file for benefits, among other things. A new law (1) allows municipalities to jointly appoint agents and (2) prohibits appointees from having existing or potential conflicts of interest. Beginning July 1, 2026, each agent who is being appointed or reappointed must certify, to the Department of Aging and Disability Services, that he or she is unaware of any conflict of interest that could interfere with his or her ability to serve in this role (PA 26-74, § 2, effective upon passage).

Projects in CMDA Development Districts

The legislature changed the process for the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA) to enter into an agreement with a private developer, owner, or lessee of a building or improvement in a development district providing for a payment to CMDA in lieu of real property taxes. Under the act, these agreements (1) are no longer a required condition of a private right of development within these districts and (2) may only be arranged with the host municipality's consent. As under existing law, the OPM secretary must also give his approval (PA 26-68, §§ 56 & 57, effective upon passage).

Sourcing Tax Revenue to Municipalities

Starting with FY 26, the law requires the Department of Revenue Services commissioner to track and record the source of state sales and use, personal income, and corporation business tax to accurately and fairly attribute the revenue from each of these taxes to municipalities. This session, the legislature additionally required the commissioner to track and record the source of insurance premiums taxes for this same purpose. As under existing law, the commissioner must determine the method for attributing this revenue to each municipality (PA 26-68, § 273, effective July 1, 2026).

Time Restrictions on Residential Solar and Energy Storage System Sales Solicitations

A new law places a number of restrictions on sellers of residential solar photovoltaic or energy storage systems and their sales representatives. Among other things, the new law limits in-person residential solicitations by these sellers to between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., unless the customer agrees to another time. The new law also allows a municipality to adopt an ordinance to set a shorter time period for these solicitations (PA 26-16, effective October 1, 2026).

Workforce Housing Options

A new law requires the housing commissioner and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority executive director to seek a partnership with one or more municipalities or hospitals in the state to increase workforce housing options. By January 1, 2028, they must give the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee a report detailing the status of the partnership and any recommendations on other ways to increase these housing options (PA 26-68, § 351, effective July 1, 2026).

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