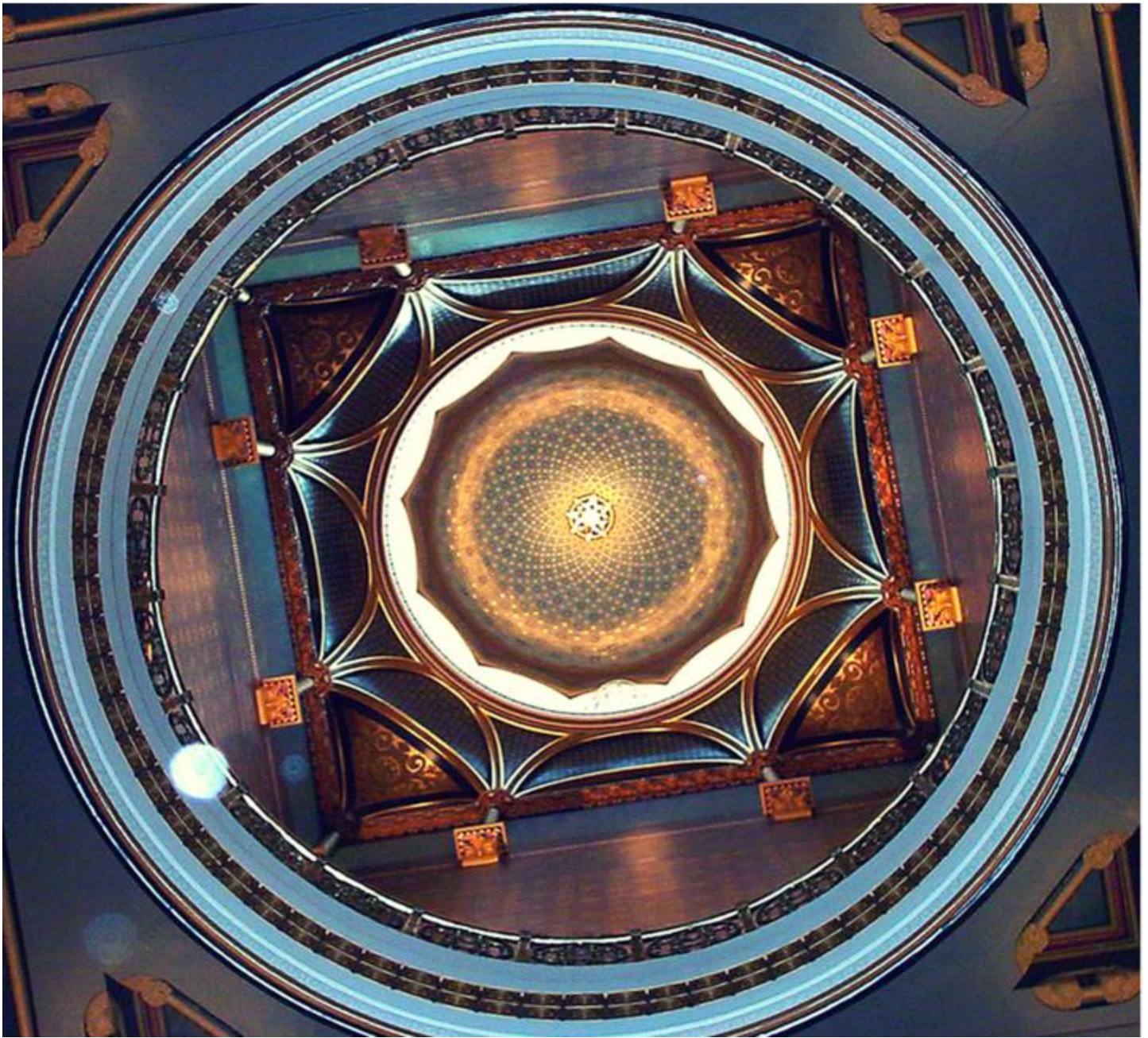


MAJOR PUBLIC ACTS

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

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Connecticut General Assembly

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Notice to Readers

These summaries, composed by the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) with the assistance of the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA), briefly describe the most significant, far-reaching, and publicly debated acts adopted by the General Assembly in its 2022 regular session. Acts that the secretary of the state has assigned a public act (PA), special act (SA), or resolution act (RA) number are identified by that number; otherwise, we refer to the bill or resolution number.

Not all provisions of the acts are included. More detailed summaries can be found at <https://cga.ct.gov/olr/>. Summaries of the major acts and all other public acts will be provided in our 2022 Public Act Summary Book, which will be available later this year.

OLR also produces a number of “Acts Affecting” reports highlighting legislation in the following policy areas: agriculture, banks, business and jobs, children, criminal justice and public safety, education, energy, environment, first responders, health professionals, housing and real estate, insurance, municipalities, people with disabilities, seniors, taxes, town clerks and elections, transportation, and veterans and military. These reports will be available online in July.

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Aging

Temporary Nursing Services Agencies

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state’s hospitals, residential care homes, and nursing homes have increasingly used “temporary nursing services agencies” to help address staffing shortages. Amidst growing public concerns about possible price gouging practices used by some agencies, the legislature enacted a law that requires state oversight.

Specifically, the new law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), by October 1, 2022, to establish an annual registration system for these agencies and allows DPH to charge an annual registration fee of up to \$750. Among other things, the act also requires agencies to (1) enter into a written agreement with a health care facility that ensures the assigned nursing personnel have appropriate credentials and (2) submit annual cost reports to DPH that include such things as the average fees agencies charge by type of nursing personnel and health care facility. It also requires the social services commissioner to evaluate the rates these agencies charge nursing homes and report her recommendations to the Aging, Human Services, and Public Health committees by October 1, 2023 ([PA 22-57](#) (§§ 1-8), effective July 1, 2022).

Banking

Access to Low-Cost Financial Accounts

A new law requires certain state chartered financial institutions to offer Connecticut residents a basic banking account with few-to-no fees beginning July 1, 2023. Among other features, the accounts must include a free debit card and cannot impose low balance fees or charge for in-network ATM access, over drafting the account, or having insufficient funds ([sHB 5216](#), as amended, effective January 1, 2023).

Account Closure Notices

A new law requires Connecticut-chartered banks and credit unions to tell account holders why their deposit accounts (e.g., personal checking or savings accounts) are being closed. Among several exemptions, this requirement does not apply if the account closure is a result of a law enforcement investigation ([sHB 5214](#), as amended, effective October 1, 2022).

Biennial Budget

This session's budget act includes: (1) General Fund appropriations of \$22.1 billion in FY 23, (2) Special Transportation Fund (STF) appropriations of \$1.8 billion in FY 23, (3) other appropriated funds (seven funds) of \$280.7 million in FY 23, and (4) revenue estimates adopted by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on May 2, 2021.

Appropriations

Spending Cap. The act is under the spending cap by \$8.6 million in FY 23.

Growth Rate. The FY 23 growth rate for all appropriated funds is 6.4% over the FY 22 appropriation.

Deficiency Appropriations. The act eliminates FY 22 deficiencies in nine agencies totaling \$313.5 million by transferring funds from various agencies that otherwise would have lapsed.

Carryforwards. The act carries forward a total of \$368.9 million in funding for initiatives from numerous accounts that otherwise would have lapsed.

Revenue

General Fund revenue adjustments over the April Consensus Revenue estimates total approximately \$1.16 billion in FY 23 ([HB 5506](#), as amended, various sections and effective dates).

Children and Families

Adult Sexual Misconduct Against Children

This session, the legislature enacted a law that creates a mechanism for identifying adult sexual misconduct. It does so by requiring DPH, starting with the 2022-23 school year, to biennially administer the Connecticut School Health Survey to randomly selected high schools.

The new law also allows the Department of Children and Families (DCF), starting July 1, 2023, to include bystander and appropriate interaction with children training programs in its state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program's instructional modules. And it extends these instructional modules to all school employees, starting in the 2023-24 school year. Among other things, the act also (1) expands the list of mandated reporters to include paid youth camp staff ages 21 or older and (2) requires local and regional boards of education to annually distribute the board's mandated reporter policy electronically to all school employees ([sHB 5243](#), as amended, most provisions effective July 1, 2022).

Criminal Justice

Isolated Confinement

This session, the legislature passed a law that limits the amount of time and circumstances under which an incarcerated person may be held in isolated confinement. It also places new limits on its use (e.g., ensuring physical and mental health evaluations). Under the law, isolated confinement means any form of confinement that places an incarcerated person in a cell with less than the following time out of a cell: (1) four hours per day, beginning July 1, 2022; (2) in the general population, four-and-a half-hours per day, beginning October 1, 2022; and (3) in the general population, five hours per day, beginning on and after April 1, 2023.

Among other things, the act also (1) requires that any use of isolated confinement maintain the least restrictive environment needed for the safety of incarcerated individuals, staff, and facility security and (2) prohibits the Department of Correction from holding minors in isolated confinement ([PA 22-18](#) (§ 3), effective July 1, 2022).

Juvenile Justice

A new law makes various changes to procedures when a juvenile is arrested after an alleged delinquent act, such as (1) generally requiring an arrested child to be brought before a judge within five business days after the arrest; (2) allowing the court to order electronic monitoring if a child was charged with a second or subsequent motor vehicle or property theft offense; and (3) in certain circumstances, increasing the maximum period, from six to eight hours, that a child may be held in a community correctional center or lockup without a judge's detention order.

Among other things, the act also (1) expands existing law on juvenile serious sexual offender prosecutions to also cover certain homicide and firearm crimes, and allows the juvenile portion of the sentence to be extended for up to 60 months, and (2) establishes a new penalty structure for larceny of a motor vehicle, with graduated penalties based on whether it is a first or subsequent

offense, rather than based on the vehicle's value ([sHB 5417](#) as amended, most provisions effective October 1, 2022).

Protections for Users of Online Dating Services and Domestic Violence Victims

This session, the legislature passed a law that addresses online dating, domestic violence protections, and employment discrimination. Among other things, the act requires operators of online dating services in the state to provide Connecticut users safety awareness notifications (e.g., whether the operator conducts criminal background screenings) before allowing them to use their online dating platforms. And it authorizes the consumer protection commissioner to penalize violators up to \$25,000 per violation.

The act also prohibits discrimination based on someone's status as a domestic violence victim in employment, public accommodations, housing, the granting of credit, and other laws over which the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities has jurisdiction ([sSB 5](#), as amended, most provisions effective October 1, 2022).

Economic and Community Development

JobsCT

This session's budget implementer established the JobsCT tax rebate program under which companies in specified industries may earn rebates against the insurance premiums, corporation business, and pass-through entity (PE) taxes for reaching certain job creation targets. The rebate is based on (1) the number of new full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) the business creates and maintains, (2) these FTEs' average wage, and (3) the state income tax that would be paid on this average wage for a single filer.

A business is eligible for the program if it is subject to at least one of the above taxes and in an industry related to finance, insurance, manufacturing, clean energy, bioscience, technology, digital media, or any similar industry, as determined by the economic and community development commissioner. Generally, the (1) business must create and maintain at least 25 new FTEs to claim a rebate, and (2) rebate equals 25% of the state income tax paid by the new FTEs (50% for FTEs in an opportunity zone or distressed municipality). The act caps the aggregate rebate amount awarded at \$40 million per fiscal year ([HB 5506](#), as amended, effective July 1, 2022, and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2023).

Education and Higher Education

Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Requirement

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, a new law (1) requires local and regional school boards to include Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) studies in their social studies curriculum and (2) adds AAPI studies to the state's existing required program of instruction for public schools as part of the social studies curriculum. As with other required subject matter areas under existing law, the State Board of Education must make AAPI curriculum materials available to help boards develop their instructional programs ([sSB 1](#), as amended (§§ 32 & 33), various effective dates).

CHESLA Financial Assistance for Postsecondary Education Programs

A new law authorizes the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) to provide financial assistance to students enrolled in postsecondary education programs and their parents (i.e., parents, legal guardians, or sponsors). In doing so, it allows these students and parents to take out CHESLA loans and students to receive grants, scholarships, fellowships, or other non-repayable assistance from CHESLA. Prior law only allowed CHESLA to provide financial assistance to students attending in-state nonprofit higher education institutions, or Connecticut residents attending a U.S. nonprofit higher education institution, and their parents ([PA 22-41](#), effective October 1, 2022).

Child Care and Early Childhood Grants

A new law expands existing, and creates new, grants for various child care and early childhood programs and services. Among other things, it (1) creates a grant program in FY 23 for early childhood program operators and child care services providers to supplement employee salaries or address program or administrative needs and (2) creates a \$13,500 per-child grant for children ages 3 and younger enrolled in Office of Early Childhood (OEC)-contracted child care centers for disadvantaged children and requires that excess grant funding be used for educators' salary increases ([sSB 1](#), as amended, various effective dates).

College Athletes' Use of Institutional Marks

This session, the legislature passed a new law that eliminates the ban on student athletes using a higher education institution's institutional marks (e.g., names, logos, trademarks, mascots, or unique colors) when performing an endorsement contract or employment activity. The act does not require higher education institutions to allow student athletes to use these marks; but it does require them to adopt at least one policy on their use, as they must already do for endorsement contracts and employment activities. It also requires that the UConn Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents for Higher Education each prepare a report on the fiscal impact to their respective

higher education institutions caused by the student athlete policies on endorsement contracts, employment activities, and using institutional marks. The boards must submit the reports to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2023 ([PA 22-11](#), effective July 1, 2022).

Indoor Air Quality in Public Schools

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislature passed several initiatives to improve schools' indoor air quality. The budget implementer act requires the Department of Administrative Services to administer a grant program beginning in FY 23 to reimburse boards of education or regional education service centers for costs associated with installing, replacing, or upgrading heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems or other air quality improvements. The budget makes \$150 million available for the program (\$75 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds and \$75 million in general obligation bonds) ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§ 371), effective July 1, 2022).

Additionally, the act requires boards of education to conduct a uniform inspection and evaluation of the HVAC system in each school building under its jurisdiction every five years and take any necessary corrective actions. It also establishes a working group to study and make recommendations related to indoor air quality within schools ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 373 & 374), effective July 1, 2022).

OEC Emergency Stabilization Grant Program

This session's budget implementer act requires OEC to administer an emergency stabilization grant program in FYs 23 and 24. Grants aim to help applicant school readiness programs and child care centers meet programmatic or administrative needs. OEC must develop grant specific eligibility criteria and spending guidelines ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§ 261), effective July 1, 2022).

Penalty for School Construction Projects Failing to Meet Minority Business Enterprise Set-Aside Goals

Under the state set-aside program, municipal project contractors, including those for school construction projects, must set-aside 6.25% of the value of all construction contracts for minority business enterprises (MBEs). This session's budget act adds a mechanism to enforce MBE set-aside requirements for school construction projects. It does so by withholding 5% of a school construction project's reimbursement grant if the town does not meet MBE set-aside goals ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§ 370), effective upon passage).

Energy and Environment

Clean Energy Program Expansion

This session, the legislature expanded two state clean energy programs: the Non-Residential Energy Solutions program (NRES) and the Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF) program. Under these programs, Eversource and United Illuminating enter long term contracts with selected renewable energy projects (e.g., solar projects) and participating customers may benefit by offsetting their energy use. The new law generally doubles the size of these programs by lifting the caps on the amount of energy available under them. The new law also (1) increases the maximum size of individual projects under the programs, (2) allows commercial and industrial customers in the NRES program to use their entire rooftops to site projects, and (3) increases the proportion of SCEF projects that must benefit low-income customers ([PA 22-14](#), most provisions effective October 1, 2022).

Eliminating Electric Sector Emissions

The state's Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state to various levels in 2020, 2030, and 2050. In practice, these targets apply economy-wide to various sectors including transportation, agriculture, and electricity consumption. A new law sets a requirement within the GWSA that the state eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from electricity supplied to electric customers in the state by January 1, 2040 ([PA 22-5](#), effective July 1, 2022).

Pesticide Application

This session, the legislature enacted several laws concerning the application of pesticides. For example, a new law generally requires direct notice to shoreline property owners and tenants of pesticide applications to private lakes and ponds, rather than newspaper notice ([sSB 116](#), as amended, effective October 1, 2022). Pesticide application to these waters often occurs to control aquatic invasive plants (see *The Office of Aquatic Invasive Species*, below). The legislature also passed a law banning chlorpyrifos use on golf courses or for cosmetic or nonagricultural use ([sSB 120](#), as amended, effective January 1, 2023).

The Office of Aquatic Invasive Species

A new law creates the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species within the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Among other things, the office is responsible for coordinating research efforts for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control and eradication in the state and advising municipalities on AIS management. The adopted budget includes \$300,000 for three positions to support this new office ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§ 68), effective July 1, 2022).

General Law

Consumer Data Privacy

This session, the legislature passed a law that establishes a framework for controlling and processing personal data. Among other things, it (1) sets responsibilities and privacy protection standards for data controllers (those that determine the purpose and means of processing personal data) and processors (those that process data for a controller) and (2) gives consumers the right to access, correct, delete, and obtain a copy of personal data and to opt out of the processing of personal data for certain purposes (e.g., targeted advertising).

The law's requirements generally apply to individuals and entities that do business in Connecticut or produce products or services targeting Connecticut residents. More specifically, it applies to those that, during the preceding year, controlled or processed personal data of at least (1) 100,000 consumers, excluding personal data controlled or processed solely for completing a payment transaction, or (2) 25,000 consumers and derived more than 25% of their gross revenue from selling personal data. It exempts various entities (e.g., state and local governments) and specified information and data (e.g., certain health records) ([PA 22-15](#), effective July 1, 2023).

Recreational Cannabis

A new law makes several changes to the regulation and licensing of adult use (recreational) cannabis. Among other things, the act contains provisions on recreational cannabis advertising that (1) prohibit out-of-state entities and individuals from advertising any cannabis or related services and (2) limit cannabis billboard advertisements to between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and prohibit them within 1,500 feet of specified buildings (e.g., certain schools).

It also addresses recreational cannabis sales and business operations by (1) imposing additional limits on when cannabis may be gifted, sold, or transferred, and establishing penalties for violating these restrictions; (2) allowing a cultivator to create up to two equity joint ventures (i.e., a business that is at least 50% owned and controlled by someone who meets the criteria of a social equity applicant); and (3) eliminating the density cap that limits municipalities from granting zoning approval for retailers or micro-cultivators based on the number of municipal residents ([sHB 5329](#), as amended, and [sHB 5330](#) (§ 55), various effective dates).

Government Administration and Elections

Absentee Voting

This year, the legislature expanded two of the six statutory reasons for which qualified voters (i.e., electors and people eligible to vote in a referendum) may vote by absentee ballot in an election, primary, or referendum. Under newly enacted legislation, qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place because of (1) sickness, rather than because of their own illness, or (2) physical disability, rather than because of their own physical disability.

Additionally, the act authorizes qualified voters to vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place because of absence from the town of their voting residence. Prior law authorized voters to vote absentee for this reason only if they were absent during all hours of voting ([PA 22-2](#), effective upon passage).

Elected Officials' Compensation

For the first time since 2000, the legislature enacted an increase in elected officials' compensation. Beginning with the next legislative term (i.e., January 4, 2023), a new law (1) increases the base legislator salary (from \$28,000 to \$40,000) and salaries for specified leadership positions and (2) requires that these amounts be adjusted for inflation in each subsequent term.

The act also makes salaries for the governor, lieutenant governor, and constitutional officers (i.e., the secretary of the state, state treasurer, state comptroller, and attorney general) equal to specified salaries in the judicial branch (i.e., the Supreme Court chief justice for the governor and Superior Court judge for the others) beginning with the next term for these offices (i.e., beginning January 4, 2023). For subsequent terms, the act generally links the elected office's salary with the corresponding judicial salary ([HB 5406](#), as amended, most provisions effective January 1, 2023).

Juneteenth State Holiday

A new law establishes June 19 as Juneteenth Independence Day, a new legal state holiday. Connecticut joins nearly a dozen other states and the federal government in observing it as an official holiday ([SB 350](#), effective October 1, 2022).

Public Agency Remote and Hybrid Meetings

Under the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), public agencies must generally make their meetings, other than executive sessions, open to the public. Prior law allowed these agencies to

hold meetings that are accessible to the public through electronic equipment (e.g., by telephone, video, or other conferencing platforms) or electronic equipment combined with an in-person meeting (hybrid meetings) until April 30, 2022 (PA 21-2, June Special Session). This session, the legislature passed a law that removes the sunset date and allows public agencies to continue holding remote and hybrid meetings, as long as they comply with the requirements under existing law ([PA 22-3](#), effective upon passage).

Housing and Real Estate

Fair Rent Commissions

This session, the legislature enacted a law that requires all municipalities with a population of 25,000 or more to adopt an ordinance creating a fair rent commission. They must do so through their legislative bodies by July 1, 2023. It also requires the chief executive officers of these municipalities, within 30 days after an ordinance is adopted, to notify the housing commissioner and give her a copy of the ordinance. Under the act, municipalities' populations are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent decennial census ([PA 22-30](#), effective October 1, 2022).

Insurance

Health Insurance Coverage for Breast and Ovarian Cancer

A new law expands fully insured commercial health insurance coverage for mammograms, ultrasounds, magnetic resonance imaging (MRIs), breast biopsies, certain prophylactic mastectomies, and breast reconstruction surgery, subject to certain conditions. Among other things, the act requires these policies to also cover BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 genetic testing and routine ovarian cancer screenings for certain people. The act generally requires these services be provided at no out-of-pocket cost ([sSB 358](#), effective January 1, 2023).

Health Quality and Cost Benchmarks

This session, the legislature passed a law requiring the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to set annual (1) health care cost growth benchmarks, (2) health care quality benchmarks, and (3) primary care spending targets. Generally, the law empowers OHS' executive director to identify payers and entities who do not meet these benchmarks or targets and require them to participate in public hearings explaining why. She must also publish related reports on the health care quality and costs in the state ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 219-225), effective upon passage).

Labor and Public Employees

Captive Audience Meetings

A new law generally prohibits employers from penalizing employees or threatening to do so for refusing to attend employer-sponsored meetings, listen to speech, or view communications primarily intended to convey the employer's opinion about religious or political matters, including decisions to join or support labor organizations. The new law provides exceptions for, among other things, employers to communicate information required by law or that the employees need to perform their jobs ([PA 22-24](#), effective July 1, 2022).

Firefighters Cancer Relief Program

The legislature enacted a new law creating a funding source for the firefighters cancer relief account, which provides wage replacement benefits to eligible paid and volunteer firefighters diagnosed with cancer. Beginning January 1, 2024, each town must contribute, by December 15 of each year, \$10 per paid or volunteer firefighter within the town's fire district or districts. However, the act only requires towns to contribute funds for firefighters who meet certain criteria, such as having at least five years' work experience as an interior structural firefighter or a fire marshal, fire investigator, or fire inspector.

Under existing law, a cancer relief subcommittee of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association awards wage replacement benefits under the state's firefighters cancer relief program. The act specifies that an award from the fund does not create a presumption that the firefighter's cancer was work-related for purposes of workers' compensation ([sSB 313](#), as amended, various effective dates).

Premium Pay

This session, the legislature established the Connecticut Premium Pay program to provide \$200 to \$1,000 to eligible applicants, depending on their individual income and whether the program is sufficiently funded. Eligible applicants generally must (1) have worked during the entire COVID-19 emergency; (2) been eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination in phase 1a or 1b of the CDC's COVID-19 vaccination program (e.g., health care personnel, manufacturing workers, and grocery store workers among others); (3) be private-sector employees; (4) not have been employed in a capacity where they worked from home; and (5) have an individual income less than \$150,000. Applicants must submit a claim for program benefits by October 1, 2022 ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 143-144), effective upon passage).

Mental and Behavioral Health

Children’s Mental Health Services

A new law includes numerous provisions on mental health services, particularly for children. Among other things, it includes several provisions on access to providers and services, such as (1) requiring DPH to develop a plan to waive licensure requirements for certain providers already licensed in other states; (2) temporarily exempting increases in the licensed bed capacity of mental health facilities from certificate of need requirements; and (3) establishing grant programs to provide funding to K-12 schools and colleges for mental health providers and services.

It also addresses payment and insurance coverage, such as (1) establishing a fund to help families pay for children’s medication or treatments that are not covered by insurance or Medicaid and (2) requiring certain health insurance policies to cover two mental health wellness examinations per year with no patient cost sharing or prior authorization requirements.

Additionally, the act includes provisions on care coordination and collaboration, including expanding the Department of Children and Families’ regional behavioral health consultation and care coordinating program. Among other things, it also establishes an oversight committee within the Legislative Department to evaluate and report on various matters related to the mental health system for children and develop a related strategic plan ([PA 22-47](#), various effective dates).

Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Services and Providers

This session, the legislature enacted a new law that focuses on mental and behavioral health services, primarily those provided in early childhood. It includes several provisions on access to services, such as (1) requiring the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to make mobile crisis services publicly available 24 hours per day, seven days per week; (2) requiring DPH to establish a pilot program to expand children’s behavioral health services provided by pediatric care providers in private practices; (3) permanently authorizing certain out-of-state mental and behavioral health service providers to practice telehealth in Connecticut, under certain conditions; and (4) allowing municipalities to establish a property tax abatement for properties used for child care centers, group child care homes, or family child care homes.

The act also addresses behavioral health provider recruitment and retention by, among other things, (1) requiring DPH to convene a physician recruitment working group to study ways to recruit, retain, and compensate primary care, psychiatric, and behavioral health providers; (2) entering Connecticut into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Company and Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which generally allows these providers to practice in multiple states through an expedited

or alternative licensure process; and (3) making certain behavioral health providers eligible for the state loan repayment program.

Additionally, the act includes payment provisions, such as (1) establishing a “Social Determinants of Mental Health Fund” for the DCF commissioner to use to help families with the costs of mental health services for their children based on social determinants of health and (2) prohibiting DCF from using Social Security disability benefits received by a child or youth in DCF care and custody to offset the cost of his or her care ([sSB 2](#), as amended, various effective dates).

School-Based Mental and Physical Health Grants and Services

This session, the legislature passed several initiatives to support school-based mental and physical health services. Among other things, a new law creates a DPH-administered school-based health center (SBHC) grant expansion program in FY 23 to provide grants to certain SBHC operators to expand their centers and the services they provide. It also creates a new State Department of Education (SDE) grant for FYs 23-25 for school districts to hire and retain more school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors, marriage and family therapists, and nurses.

Additionally, the act allows school nurses and other qualified school employees to keep and administer opioid antagonists (e.g., Narcan) to students who are overdosing at school ([sSB 1](#), as amended, various effective dates).

Mental Health and Law Enforcement

A new law includes several initiatives to address the mental health of both police officers and those with whom they interact, including:

1. extending existing employment protections to certain police officers who seek or receive mental health care services after undergoing a required behavioral health assessment;
2. eliminating police basic and review training on handling incidents involving a person affected with a serious mental illness and replacing it with training on interacting with people who have mental or physical disabilities or are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind; and
3. setting up a task force to study law enforcement officers’ mental health needs ([PA 22-64](#), various effective dates).

Municipalities

Outdoor Dining and Retail Operations

SA 21-3 temporarily authorized the continuation of outdoor dining and retail activities, as permitted by the governor's Executive Orders (EOs) issued during the COVID-19 pandemic. A new law extends this law by 13 months, until April 30, 2023, thus broadly permitting the continuation of as-of-right outdoor dining and retail activities authorized by the governor's EOs.

The new law also correspondingly delays, from April 1, 2022, to May 1, 2023, the effective date of provisions in PA 21-2, JSS, § 182, requiring municipalities to allow, in perpetuity, outdoor dining as an as-of-right accessory use to a food establishment ([PA 22-1](#), as amended by [HB 5506](#), as amended (§ 208), various effective dates).

Public Health

Telehealth

Expansion of Telehealth Services. Existing law generally sets requirements for the delivery of telehealth services and how insurance must cover them. PA 21-9 temporarily replaces these requirements with similar, but more expansive requirements until June 30, 2023. A new law extends these more expansive requirements by one year until June 30, 2024.

Among other things, these expanded requirements (1) allow authorized providers to provide telehealth services via audio-only telephone; (2) require certain health insurance policies to cover services provided via telehealth to the extent that they cover those services when provided in-person (it permanently requires this starting July 1, 2024); (3) prohibit insurance policies from excluding coverage just because a service is provided through telehealth; and (4) require telehealth providers to accept as payment in full the amount the carrier reimburses for telehealth service (along with any imposed out-of-pocket expense) or, for patients without coverage, an amount equal to the Medicare telehealth reimbursement rate.

Out-of-State Providers. Additionally, the act similarly extends by one year, until June 30, 2024, provisions in PA 21-9 that allow certain out-of-state providers to provide telehealth services in Connecticut. And starting July 1, 2024, it permanently authorizes specified out-of-state behavioral health service providers (e.g., social workers, psychologists, and professional counselors) to practice telehealth in Connecticut under certain conditions, such as that they maintain professional liability insurance in an amount equal to or greater than what is required in Connecticut for these providers ([sSB 2](#) (§§ 30-41), various effective dates).

Whiting Forensic Hospital

In response to the 2021 [final report](#) of the Connecticut Valley Hospital and Whiting Forensic Hospital Task Force, the legislature enacted a law affecting the oversight of Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH) and acquittees (i.e., those found not guilty of a crime due to a mental disease or defect).

Among other things, the act (1) requires DMHAS to develop a plan to construct a new WFH facility and submit a comprehensive report on the plan to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2024; (2) reestablishes WFH's 11-member advisory board as an oversight board and expands the board's duties; and (3) allows an acquittee, or a person acting on his or her behalf, to apply directly to the Psychiatric Security Review Board for a temporary leave order allowing the acquittee to spend time in the community, under certain conditions ([PA 22-45](#), various effective dates).

Public Safety

Accreditation Standards for Law Enforcement Units

The legislature made various changes to the minimum standards and practices for administering and managing law enforcement units, including eliminating a requirement that units obtain and maintain accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) by 2025. Instead, by 2026, units must either (1) be certified as meeting the requirements for three state-accreditation tiers developed by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council or (2) meet a higher level of accreditation standards developed by CALEA ([sSB 135](#), effective upon passage).

Catalytic Converters

A new law makes several changes regarding the receipt and sale of catalytic converters, including prohibiting anyone other than a motor vehicle recycler or motor vehicle repair shop from selling more than one unattached converter to a scrap metal processor, junk dealer, or junk yard owner or operator in a day. It also establishes several recordkeeping requirements and other conditions, such as affixing or writing a stock number on converters ([PA 22-43](#), effective July 1, 2022).

Reproductive Health Services

Protections for Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Services in the State

A new law establishes a cause of action for individuals against whom there is an out-of-state judgment based on reproductive or gender-affirming health care services that are legal in

Connecticut. The cause of action allows these individuals to recover certain costs they incurred defending the out-of-state action and bringing an action under the new law (e.g., costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees).

It also limits the assistance officers of Connecticut courts, public agencies, and certain health care providers can provide in these out-of-state actions. For example, it prohibits court officers from issuing summons for criminal cases or subpoenas for civil actions based on these services and prohibits public agencies from expending resources to help investigate them ([PA 22-19](#), effective July 1, 2022, and [HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 197 & 503-507), effective July 1, 2022).

Providers Authorized to Perform Abortions

This session, the legislature enacted laws that allow advanced practice registered nurses, nurse-midwives, and physician assistants to perform aspiration abortions. The new laws also explicitly authorize these providers to perform medication abortions, conforming to a 2001 attorney general opinion ([PA 22-19](#) (§ 7) and [HB 5506](#), as amended (§ 508), effective July 1, 2022).

Social Services

Medical Assistance and Immigration Status

This session, the legislature expanded a program that requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide state-funded medical assistance, within available appropriations, to children regardless of their immigration status. The act expanded the program by raising the age of children eligible for the coverage from 8 to 12 years old and allowing eligible children to receive the assistance until they are 19 years old. By law, and under the act, the requirement begins January 1, 2023 ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 234 & 235), effective upon passage).

Public Assistance Recoveries

By law, the state has a claim against property of a current or former beneficiary of various public assistance programs (e.g., Temporary Family Assistance or Medicaid), allowing the state to recover assistance it has paid out. A new law prohibits the state from recovering properly paid cash or medical assistance unless required to do so under federal law. Prior law generally limited the state's claim to amounts required under federal law, except for parents of public assistance beneficiaries, who were liable for the full amount of aid paid on behalf of their children or other family members. The new law releases liens on property previously filed by the state to recover amounts not required under federal law or associated with child support payments ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 453-460 & 481), effective July 1, 2022).

Taxes

State Tax Changes

The FY 23 budget adjustment act makes a number of tax and revenue changes. Among its most significant changes, the act:

1. accelerates the pension and annuity income tax exemption phase-in by allowing qualifying taxpayers to deduct 100% of this income beginning with the 2022 tax year;
2. increases the property tax credit from \$200 to \$300 and expands the number of taxpayers who may claim it;
3. establishes a one-time child tax rebate for qualifying taxpayers equal to \$250 per child, for up to three children;
4. eliminates the ambulatory surgical center tax beginning July 1, 2022;
5. expands the loans eligible for the student loan payment tax credit and allows certain small businesses to exchange the credit for a refund;
6. extends the manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit to the pass-through entity tax; and
7. eliminates the 6% admissions tax on movie tickets beginning in 2023 ([HB 5506](#), as amended, various sections and effective dates).

Property Taxes on Motor Vehicles

This session, the legislature decreased the motor vehicle mill rate cap from 45 to 32.46 mills, beginning in FY 23. It made corresponding changes to the grant formula that is designed to reimburse municipalities and tax districts for a portion of the revenue loss attributed to the motor vehicle mill rate cap ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 417-418), effective upon passage).

The legislature also revamped the motor vehicle property tax assessment laws. Beginning in the 2023 assessment year, the new law requires municipalities to value motor vehicles based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price and a 20-year depreciation schedule, rather than the schedule of values annually recommended by the Office of Policy and Management. Among other things, the new law also (1) exempts snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and utility trailers used exclusively for personal purposes from property tax; (2) modifies the timeline for supplemental property tax bills; and (3) requires taxpayers to include certain vehicles on their personal property declarations ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 516-528), most provisions effective July 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years beginning October 1, 2023).

Transportation

Clean Transportation

This session, the legislature passed a law aimed at increasing electric vehicle (EV) adoption and improving air quality by reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Among other things, the new law:

1. establishes grant programs for traffic signal modernization, zero-emission school buses, and zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty trucks;
2. allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner to adopt California's emission standards for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles;
3. sets targets for transitioning to zero-emission school buses, requiring that 100% of buses be zero-emission by (a) January 1, 2030, in school districts entirely within, or that contain, an environmental justice community as of July 1, 2022, and (b) January 1, 2040, in other districts;
4. modifies the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR) program, including by (a) expanding eligibility to businesses, municipalities, nonprofits, and e-bikes; (b) allowing incentives for electric bicycles; and (c) increasing its funding by directing all of the greenhouse gas reduction fee and part of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds to it;
5. provides property tax exemptions for zero-emission school buses and certain EV charging infrastructure; and
6. establishes the "right to charge" in condominiums, common interest communities, and rental properties by setting conditions under which requests for installing EV charging stations must be approved ([PA 22-25](#), most provisions effective October 1, 2022).

Additionally, the legislature reserved up to \$75 million in an existing bond authorization to fund the traffic signal grant program and authorized an additional \$20 million in bonds to fund the school bus matching grant program ([HB 5506](#) (§§ 318 & 348), effective July 1, 2022).

Gas Tax Suspension and Free Bus Rides

In response to rising gas prices, the legislature (1) suspended the 25-cent-per-gallon motor vehicle fuels tax on gasoline and gasohol until June 30, 2022, and (2) allocated funding to the Department of Transportation to provide free public bus transportation services through the end of the fiscal year ([SA 22-2](#), effective April 1, 2022). The budget act extended the gas tax suspension and allocated additional funding to provide free bus service through November 30, 2022 ([HB 5506](#), as amended (§§ 10 & 435), effective upon passage).

Veterans

Concurrent Jurisdiction Over Minors on Military Installations

The Department of Defense (DOD) cannot prosecute individuals who are not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, such as minors. As a result, minors who commit crimes on installations under the federal government's exclusive jurisdiction generally must be prosecuted under federal law.

In response to concerns about minors being prosecuted in this manner, the legislature passed a bill this session requiring the state to exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the United States in matters where (1) a minor violates federal law while on a DOD military installation, (2) the installation is located on land that the state previously ceded exclusive jurisdiction to the federal government, and (3) the U.S. Attorney or U.S. District Court for the state waives exclusive jurisdiction over that matter ([sHB 5373](#), effective October 1, 2022).