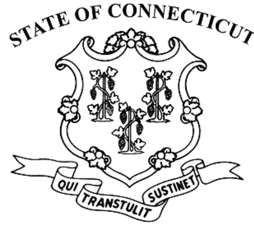

Substitute House Bill No. 5222

Public Act No. 26-100

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANNABIS, DATA PRIVACY, FIRE INSPECTIONS, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 20-295b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any person who, on October 1, 1969, holds a certificate of authority or renewal issued pursuant to sections 20-295 and 20-295a of the general statutes, revised to 1968, shall be entered on the roster of licensed architects and shall thereafter be authorized and entitled to practice architecture in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(b) An architect licensed in this state may perform the work of an interior designer as prescribed in chapter 396a without obtaining a certificate of registration as an interior designer under said chapter. **[**Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an architect licensed in this state shall not be required to satisfy the continuing education requirements for registered interior designers established in subsections (f) and (g) of section 20-377s if such architect satisfies all continuing education requirements set forth in this chapter necessary for such architect to maintain such license.**]**

(c) An architect licensed in this state who holds a certificate of registration as an interior designer issued under chapter 396a shall be subject to **[**(1) the continuing education requirements for registered interior designers established in subsections (f) and (g) of section 20-377s, and (2)**]** the fee for renewal of such certificate of registration established in subsection (e) of section 20-377s<u>, as amended by this act</u>.

Sec. 2. Section 20-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Applications for licensure under this chapter shall be on forms prescribed and furnished by the Department of Consumer Protection. The nonrefundable application fee for a professional engineer license shall be eighty dollars. The nonrefundable application fee for an engineer-in-training license shall be seventy-six dollars, which shall accompany the application and which shall include the cost of the issuance of a license. The nonrefundable application fee for a land surveyor license shall be eighty dollars. The nonrefundable application fee for a surveyor-in-training license shall be sixty-four dollars, which shall accompany the application and which shall include the cost of the issuance of a license. The initial license fee for a professional engineer license or a land surveyor license shall be **[**two hundred twenty**]** <u>four hundred forty</u> dollars. The application fee for a combined license as professional engineer and land surveyor shall be eighty dollars. The initial license fee for such combined license shall be **[**two hundred twenty**]** <u>four hundred forty</u> dollars.

Sec. 3. Section 20-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) **[**(1)**]** The Department of Consumer Protection shall notify each person licensed under this chapter of the date of the expiration of such license and the amount of the fee required for its renewal for **[**one year**]** <u>two years</u>. Such license renewals shall be accompanied by the payment

of [the professional services fee for class G, as defined in section 33-182*l*,] five hundred seventy dollars in the case of a professional engineer license, a professional engineer and land surveyor combined license, or a land surveyor license. The license shall be considered lapsed if not renewed on or before the expiration date.

[(2) Annual] (b) Biennial renewal of an engineer-in-training license or a surveyor-in-training license shall not be required. Any such license shall remain valid for a period of ten years from the date of its original issuance and, during this time, it shall meet in part the requirements for licensure as a professional engineer or land surveyor. It shall not be the duty of the department to notify the holder of an engineer-in-training license or a surveyor-in-training license of the date of expiration of such license other than to publish it annually in the roster.

[(3)] (c) Renewal of any license under this chapter or payment of renewal fees shall not be required of any licensee serving in the armed forces of the United States until the next renewal period immediately following the termination of such service or the renewal period following the fifth year after such licensee's entry into such service, whichever occurs first. The status of such licensees shall be indicated in the annual roster of professional engineers and land surveyors.

[(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section concerning fees, any person who is licensed under the provisions of this chapter, who is age sixty-five or over and who is no longer actively engaged in the practice of engineering or any of its branches, or land surveying, may renew such license annually upon payment of the professional services fee for class A, as defined in section 33-182*l*.]

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 20-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The board may, upon application and the payment of a fee of [one hundred ninety] three hundred eighty dollars to the Department of Consumer Protection, authorize the department to issue a license as a professional engineer, or a combined license as a professional engineer and land surveyor or, upon application and the payment of a fee of [one hundred ninety] three hundred eighty dollars, to issue a license as a land surveyor to any person who holds a certificate of qualification, licensure or registration issued to such person by the proper authority of any state, territory or possession of the United States, or any country, or the National Bureau of Engineering Registration, provided the requirements for the licensure or registration of professional engineers or land surveyors under which such license, certificate of qualification or registration was issued shall not conflict with the provisions of this chapter and shall be of a standard not lower than that specified in section 20-302. Upon request of any such applicant the board may, if it determines that the application is in apparent good order, authorize the department to grant to such applicant permission in writing to practice engineering or land surveying or both for a specified period of time while such application is pending. The board may waive the first part of the examination specified in subdivision (1) of section 20-302 in the case of an applicant for licensure as a professional engineer who holds a certificate as an engineer-in-training issued to him by the proper authority of any state, territory or possession of the United States, provided the requirements under which the certificate was issued do not conflict with the provisions of this chapter and are of a standard at least equal to that specified in said subdivision (1). The board may waive that part of the examination specified in subdivision (3) of section 20-302 relating to the fundamentals of land surveying, in the case of an applicant for licensure as a land surveyor who holds a certificate as a surveyor-in-training issued to him by the proper authority of any state, territory or possession of the United States, provided the requirements under which the certificate was issued do not conflict with the provisions of this chapter and are of a standard at least equal to that

specified in said subdivision (3).

Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 20-314 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) In order to determine the competency of any applicant for a real estate licensee's license, the commission or Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, on payment of an application fee of one hundred twenty dollars by an applicant for a real estate broker's license or an application fee of eighty dollars by an applicant for a real estate salesperson's license, subject such applicant to personal written examination as to the applicant's competency to act as a real estate broker or real estate salesperson, as the case may be. Each examination shall be prepared by the department or by a national testing service designated by the commissioner and shall be administered to applicants by the department or by such testing service at such times and places as the commissioner may deem necessary. The commission or commissioner may waive the uniform portion of the written examination requirement in the case of an applicant who has taken the national testing service examination in another state within two years from the date of application and has received a score deemed satisfactory by the commission or commissioner. An applicant shall submit to the commission or commissioner evidence that the applicant has successfully completed the final examination for the real estate license for which such applicant has applied, which successful completion shall occur within two years from the date of application unless the applicant submits to the commission a written request for, and the commission grants, a hardship extension of such two-year period. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, establishing passing scores for examinations. In addition to such application fee, applicants taking the examination administered by a national testing service shall be required to pay directly to such testing

service an examination fee covering the cost of such examination. Each payment of such application fee shall entitle the applicant to take such examination within the one-year period from the date of payment.

Sec. 6. Subdivision (3) of section 20-330 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(3) "Plumbing and piping work" means the installation, repair, replacement, alteration, maintenance, inspection or testing of alternative fuels, petroleum-based products, gas, water and associated fixtures, tubing and piping mains and branch lines up to and including the closest valve to a machine or equipment used in the manufacturing process, laboratory equipment, sanitary equipment, other than subsurface sewage disposal systems, fire prevention apparatus, all water systems for human usage, sewage treatment facilities and all associated fittings within a building and includes lateral storm and sanitary lines from buildings to the mains, process piping, swimming pools and pumping equipment, and includes making connections to back flow prevention devices, and includes low voltage wiring, not exceeding twenty-four volts, used within a lawn sprinkler system, but does not include (A) solar thermal work performed pursuant to a certificate held as provided in section 20-334g, except for the repair of those portions of a solar hot water heating system that include the basic domestic hot water tank and the tie-in to the potable water system, (B) the installation, repair, replacement, alteration, maintenance, inspection or testing of fire prevention apparatus within a structure, except for standpipes that are not connected to sprinkler systems, (C) medical gas and vacuum systems work, and (D) millwright work. For the purposes of this subdivision, "process piping" means piping or tubing that conveys liquid or gas that is used directly in the production of a chemical or a product for human consumption;

Sec. 7. Section 20-337 of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall require that the ownership or control of a business engaged in providing the work or services licensed under the provisions of this chapter be vested in a person licensed under this chapter, but all the work and services set forth in section 20-330, as amended by this act, shall be performed by persons licensed for such work or occupation under this chapter.

(b) (1) A business engaged in providing any work or services licensed under the provisions of this chapter shall (A) designate a contractor of record, and (B) disclose to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, (i) the name, telephone number and electronic mail address of such designated contractor of record, and (ii) any change in the information disclosed to the department pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision, including, but not limited to, any change in such information due to the designation of a substitute contractor of record, not later than ten days after such change occurs.

(2) Each contractor of record designated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be (A) an owner or direct employee of the business, (B) licensed, in good standing, under this chapter to perform the work or services provided by the business, (C) regularly engaged with the business while such business is engaged in providing any work or services licensed under the provisions of this chapter, and (D) responsible for acting on behalf of the business in obtaining any building permit required by such business.

(3) No contractor of record designated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection who is a direct employee of the business shall serve as the designated contractor of record for more than one business at any time.

(4) For purposes of this subsection, "direct employee" (A) means an individual whose (i) manner and means of work performance are subject to the right of control of, or are controlled by, the business, and (ii) compensation is reported, or required to be reported, on a federal Form W-2 issued by, or caused to be issued by, the business, and (B) does not include any individual who is an independent contractor, subcontractor or consultant of the business.

Sec. 8. Section 20-377s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) A registered interior designer shall include his or her certificate of registration number in any advertisement and may include his or her certificate of registration number in any written communication.

(b) No person shall: (1) Present or attempt to present, as his or her own, the certificate of another, (2) knowingly give false evidence of a material nature to the commissioner for the purpose of procuring a certificate, (3) use or attempt to use a certificate which has expired or which has been suspended or revoked, (4) represent himself or herself falsely as, or impersonate, a registered interior designer, or (5) represent in any manner that his or her certificate of registration constitutes an endorsement of the quality of his or her workmanship or of his or her competency by the commissioner.

(c) Certificates of registration issued to an interior designer shall not be transferable or assignable.

(d) All certificates of registration issued under the provisions of sections 20-377k to 20-377v, inclusive, shall expire annually.

(e) A registered interior designer may apply for renewal of a certificate of registration. The fee for renewal of such certificate of registration shall be one hundred ninety dollars, provided any architect licensed in this state shall not be required to pay such fee.

[(f) A registered interior designer shall complete a minimum of four hours of continuing education every three years. Such three-year period shall commence on the first date of renewal of the applicant's certificate of registration on or after October 1, 2015. The continuing education shall be in areas related to the application of the State Building Code and the Fire Safety Code.

(g) A registered interior designer who applies for a renewal of a certificate of registration on or after October 1, 2018, shall sign a statement on a form prescribed by the commissioner attesting that he or she has satisfied the continuing education requirements of subsection (f) of this section. Such applicant shall retain records of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate compliance with such continuing education requirements for a minimum of three years following the year in which the continuing education activities were completed. Such applicant shall submit such records to the commissioner for inspection not later than forty-five days after a request by the commissioner for such records.**]**

Sec. 9. Subdivision (5) of section 20-670 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(5) "Comprehensive background check" means a background investigation of a prospective employee performed by a homemaker-companion agency, that includes (A) a review of any application materials prepared or requested by the homemaker-companion agency and completed by the prospective employee, (B) an in-person or video-conference interview of the prospective employee, (C) verification of the prospective employee's Social Security number, (D) if the prospective employee has applied for a position within the homemaker-companion agency that requires licensure on the part of such prospective employee, verification that the required license is in good standing, (E) a check of the registry established and maintained pursuant to section 54-257, (F)

a **[**local**]** state and national criminal background check of criminal matters of public record based on the prospective employee's name and date of birth that includes a search of a multistate and multijurisdiction criminal record locator or other similar commercial nationwide database with validation, and a search of the United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Website, conducted by a third-party consumer reporting agency or background screening company that is accredited by the Professional Background Screening Association and in compliance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, (G) if the prospective employee has resided in this state for less than three years prior to the date of such prospective employee's application with the homemaker-companion agency, a review of criminal conviction information from the state or states where such prospective employee resided during such three-year period, and (H) a review of any other information that the homemaker-companion agency deems necessary in order to evaluate the suitability of the prospective employee for the position.

Sec. 10. Section 21a-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section, "adulterated" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-101.

[(a)**]** (b) No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale in any establishment or vending machine, or have in **[**his**]** such person's possession with intent to sell therefrom, any food, beverage or ingredient which is adulterated or misbranded.

[(b)**]** (c) The commissioner may cause samples of any food, beverage or ingredient so sold, offered, exposed or possessed to be taken and examined as often as may be necessary to determine freedom from adulteration or misbranding. Upon written notice to the establishment or vending machine operator, the commissioner may **[**impound and**]**

take the following actions to protect public health and safety: (1) Impound any food or beverage which is adulterated or misbranded; (2) forbid the sale of any food or beverage which is adulterated or misbranded; and **[**, after hearing,**]** (3) prohibit such establishment from selling or offering for sale any food or beverage which was adulterated or misbranded until the conditions that caused such adulteration or misbranding, and are likely to cause future adulteration or misbranding, have been remedied.

(d) After a hearing, the commissioner may cause any **[**such**]** adulterated or misbranded food or beverage to be destroyed, provided, in the case of misbranding which may be corrected by proper labeling, the commissioner may release such food or beverage to the establishment or vending machine operator upon corrective action being taken.

Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 21a-430 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) No person shall place or cause to be placed in a public place a donation bin for the donation of clothing or other articles unless (1) such person obtains advance written consent from the owner of such public place, or such owner's duly authorized agent, to place such donation bin, or cause such bin to be placed, in such public place, and (2) such bin contains a notice, in block letters at least two inches high, stating, (A) if the donation is for a charitable purpose, (i) the name of the nonprofit organization that will benefit from the donation, (ii) the charity registration number the Department of Consumer Protection issued to the nonprofit organization, (iii) the name and contact information of the owner of such bin, and **[**(iii)**]** (iv) that the public may contact the Department of Consumer Protection for further information, or (B) if not intended for a charitable purpose, that such donation is not for a charitable purpose. Such notice shall be on the same side of the bin

where the donation is likely to be made. As used in this section, "public place" means any area that is used or held out for use by the public, whether owned or operated by public or private interests, and "donation bin" means a large container commonly placed in a parking lot for the purpose of encouraging individuals to donate clothing or other items.

Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 51-344a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Whenever the term "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain" or "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford" is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, it shall be deemed to mean or refer to the judicial district of Hartford on and after September 1, 1998: Sections 2-48, 3-21a, 3-62d, 3-70a, 3-71a, 4-61, 4-160, 4-164, 4-177b, 4-180, 4-183, 4-197, 5-202, 5-276a, 8-30g, 9-7a, 9-7b, 9-369b, 10-153e, 12-208, 12-237, 12-268*l*, 12-312, 12-330m, 12-405k, 12-422, 12-448, 12-454, 12-456, 12-463, 12-489, 12-522, 12-554, 12-565, 12-572, 12-586f, 12-597, 12-730, 13b-34, 13b-235, 13b-315, 13b-375, 14-57, 14-66, 14-67u, 14-110, 14-195, 14-311, 14-311c, 14-324, 14-331, 15-125, 15-126, 16-41, 16a-5, 17b-60, 17b-100, 17b-238, 17b-531, 19a-85, 19a-86, 19a-425, 19a-498, 19a-517, 19a-526, 19a-633, 20-12f, 20-13e, 20-29, 20-40, 20-45, 20-59, 20-73a, 20-86f, 20-99, 20-114, 20-133, 20-154, 20-156, 20-162p, 20-192, 20-195p, 20-202, 20-206c, 20-227, 20-238, 20-247, 20-263, 20-271, 20-307, 20-341f, 20-363, 20-373, 20-404, 20-414, 21a-55, 21a-190i, 22-7, 22-228, 22-248, 22-254, 22-320d, 22-326a, 22-344b, 22-386, 22a-6b, 22a-7, 22a-16, 22a-30, 22a-34, 22a-53, 22a-60, 22a-62, 22a-63, 22a-66h, 22a-106a, 22a-119, 22a-180, 22a-182a, 22a-184, 22a-220a, 22a-220d, 22a-225, 22a-226, 22a-226c, 22a-227, 22a-250, 22a-255*l*, 22a-276, 22a-310, 22a-342a, 22a-344, 22a-361a, 22a-374, 22a-376, 22a-408, 22a-430, 22a-432, 22a-438, 22a-449f, 22a-449g, 22a-459, 23-5e, 23-65m, 25-32e, 25-36, 28-5, 29-143j, 29-158, 29-161z, 29-323, 30-8, 31-109, 31-249b, 31-266, 31-266a, 31-270, 31-273, 31-284, 31-285, 31-339, 31-355a, 31-379, 35-3c, 35-42, 36a-186, 36a-187, 36a-471a, 36a-494, 36a-587,

36a-647, 36a-684, 36a-718, 36a-807, 36b-26, 36b-27, 36b-30, 36b-50, 36b-71, 36b-72, 36b-74, 36b-76, 38a-41, 38a-52, 38a-134, 38a-139, 38a-140, 38a-147, 38a-150, 38a-185, 38a-209, 38a-225, 38a-226b, 38a-241, 38a-337, 38a-470, 38a-620, 38a-657, 38a-687, 38a-774, 38a-776, 38a-817, 38a-843, 38a-868, 38a-906, 38a-994, [42-103c,] 42-110d, 42-110k, 42-110p, 42-182, 46a-56, 46a-100, 47a-21, 49-73, 51-44a, 51-81b, 51-194, 52-146j, 53-392d and 54-211a.

Sec. 13. Section 20-324a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The commission shall establish, and the department shall maintain, a Real Estate Guaranty Fund from which, subject to the provisions of this section and sections 20-324b to 20-324i, inclusive, any person aggrieved by any action of a real estate licensee, duly licensed in this state under section 20-312, by reason of the embezzlement of money or property, or money or property unlawfully obtained from any person by false pretenses, artifice or forgery or by reason of any fraud, misrepresentation or deceit by or on the part of any such real estate licensee or the unlicensed employee of any such real estate licensee, may recover, upon approval by the [commission] department of an application brought pursuant to the provisions of section 20-324e, as amended by this act, compensation in an amount not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars in connection with any one real estate transaction or claim, regardless of the number of persons aggrieved or parcels of real estate involved in such real estate transaction or claim.

Sec. 14. Section 20-324c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The [commission] department shall maintain the Real Estate Guaranty Fund at a level not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars and to this intent moneys received under section 20-324b shall be

credited to said fund whenever the fund balance is below five hundred thousand dollars. Any such moneys may be invested or reinvested in the same manner as funds of the state employees retirement system. The interest arising from such investments shall be credited to the Real Estate Guaranty Fund whenever the fund balance is below five hundred thousand dollars, and to the General Fund whenever the fund balance is equal to or greater than five hundred thousand dollars. Any moneys received under section 20-324b not required to maintain the Real Estate Guaranty Fund balance shall be deposited to the General Fund. All moneys in the Real Estate Guaranty Fund in excess of five hundred thousand dollars, shall be transferred by the State Treasurer to the General Fund.

Sec. 15. Section 20-324d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

No application to recover compensation under sections 20-324a to 20-324i, inclusive, as amended by this act, which might subsequently result in an order for collection from the Real Estate Guaranty Fund shall be brought later than two years from the final determination of, or expiration of time for appeal in connection with, any binding arbitration decision or any court judgment, order or decree.

Sec. 16. Subsection (e) of section 20-324e of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) If the **[**department**]** Department of Consumer Protection pays from the Real Estate Guaranty Fund any amount in settlement of a claim or toward satisfaction of a decision, judgment, order or decree against a real estate licensee or an unlicensed employee of a real estate licensee pursuant to an order under subsection (d) of this section, such person shall not be eligible to receive a new license until such person has repaid such amount in full **[**,**]** plus interest at the rate of ten per cent per year,

which interest shall accrue from the date on which the Department of Consumer Protection makes such payment from the fund until the date on which the Commissioner of Consumer Protection refers the unpaid amount to the Department of Administrative Services for collection. A discharge in bankruptcy shall not relieve a person from the penalties and disabilities provided in this subsection.

Sec. 17. Section 20-324f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Any person filing with the [commission] department any notice, statement or other document required under the provisions of section 20-324e, as amended by this act, which is false or untrue or contains any material misstatement of fact shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars.

Sec. 18. Section 20-324h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

When the [commission] department has caused to be paid from the Real Estate Guaranty Fund any sum to the [judgment] creditor under a decision, judgment, order or decree, the [commission] department shall be subrogated to all of the rights of the [judgment] creditor up to the amount paid, and the [judgment] creditor shall assign all of [his] the creditor's right, title and interest in the decision, judgment, order or decree up to such amount paid to the [commission] department, and any amount and interest recovered by the [commission] department on the decision, judgment, order or decree shall be deposited to the fund.

Sec. 19. Subsection (o) of section 20-417i of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(o) If the commissioner orders the payment of an amount as a result of a guaranty fund claim against a new home construction contractor,

the commissioner may, after notice and hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, revoke the certificate of such contractor and such contractor shall not be eligible to receive a new or renewed certificate until such contractor has repaid such amount in full **[**,**]** plus interest **[**from the time such payment is made from the New Home Construction Guaranty Fund,**]** at a rate to be in accordance with section 37-3b, **[**except that**]** which interest shall accrue from the date on which such payment is made from the New Home Construction Guaranty Fund until the date on which the commissioner refers the unpaid amount to the Department of Administrative Services for collection. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's sole discretion, permit a new home construction contractor to receive a new or renewed certificate after such contractor has entered into an agreement with the commissioner whereby such contractor agrees to repay the fund in full in the form of periodic payments over a set period of time. Any such agreement shall include a provision providing for the summary suspension of any and all certificates held by the new home construction contractor if payment is not made in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Sec. 20. Subsections (d) to (p), inclusive, of section 20-432 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) Whenever an owner obtains a binding arbitration decision, a court judgment, order or decree against any contractor holding a certificate or who has held a certificate under this chapter, or against a proprietor, within two years of the date such contractor entered into the contract with the owner, for loss or damages sustained by reason of performance of or offering to perform a home improvement within this state by a contractor holding a certificate under this chapter, such owner may, upon the final determination of, or expiration of time for, taking an appeal in connection with any such decision, judgment, order or decree,

apply to the commissioner for an order directing payment out of said guaranty fund of the amount unpaid upon the decision, judgment, order or decree, for actual damages and costs taxed by the court against the contractor or proprietor, exclusive of punitive damages. The application shall be made on forms provided by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a copy of the decision, court judgment, order or decree obtained against the contractor or proprietor together with a statement signed and sworn to by the owner, affirming that the owner has made a good faith effort to satisfy such decision, judgment, order or decree in accordance with the provisions of chapter 906. Such good faith effort may include causing to be issued a writ of execution upon such decision, judgment, order or decree, provided the officer executing such writ has made a return (1) showing that no bank accounts or personal property of the contractor or proprietor liable to be levied upon in satisfaction of such decision, judgment, order or decree could be found, or that the amount realized on the sale of such accounts or property or of such accounts or property as were found, under the execution, was insufficient to satisfy the actual damage portion of such decision, judgment, order or decree, or (2) stating the amount realized and the balance remaining due on such decision, judgment, order or decree after such application on such decision, judgment, order or decree of the amount realized. The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to a judgment, order or decree obtained by the owner in small claims court. No application for an order directing payment out of the guaranty fund shall be made later than two years after the final determination of, or expiration of time for, taking an appeal of **[**said**]** such decision, court judgment, order or decree.

(e) Upon receipt of **[**said**]** such application together with **[**said**]** such copy of the decision, court judgment, order or decree, such statement and, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, such true and attested copy of the executing officer's return, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall inspect such documents for their veracity

and upon a determination that such documents are complete and authentic, and a determination that the owner has not been paid, the commissioner shall order payment out of the guaranty fund of the amount unpaid upon the decision, judgment, order or decree for actual damages and costs taxed by the court against the contractor or, if the contractor is a business entity, a proprietor, exclusive of punitive damages.

(f) Whenever an owner is awarded an order of restitution against any contractor or, if the contractor is a business entity, any proprietor for loss or damages sustained by reason of performance of or offering to perform a home improvement in this state by a contractor holding a certificate or who has held a certificate under this chapter within two years of the date of entering into the contract with the owner, in a proceeding brought by the commissioner pursuant to this section or subsection (d) of section 42-110d, or in a proceeding brought by the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110m or subsection (d) of section 42-110d, or a criminal proceeding pursuant to section 20-427, such owner may, upon the final determination of, or expiration of time for, taking an appeal in connection with any such order of restitution, apply to the commissioner for an order directing payment out of said guaranty fund of the amount unpaid upon the order of restitution. The commissioner may issue **[**said**]** such order upon a determination that the owner has not been paid.

(g) Whenever the commissioner orders payment to an owner out of the guaranty fund based upon a decision, court judgment, order or decree of restitution against any **[**proprietor**]** individual or business entity that holds or has held a certificate under this chapter, such **[**proprietor and the**]** individual or business entity **[**that holds or held a certificate under this chapter**]** shall be liable for the resulting debt to the guaranty fund.

(h) Before the commissioner may issue any order directing payment

out of the guaranty fund to an owner pursuant to subsection (e) or (f) of this section, the commissioner shall first notify the contractor of the owner's application for an order directing payment out of the guaranty fund and of the contractor's right to a hearing to contest the disbursement in the event that the contractor or proprietor has already paid the owner or is complying with a payment schedule in accordance with a court judgment, order or decree. Such notice shall be given to the contractor not later than fifteen days after receipt by the commissioner of the owner's application for an order directing payment out of the guaranty fund. If the contractor requests a hearing, in writing, by certified mail not later than fifteen days after receiving the notice from the commissioner, the commissioner shall grant such request and shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. If the commissioner does not receive a request by certified mail from the contractor for a hearing not later than fifteen days after the contractor's receipt of such notice, the commissioner shall determine that the owner has not been paid, and the commissioner shall issue an order directing payment out of the guaranty fund for the amount unpaid upon the judgment, order or decree for actual damages and costs taxed by the court against the contractor or proprietor, exclusive of punitive damages, or for the amount unpaid upon the order of restitution.

(i) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may proceed against any contractor holding a certificate or who has held a certificate under this chapter within the past two years of the effective date of entering into the contract with the owner, for an order of restitution arising from loss or damages sustained by any person by reason of such contractor's or the proprietor's performance of or offering to perform a home improvement in this state. Any such proceeding shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. In the course of such proceeding, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall decide whether to exercise the commissioner's powers pursuant to section 20-426; whether to order restitution arising from loss or damages

sustained by any person by reason of such contractor's or proprietor's performance or offering to perform a home improvement in this state; and whether to order payment out of the guaranty fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 54, the decision of the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall be final with respect to any proceeding to order payment out of the guaranty fund and the commissioner and the commissioner's designee shall not be subject to the requirements of chapter 54 as they relate to appeal from any such decision. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may hear complaints of all owners submitting claims against a single contractor in one proceeding.

(j) No application for an order directing payment out of the guaranty fund shall be made later than two years from the final determination of, or expiration of time for, appeal in connection with any decision, judgment, order or decree of restitution.

(k) Whenever the owner satisfies the commissioner or the commissioner's designee that it is not practicable to comply with the requirements of subsection (d) of this section and that the owner has taken all reasonable steps to collect the amount of the decision, judgment, order or decree or the unsatisfied part thereof and has been unable to collect the same, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, in the commissioner's or such designee's discretion, dispense with the necessity for complying with such requirement.

(l) In order to preserve the integrity of the guaranty fund, the commissioner, in the commissioner's sole discretion, may order payment out of said fund of an amount less than the actual loss or damages incurred by the owner or less than the order of restitution awarded by the commissioner or the Superior Court. In no event shall any payment out of said guaranty fund be in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars for any single claim by an owner.

(m) If the money deposited in the guaranty fund is insufficient to satisfy any duly authorized claim or portion thereof, the commissioner shall, when sufficient money has been deposited in the fund, satisfy such unpaid claims or portions thereof, in the order that such claims or portions thereof were originally determined.

(n) Whenever the commissioner has caused any sum to be paid from the guaranty fund to an owner, the commissioner shall be subrogated to all of the rights of the owner up to the amount paid plus reasonable interest, and prior to receipt of any payment from the guaranty fund, the owner shall assign all of **[**this**]** the owner's right, title and interest in the claim up to such amount to the commissioner, and any amount and interest recovered by the commissioner on the claim shall be deposited to the guaranty fund.

(o) If the commissioner orders the payment of any amount as a result of a guaranty fund claim against a contractor or proprietor, the commissioner shall determine if the contractor is possessed of assets liable to be sold or applied in satisfaction of the claim on the guaranty fund. If the commissioner discovers any such assets, the commissioner may request that the Attorney General take any action necessary for the reimbursement of the guaranty fund.

(p) If the commissioner orders the payment of an amount as a result of a guaranty fund claim against a contractor, the commissioner may, after notice and hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, revoke the certificate of the contractor. **[**and the**]** Any contractor, or any individual who has an ownership interest in a business entity that holds or has held a certificate under this chapter, shall not be eligible to receive a new or renewed certificate until the contractor or individual has repaid such amount in full **[**,**]** plus interest **[**from the time said payment is made from the guaranty fund,**]** at a rate to be in accordance with section 37-3b, **[**except that**]** which interest shall accrue from the date on which payment is made from the guaranty fund until the commissioner

refers the unpaid amount to the Department of Administrative Services for collection. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's sole discretion, permit a contractor to receive a new or renewed certificate after that contractor has entered into an agreement with the commissioner whereby the contractor agrees to repay the guaranty fund in full in the form of periodic payments over a set period of time. Any such agreement shall include a provision providing for the summary suspension of any and all certificates held by the contractor if payment is not made in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Sec. 21. Subsection (h) of section 21a-226 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(h) If the **[**commissioner**]** Department of Consumer Protection pays any amount as a result of a claim against a health club pursuant to an order under subsection (g) of this section, the health club shall **[**pay**]** repay the amount due plus interest at the rate of ten per cent per year, which interest shall accrue from the date on which the Department of Consumer Protection makes such payment from the guaranty fund until the date on which the Commissioner of Consumer Protection refers the unpaid amount to the Department of Administrative Services for collection. A health club shall not be eligible to receive a new or renewed license until the health club has repaid such amount in full. All funds **[**paid**]** repaid pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the guaranty fund.

Sec. 22. Section 30-18a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Out-of-state" (A) means (i) any state other than Connecticut, (ii) any territory or possession of the United States, (iii) the District of Columbia, or (iv) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and (B) does not include any foreign country;

(2) "Retailer" means any business entity that (A) is primarily engaged in selling alcoholic liquor in sealed bottles or other containers for off-premises consumption, and (B) holds a retailer permit issued by the alcohol beverage authority of its home state; and

(3) "Wine" includes, but is not limited to, (A) cider not exceeding six per cent alcohol by volume, and (B) apple wine not exceeding fifteen per cent alcohol by volume.

[(a)**]** (b) (1) An out-of-state winery shipper's permit for wine shall allow the sale of wine to manufacturer and wholesaler permittees in this state as permitted by law and for those shippers that produce not more than one hundred thousand gallons of wine per year, the sale and shipment by the holder thereof to a retailer of wine manufactured by such permittee in the original sealed containers of not more than fifteen gallons per container. **[**For purposes of this section, "wine" shall include cider not exceeding six per cent alcohol by volume and apple wine not exceeding fifteen per cent alcohol by volume.**]**

(2) An out-of-state retailer shipper's permit for wine shall allow the sale and shipment of wine directly to a consumer in this state.

[(b)**]** (c) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the permits under subsection **[**(a)**]** (b) of this section shall allow the sale and delivery or shipment of wine manufactured or sold by the permittee directly to a consumer in this state. Such permittee, when selling and shipping wine directly to a consumer in this state, shall: (1) Ensure that the shipping labels on all containers of wine shipped directly to a consumer in this state conspicuously state the following: "CONTAINS ALCOHOL—

SIGNATURE OF A PERSON AGE 21 OR OLDER REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY"; (2) obtain the signature of a person age twenty-one or older at the address prior to delivery, after requiring the signer to demonstrate that he or she is age twenty-one or older by providing a valid motor vehicle operator's license or a valid identity card described in section 1-1h; (3) not ship more than five gallons of wine in any two-month period to any person in this state and not ship any wine until such permittee is registered, with respect to the permittee's sales of wine to consumers in this state, for purposes of the taxes imposed under chapters 219 and 220, with the Department of Revenue Services; (4) pay, to the Department of Revenue Services, all sales taxes and alcoholic beverage taxes due under chapters 219 and 220 on sales of wine to consumers in this state, and file, with said department, all sales tax returns and alcoholic beverage tax returns relating to such sales, with the amount of such taxes to be calculated as if the sale were in this state at the location where delivery is made; (5) report to the Department of Consumer Protection a separate and complete record of all sales and shipments to consumers in the state, on a ledger sheet or similar form which readily presents a chronological account of such permittee's dealings with each such consumer; (6) permit the Department of Consumer Protection and Department of Revenue Services, separately or jointly, to perform an audit of the permittee's records upon request; (7) not ship to any address in the state where the sale of alcoholic liquor is prohibited by local option pursuant to section 30-9; (8) hold an in-state transporter permit under section 30-19f or make any such shipment through the use of a person who holds such an in-state transporter permit; (9) execute a written consent to the jurisdiction of this state, its agencies and instrumentalities and the courts of this state concerning the enforcement of this section and any related laws, rules, or regulations, including tax laws, rules or regulations; and (10) comply with the provisions of section 30-68m regarding the prohibition of selling wine below cost.

[(c)**]** <u>(d)</u> The Department of Consumer Protection, in consultation

with the Department of Revenue Services, may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to assure compliance with the provisions of subsection **[**(b)**]** <u>(c)</u> of this section.

[(d)**]** <u>(e)</u> A holder of a permit under subsection **[**(a)**]** <u>(b)</u> of this section, when advertising or offering wine for direct shipment to a consumer in this state via the Internet or any other on-line computer network, shall clearly and conspicuously state such liquor permit number in its advertising.

[(e)**]** <u>(f)</u> (1) For purposes of chapter 219, the holder of a permit under subsection **[**(a)**]** <u>(b)</u> of this section, when shipping wine directly to a consumer in this state, shall be deemed to be a retailer engaged in business in this state as defined in chapter 219 and shall be required to be issued a seller's permit pursuant to chapter 219.

(2) For purposes of chapter 220, the holder of a permit under subsection **[**(a)**]** <u>(b)</u> of this section, when shipping wine directly to a consumer in this state, shall be deemed to be a distributor as defined in chapter 220 and shall be required to be licensed pursuant to chapter 220.

[(f)**]** <u>(g)</u> Any person who applies for an out-of-state winery shipper's permit for wine or for the renewal of such permit shall furnish an affidavit to the Department of Consumer Protection, in such form as may be prescribed by the department, affirming whether the out-of-state winery that is the subject of such permit produced more than one hundred thousand gallons of wine during the most recently completed calendar year.

[(g)**]** <u>(h)</u> The annual fee for an out-of-state winery shipper's permit for wine shall be three hundred fifteen dollars and the annual fee for an out-of-state retailer shipper's permit for wine shall be six hundred dollars.

[(h) As used in this section, "out-of-state" means any state other than Connecticut, any territory or possession of the United States, the District

of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, but does not include any foreign country.**]**

Sec. 23. Subsection (b) of section 30-37f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) Sections 30-9 to 30-13a, inclusive, section 30-22aa, subdivision **[**(2)**]** <u>(3)</u> of subsection (b) of section 30-39, <u>as amended by this act,</u> subsection (c) of section 30-39 and sections 30-44, 30-46, 30-48a and 30-91a shall not apply to a cafe permit issued pursuant to subsection (d) of section 30-22a.

Sec. 24. Subsection (b) of section 30-39 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(b) (1) Any person desiring a liquor permit or a renewal of such a permit shall make an affirmed application therefor to the Department of Consumer Protection, upon forms to be furnished by the department, showing the name and address of the applicant and of the applicant's backer, if any, the location of the club or place of business which is to be operated under such permit and a financial statement setting forth all elements and details of any business transactions connected with the application. **[**Such**]** <u>If such</u> application <u>is for a liquor permit that allows on-premises serving or consumption of alcoholic liquor, such application</u> shall <u>also</u> include a detailed description of the type of live entertainment that is to be provided. A club or place of business shall be exempt from providing such detailed description if the club or place of business (A) was issued a liquor permit prior to October 1, 1993, and (B) has not altered the type of entertainment provided. The application shall also indicate any crimes of which the applicant or the applicant's backer may have been convicted. The department shall not review an initial application until the applicant has submitted all documents necessary

to establish that state and local building, fire and zoning requirements and local ordinances concerning hours and days of sale will be met, except that local building and zoning requirements and local ordinances concerning hours and days of sale shall not apply to a cafe permit issued under subsection (d) or (h) of section 30-22a. If the applicant does not submit all such documents within the thirty-day period beginning on the date on which the department receives the initial application, or if such documents are not fully executed by the appropriate authorities, such initial application shall be deemed withdrawn and invalid. The State Fire Marshal or the marshal's certified designee shall be responsible for approving compliance with the State Fire Code at Bradley International Airport. Any person desiring a permit provided for in section 30-33b shall file a copy of such person's license with such application if such license was issued by the Department of Consumer Protection. The department may, at its discretion, conduct an investigation to determine (i) whether a permit shall be issued to an applicant or the applicant's backer, or (ii) the suitability of the proposed permit premises. Completion of an inspection pursuant to subsection (f) of section 29-305 shall not be deemed to constitute a precondition to renewal of a permit that is subject to subsection (f) of section 29-305.

(2) The applicant shall pay to the department a nonrefundable application fee, which fee shall be in addition to the fees prescribed in this chapter for the permit sought. An application fee shall not be charged for an application to renew a permit. The application fee shall be in the amount of ten dollars for the filing of each application for a permit by a nonprofit golf tournament permit under section 30-37g or a temporary liquor permit for a noncommercial entity under section 30-35; and in the amount of one hundred dollars for the filing of an initial application for all other permits. Any permit issued shall be valid only for the purposes and activities described in the application.

(3) (A) The applicant shall affix, and maintain in a legible condition

upon the outer door of the building wherein such place of business is to be located and clearly visible from the public highway, the placard provided by the department, not later than the day following the receipt of the placard by the applicant. If such outer door of such premises is so far from the public highway that such placard is not clearly visible as provided, the department shall direct a suitable method to notify the public of such application. When an application is filed for any type of permit for a building that has not been constructed, such applicant shall erect and maintain in a legible condition a sign not less than six feet by four feet upon the site where such place of business is to be located, instead of such placard upon the outer door of the building. The sign shall set forth the type of permit applied for and the name of the proposed permittee, shall be clearly visible from the public highway and shall be so erected not later than the day following the receipt of the placard. Such applicant shall make a return to the department, under oath, of compliance with the foregoing requirements, in such form as the department may determine, but the department may require any additional proof of such compliance. Upon receipt of evidence of such compliance, the department may hold a hearing as to the suitability of the proposed location.

(B) The provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision regarding placarding shall not apply to applications for [(A)] (i) airline permits issued under section 30-28a, [(B)] (ii) temporary liquor permits for noncommercial entities issued under section 30-35, [(C)] (iii) concession permits issued under section 30-33, [(D)] (iv) military permits issued under section 30-34, [(E)] (v) cafe permits issued under subsection (h) of section 30-22a, [(F)] (vi) warehouse permits issued under section 30-32, [(G)] (vii) broker's permits issued under section 30-30, [(H)] (viii) out-of-state shipper's permits for alcoholic liquor issued under section 30-18, [(I)] (ix) out-of-state shipper's permits for beer issued under section 30-19, [(J)] (x) coliseum permits issued under section 30-33a, [(K)] (xi) nonprofit golf tournament permits issued under section 30-37g, [(L)]

(xii) Connecticut craft cafe permits issued under section 30-22d to permittees who held a manufacturer permit for a brew pub or a manufacturer permit for beer issued under subsection (b) of section 30-16 and a brew pub before July 1, 2020, **[**(M)**]** (xiii) off-site farm winery sales and wine, cider and mead tasting permits issued under section 30-16a, **[**(N)**]** (xiv) out-of-state retailer shipper's permits for wine issued under section 30-18a, as amended by this act, **[**(O)**]** (xv) out-of-state winery shipper's permits for wine issued under section 30-18a, as amended by this act, **[**(P)**]** (xvi) in-state transporter permits for alcoholic liquor issued under section 30-19f, including, but not limited to, boats operating under such permits, **[**(Q)**]** (xvii) seasonal outdoor open-air permits issued under section 30-22e, **[**(R)**]** (xviii) festival permits issued under section 30-37t, **[**(S)**]** (xix) temporary auction permits issued under section 30-37u, **[**(T)**]** (xx) outdoor open-air permits issued under section 30-22f, and **[**(U)**]** (xxi) renewals of any permit described in subparagraphs **[**(A)**]** (B)(i) to **[**(T)**]** (B)(xx), inclusive, of this subdivision, if applicable. **[**The**]**

(C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision regarding **[**placard display**]** placarding shall **[**also be required of**]** apply to any applicant who seeks to amend the type of live entertainment to be provided, either upon filing of a renewal application or upon requesting permission of the department in a form that requires the approval of the municipal zoning official.

(4) In any case in which a permit has been issued to a partnership, if one or more of the partners dies or retires, the remaining partner or partners need not file a new application for the unexpired portion of the current permit, and no additional fee for such unexpired portion shall be required. Notice of any such change shall be given to the department and the permit shall be endorsed to show correct ownership. When any partnership changes by reason of the addition of one or more persons, a

new application with new fees shall be required.

Sec. 25. Section 30-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of section 30-86, any permittee shall require any person whose age is in question to fill out and sign a statement in the following form on one occasion when each such person makes a purchase:

...., 20..

I, ..., hereby represent to ...., a permittee of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, that I am over the age of 21 years, having been born on ...., 19.. or 20.., at ..... (city), ….. (state). This statement is made to induce said permittee to sell or otherwise furnish alcoholic beverages to the undersigned. I understand that title 30 of the general statutes prohibits the sale of alcoholic liquor to any person who is not twenty-one years of age.

I understand that I am subject to a fine of one hundred dollars for the first offense and not more than two hundred fifty dollars for each subsequent offense for wilfully misrepresenting my age for the purposes set forth in this statement.

.... (Name)

.... (Address)

Such statement once taken shall be applicable both to the particular sale in connection with which such statement was taken, as well as to all future sales at the same premises, and shall have full force and effect under subsection (b) of this section as to every subsequent sale or purchase. Such statement shall be printed upon appropriate forms to be furnished by the permittee and approved by the Department of

Consumer Protection or electronically displayed by the permittee on an electronic device that is capable of allowing the person whose age is in question to electronically fill out and sign such statement. If such statement is filled out and signed in paper form, such statement shall be kept on file on the permit premises, alphabetically indexed, in a suitable file box, and shall be open to inspection by the department or any of the department's agents or inspectors at any reasonable time. If such statement is filled out and signed in electronic form, such statement shall be stored in an electronic medium that is immediately accessible from the permit premises, alphabetically indexed, and shall be in an electronic format that is accessible to the department or any of the department's agents or inspectors at any reasonable time. Any person who makes any false statement on a form signed by such person as required by this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for the first offense and not more than two hundred fifty dollars for each subsequent offense.

(b) In any case where such a statement has been procured and the permittee is subsequently charged with serving or furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor, if such permittee, in proceedings before any court of this state or the Department of Consumer Protection, introduces such statement in evidence and shows both that the evidence presented to **[**him**]** such permittee to establish the age of the purchaser was such as would convince a reasonable **[**man**]** person and that such permittee or the backer otherwise acted reasonably in serving or furnishing alcoholic beverages to the minor, no penalty shall be imposed on such permittee.

Sec. 26. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Baby food product" (A) means any food that is (i) manufactured, packaged, labeled and sold in a container, and (ii) intended for consumption by individuals younger than two years of age, and (B) does not include water or infant formula, as defined in section 21a-92 of the general statutes;

(2) "Consumer" means an individual residing in this state who is a purchaser, or a prospective purchaser, of a baby food product;

(3) "Food" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-92 of the general statutes;

(4) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-92 of the general statutes;

(5) "Production aggregate" means a quantity of a baby food product that is (A) intended to be uniform in composition, character and quality, and (B) produced according to a master manufacturing order;

(6) "Proficient laboratory" means a laboratory that (A) is accredited under International Organization for Standardization or International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Standard 17025:2017, as amended from time to time, (B) uses an analytical method that is as sensitive as the analytical method described in the latest edition of the federal Food and Drug Administration's "Elemental Analysis Manual for Food and Related Products", and (C) demonstrates proficiency in quantifying each toxic heavy metal concentration to at least six micrograms of the toxic heavy metal to kilogram of food through an independent proficiency test by achieving a z-score that is less than or equal to plus or minus two;

(7) "Quick response code" means a two-dimensional matrix barcode that consists of blocks arranged in a grid and may be read by an imaging device;

(8) "Representative sample" means a sample that (A) consists of several units drawn from a material based on rational criteria, including, but not limited to, random sampling, and (B) is intended to accurately represent the material from which the sample is drawn; and

(9) "Toxic heavy metal" includes arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

(b) On and after January 1, 2028, no person shall manufacture, sell, distribute or offer for sale in this state any baby food product that contains a toxic heavy metal in an amount that exceeds the applicable limit established by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

(c) On and after January 1, 2028, the manufacturer of a baby food product manufactured in this state, or intended for sale or distribution in this state, shall, not less frequently than monthly, ensure that a proficient laboratory tests a representative sample of each production aggregate of the final baby food product for the presence of toxic heavy metals. Each test may be performed before the final baby food product is packaged for distribution or sale. The manufacturer shall maintain a record of the results of each such test for not less than thirty-six months beginning on the date on which such test was performed.

(d) On and after January 1, 2028, the manufacturer of a baby food product manufactured in this state, or intended for sale or distribution in this state, shall make publicly available on the manufacturer's Internet web site, until thirty days after expiration of the shelf life of the final baby food product:

(1) The name and amount of each toxic heavy metal present in the final baby food product, as determined by way of the testing required under subsection (c) of this section;

(2) Information, including, but not limited to, the name of the final baby food product or the universal product code, lot number or batch number assigned to the final baby food product, that is sufficient to enable a reasonable consumer to identify the final baby food product; and

(3) A link to a publicly accessible web page on the federal Food and Drug Administration's Internet web site where a consumer may review current information, and said administration's current guidance,

regarding the effects of toxic heavy metals on children's health.

(e) On and after January 1, 2028, if a baby food product is tested for a toxic heavy metal subject to an action level, regulatory limit or tolerance established by the federal Food and Drug Administration under 21 CFR 109, as amended from time to time, or another standard of identity for food established in regulations promulgated under Title 21 of the United States Code, the manufacturer of the baby food product shall display on the baby food product container:

(1) The following statement in a clear, legible and conspicuous manner:

"For Information About Toxic Element Testing On This Product, Scan the QR Code."; and

(2) A quick response code, or another machine-readable code, that directs consumers to a publicly accessible web page on the manufacturer's Internet web site, or to the baby food product information page, disclosing:

(A) The results of the testing described in this subsection; and

(B) The address of a publicly accessible web page on the federal Food and Drug Administration's Internet web site where a consumer may review current information, and said administration's current guidance, regarding the effects of toxic heavy metals on children's health.

Sec. 27. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 42-221 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A dealer selling a used motor vehicle **[**which has a cash purchase price of three thousand dollars or more**]** <u>that is less than ten years of age</u> shall not exclude, modify, disclaim or limit implied warranties on the

motor vehicle.

(b) Each contract entered into by a dealer for the sale to a consumer of a used motor vehicle [which has a cash purchase price of three thousand dollars or more but less than five thousand dollars,] that is less than ten years of age shall include an express warranty, covering the full cost of both parts and labor, that the vehicle is mechanically operational and sound and will remain so for at least [thirty] sixty days or [one thousand five hundred] three thousand miles of operation, whichever period ends first, in the absence of damage resulting from an automobile accident or from misuse of the vehicle by the consumer. [Each contract entered into by a dealer for the sale of a used motor vehicle which has a cash purchase price of five thousand dollars or more shall include an express warranty, covering the full cost of both parts and labor, that the vehicle is mechanically operational and sound and will remain so for at least sixty days or three thousand miles of operation, whichever period ends first, in the absence of damage resulting from an automobile accident or from misuse of the vehicle by the consumer.] A dealer may not limit a warranty covered by this section by the use of such phrases as "fifty-fifty", "labor only", "drive train only", or other words attempting to disclaim [his] the dealer's responsibility.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (1) The [sale of a used motor vehicle having a cash purchase price of less than three thousand dollars; (2) the] sale of [such] used motor vehicles between dealers; or [(3)] (2) the sale of a used motor vehicle [which] that is [seven] ten years of age or older, which age shall be calculated from the first day in January of the designated model year of such vehicle.

Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 42-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A used motor vehicle may be sold "as is" by a dealer only [if its

cash purchase price is less than three thousand dollars or] if such used motor vehicle is [seven] ten years of age or older, which age shall be calculated from the first day in January of the designated model year of such vehicle.

Sec. 29. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Dietary supplement for weight loss or muscle building" means a class of dietary supplement that is labeled, marketed or otherwise represented for the purpose of achieving weight loss or muscle building, but shall not include (A) protein powders, (B) protein drinks, and (C) foods marketed as containing protein unless the protein powder, protein drink or food marketed as containing protein contains an ingredient other than protein which would, considered alone, constitute a dietary supplement for weight loss or muscle building; and

(2) "Over-the-counter diet pill" means a class of drugs labeled, marketed or otherwise represented for the purpose of achieving weight loss that are lawfully sold, transferred or furnished over the counter with or without a prescription pursuant to the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq., as amended from time to time, or regulations adopted thereunder.

(b) There is established a task force to study the sale in the state of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills. The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom has expertise in the safety of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and one of whom has expertise in the safety of over-the-counter diet pills;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of

Representatives;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(7) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee;

(8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; and

(9) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, who shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairperson of the task force shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report

on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, research related to the safety of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills by age of users, whether the sale to minors of such supplements or pills should be restricted and best practices in other states for regulation of such supplements or pills.

Sec. 30. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Artistic performance" (A) includes, but is not limited to, a concert, operatic or theatrical performance, and (B) does not include a movie;

(2) "Entertainment event" (A) includes, but is not limited to, (i) an artistic performance, athletic competition or sporting event, or (ii) admission to a place of amusement, and (B) does not include a movie;

(3) "Entertainment venue" (A) includes, but is not limited to, an arena, exhibition hall, performance hall, place of amusement in this state, stadium or theater, and (B) does not include a movie theater;

(4) "Entertainment venue operator" (A) means a person who owns, operates or controls an entertainment venue, and (B) includes, but is not limited to, any authorized agent or employee of such person while acting in the course of such agent's or employee's authority or employment;

(5) "Initial sale" means, with respect to a ticket, the transaction in which a ticket seller first sells the ticket to a purchaser or ticket reseller;

(6) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

(7) "Purchaser" means an individual who purchases a ticket;

(8) "Resale" means, with respect to a ticket, any transaction subsequent to the initial sale of the ticket in which a ticket reseller resells the ticket to a purchaser;

(9) "Ticket" means evidence of a purchaser's right to enter an entertainment event or entertainment venue;

(10) "Ticket reseller" (A) means, with respect to a ticket, the person who makes the ticket available for resale, (B) includes, but is not limited to, any authorized agent or employee of such person who, acting in the course of such agent's or employee's authority or employment, makes the ticket available for resale, and (C) does not include the entertainment venue operator or ticket seller; and

(11) "Ticket seller" (A) means, with respect to a ticket, the person, including, but not limited to, the entertainment venue operator, who makes the ticket available for initial sale, and (B) includes, but is not limited to, any authorized agent or employee of such person who, acting in the course of such agent's or employee's authority or employment, makes the ticket available for initial sale.

(b) (1) No ticket reseller doing business in the state shall offer or engage in any resale of a ticket in the state, unless the ticket reseller:

(A) Is in actual or constructive possession of the ticket; or

(B) Has entered into a written contract with the entertainment venue operator that explicitly authorizes the ticket reseller to obtain the ticket from the entertainment venue operator.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection:

(A) A person who is the initial purchaser of tickets to a season or

series of professional or intercollegiate athletic competitions or sporting events may resell a ticket to an individual athletic competition or sporting event comprising part of such season or series, provided such person (i) is not regularly engaged in the business of selling or reselling tickets to entertainment events, (ii) is in actual or constructive possession of such ticket, and (iii) discloses to the purchaser, before the purchaser purchases such ticket from such person, (I) the identity and scheduled date of such individual athletic competition or sporting event, and (II) the seating or standing location in the entertainment venue the holder of such ticket is entitled to occupy during such individual athletic competition or sporting event; and

(B) A person, including, but not limited to, an entertainment venue operator, may offer and sell to a purchaser, on a subscription basis, (i) tickets to a season or series of artistic performances that are not individually priced at the time of initial sale, or (ii) the right to purchase tickets to a specified number of artistic performances during a specified season or series of artistic performances, provided no such ticket shall be resold until such ticket has been issued to the initial purchaser or assigned for a specific artistic performance, date and seating or standing location.

(c) A violation of any provision of subsection (b) of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

Sec. 31. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section, "entertainment event", "entertainment venue", "entertainment venue operator", "initial sale", "resale" and "ticket" have the same meanings as provided in section 30 of this act.

(b) No person doing business in the state shall advertise or facilitate the initial sale or resale of any ticket by way of an Internet web site if the

Internet domain of such Internet web site, or any Internet subdomain of such Internet web site, includes:

(1) The name of the entertainment venue for the entertainment event, or any name that is substantially similar to the name of such entertainment venue, unless such person (A) is the entertainment venue operator, or (B) has obtained express written consent from the entertainment venue operator to include such name in such Internet domain or Internet subdomain;

(2) The name of the entertainment event, or any name that is substantially similar to the name of such entertainment event, unless such person (A) is the person responsible for organizing financing or publicity for such entertainment event or is an authorized agent or employee of such person acting in the course of such agent's or employee's authority or employment, or (B) has obtained express written consent from such person, agent or employee to include such name in such Internet domain or Internet subdomain; or

(3) The name of an individual or group scheduled to perform or appear at the entertainment event, or any name that is substantially similar to the name of such individual or group, unless such person (A) is such individual or group or is an authorized agent or employee of such individual or group acting in the course of such agent's or employee's authority or employment, or (B) has obtained express written consent from such individual, group, agent or employee to include such name in such Internet domain or Internet subdomain.

(c) A violation of any provision of subsection (b) of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

Sec. 32. Section 53-289a of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

(a) As used in this section: **[**, "service charge"**]**

(1) "Dynamic pricing model" means an algorithmic model that adjusts prices in real time;

(2) "Entertainment event" has the same meaning as provided in section 30 of this act;

(3) "Entertainment venue" has the same meaning as provided in section 30 of this act;

(4) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 30 of this act; and

(5) "Service charge" means any additional fee or charge that is designated as an "administrative fee", "service fee" or "surcharge" or by using another substantially similar term.

(b) No person shall advertise the prices of tickets to any entertainment event for which a service charge is imposed, including, but not limited to, any **[**place of amusement, arena, stadium, theater, performance, sport, exhibition or athletic contest given**]** entertainment venue in this state **[**for**]** at which a service charge is imposed for the sale of a ticket at **[**the site of the event**]** such entertainment venue, without conspicuously disclosing in such advertisement, whether displayed at **[**the site of the event**]** such entertainment venue or elsewhere, the total price **[**for**]** of each ticket and **[**what**]** which portion of each ticket price, stated in a dollar amount, represents a service charge.

(c) If a price is charged for admission to **[**a place of**]** an entertainment venue, the operator of the **[**place of**]** entertainment venue shall print, endorse or otherwise disclose on the face of each ticket to an entertainment event at such **[**place of**]** entertainment venue (1) the price

established for such ticket, or (2) if such operator, or such operator's agent, sells or resells such ticket, including at auction, the final price of such ticket.

(d) (1) Any person [that] who advertises or facilitates the sale or resale of a ticket to an entertainment event shall (A) disclose the total price of such ticket, [which total price shall include] including all service charges required to purchase such ticket, and (B) disclose, in a clear and conspicuous manner, to the purchaser of such ticket the portion of the total [ticket] price of such ticket, expressed as a dollar amount, that is attributable to service charges charged to such purchaser for such ticket.

(2) Any person who advertises or facilitates the resale of a ticket to an entertainment event via an Internet web site or online technology platform, the primary purpose of which is to facilitate resales of such tickets, shall disclose, in a clear and conspicuous manner, that the ticket is a resale ticket that may be offered at a price that differs from the price of a ticket to an entertainment event that is offered or sold by the presenter of the entertainment event.

[(2)] (3) (A) The disclosures required under [subdivision (1)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be displayed [in the ticket listing before the ticket is selected for purchase. The total ticket price] when the ticket is initially offered for sale or resale to a purchaser, and the displayed price shall not increase during the transaction period beginning when [a] the ticket is [selected for purchase] initially offered for sale or resale to a purchaser and ending when [a] the ticket is purchased, except a reasonable service charge may be charged for delivery of a nonelectronic ticket if [(A)] (i) such service charge is based on the delivery method selected by the ticket purchaser, and [(B)] (ii) such service charge is disclosed to such purchaser before such purchaser purchases such ticket.

(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be

construed to prohibit (i) any change in the price of a ticket after a purchaser's transaction period has timed out if the purchaser has not yet purchased the ticket, or (ii) the use of a dynamic pricing model, provided the ticket price does not increase during the transaction period beginning when the ticket is initially offered to the purchaser and ending when the purchaser completes the ticket purchasing process or the purchaser's transaction period has timed out, whichever occurs first.

[(3)**]** (4) No disclosure required under this subsection shall be (A) false or misleading, (B) presented more prominently than the total **[**ticket**]** price of such ticket, or (C) displayed in a font size that is as large or larger than the font size in which the total **[**ticket**]** price of such ticket is displayed.

[(e) A movie shall not be deemed to constitute an entertainment event for the purposes of this section.**]**

(e) (1) Each person who sells or resells a ticket to a live entertainment event shall (A) if the live entertainment event is cancelled, provide a refund to the purchaser (i) in an amount equal to the total price of such ticket, including all service charges the purchaser paid for such ticket, minus any reasonable service charge the purchaser paid for delivery of a nonelectronic ticket, and (ii) not later than thirty days following cancellation of such live entertainment event, and (B) disclose, in a clear and conspicuous manner, to each purchaser of a ticket to the live entertainment event that such purchaser is entitled to a refund in the amount and within the thirty-day period set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision if such live entertainment event is cancelled.

(2) The disclosure required under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be displayed to each purchaser of a ticket to a live entertainment event before such purchaser purchases such ticket. Such disclosure shall be displayed in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

(f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

(g) A violation of any provision of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

Sec. 33. Section 21a-415 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

(a) As used in this chapter:

(1) "Authorized owner" means the owner or authorized designee of a business entity that is applying for a registration or is registered with the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to this chapter;

(2) "Business entity" means any corporation, limited liability company, association, partnership, sole proprietorship, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust or any other legal entity;

(3) "Cannabis" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

[(3)**]** (4) "Cigarette" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 12-285;

[(4)**]** (5) "Dealer registration" means an electronic nicotine delivery system certificate of dealer registration issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section;

[(5)**]** (6) "Deliver" or "delivering" means transferring, or offering or attempting to transfer, physical possession or control of an electronic

nicotine delivery system or vapor product by any person, whether done as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee;

[(6)**]** (7) "Drug paraphernalia" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act;

[(7)**]** (8) "Electronic cigarette liquid" means a liquid that, when used in an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product, produces a vapor that may or may not include nicotine and is inhaled by the user of such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product;

[(8)**]** (9) "Electronic nicotine delivery system" means an electronic device used in the delivery of nicotine or other substances to an individual inhaling from the device, and includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device, including, but not limited to, electronic cigarette liquid;

[(9)**]** (10) "Manufacturer registration" means an electronic nicotine delivery system certificate of manufacturer registration issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-415a to any person who mixes, compounds, repackages or resizes any nicotine-containing electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product;

[(10)**]** (11) "Sale" or "sell" means transferring, or offering or attempting to transfer, for consideration, including bartering or exchanging, or offering to barter or exchange by any person, whether done as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee;

[(11)**]** (12) "Tobacco products" has the same meaning as provided in section 12-330a; and

[(12)**]** (13) "Vapor product" means any product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or

mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may include nicotine and is inhaled by the user of such product. "Vapor product" does not include a medicinal or therapeutic product that is (A) used by a licensed health care provider to treat a patient in a health care setting, (B) used by a patient, as prescribed or directed by a licensed health care provider in any setting, or (C) any drug or device, as defined in the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 321, as amended from time to time, any combination product, as described in said act, 21 USC 353(g), as amended from time to time, or any biological product, as described in 42 USC 262, as amended from time to time, and 21 CFR 600.3, as amended from time to time, authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

(b) (1) No person in this state may sell or possess with intent to sell an electronic nicotine delivery system or a vapor product unless such person is employed by, an agent of or directly affiliated with a business entity that maintains a dealer registration issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to this section. A separate dealer registration shall be required for each place of business where such system or product is sold, offered for sale or possessed with the intent to sell. A dealer registration shall allow the sale of electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products at such place of business. A holder of a dealer registration shall post such registration in a prominent location adjacent to electronic nicotine delivery system products or vapor products offered for sale.

(2) The holder of a dealer registration shall maintain a sign, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner and posted on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site, on all external entry doors of the location operated under such dealer registration, which shall clearly disclose that cannabis may not be sold at such location.

(3) Each holder of a dealer registration that derives at least fifty per

cent of its annual gross revenue from sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products shall verify, with a valid government-issued driver's license or identity card, the age of each individual entering the location operated under such dealer registration, and shall prohibit any individual younger than twenty-one years of age from entering such location.

(4) (A) Each holder of a dealer registration shall maintain a complete set of records required pursuant to this section, **[**and**]** including, but not limited to, (i) all financial records necessary to verify whether such holder derives at least fifty per cent of its annual gross revenue from sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products, for the then current tax year and the three immediately preceding tax years, and (ii) for a dealer registration initially issued on or after January 1, 2027, all records necessary to verify that not more than twenty-five per cent of the total floor area dedicated to sales at the location that is operated under such dealer registration is dedicated to sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products, including, but not limited to, floor plans depicting the total floor area dedicated to sales and the portions of such total floor area dedicated to sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products. **[**Such**]**

(B) Each holder of a dealer registration shall make **[**such**]** the records maintained pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision immediately available to the department, upon a request made by the department, for inspection and copying by the department. Such holder shall produce such records to the department not later than three days after the department requests such records. Such holder shall produce

such records to the department in an electronic format, unless it is commercially impractical to produce such records to the department in an electronic format. No person shall use any foreign language, code or symbol in maintaining the records required under this section.

(c) (1) Any applicant for a dealer registration or a renewal of a dealer registration shall apply to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, which application shall include, at a minimum:

(A) The name, address and electronic mail address of the applicant;

(B) The location that is to be operated, or is operated, under such dealer registration;

(C) The name of, and contact information for, each individual who has a direct or indirect financial interest in such applicant, unless (i) such applicant is a publicly traded company listed on a national stock exchange, or (ii) the financial interest held by such individual owner and such individual's spouse, parents and children, in the aggregate, does not exceed **[**ten**]** five per cent of the total ownership or interest rights in such applicant;

(D) A third-party local and national criminal background check for each owner listed on such application, which background check shall (i) be conducted by a third-party consumer reporting agency or background screening company that is in compliance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and accredited by the Professional Background Screening Association, (ii) include a multistate and multijurisdiction criminal record locator or other similar commercial nation-wide database with validation and such other background screening as the commissioner may require, and (iii) be requested by such applicant not more than sixty days prior to submission of such application;

(E) The name of the individual who shall serve as the fiduciary agent and guarantor for such applicant, which individual shall be personally liable in the event of any noncompliance that results in a debt owed to the department;

(F) A disclosure of any enforcement action against, and any negotiated settlement entered into by, such applicant or any owner disclosed pursuant to this subsection, which action or settlement is related to the sale of cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems, tobacco products or vapor products;

(G) The name of a manager or supervisor who is or will be physically present at such applicant's location or proposed location; **[**and**]**

(H) A certification that (i) an authorized owner or named designee of such applicant has successfully completed the online prevention education program administered by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services pursuant to section 17a-719, and (ii) all electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products offered for sale by the applicant on or after January 1, 2027, comply with federal and state law, including the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 387 et seq., as amended from time to time;

(I) In the case of an application for an initial dealer registration submitted on or after January 1, 2027, a certification that (i) such applicant's annual gross revenue from sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products will not exceed fifty per cent of such applicant's annual gross revenue from all sales at the location that is to be operated under such dealer registration, and (ii) not more than twenty-five per cent of the total floor area dedicated to sales at the location that is to be operated under such dealer registration will be dedicated to sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco

products and vapor products; and

(J) In the case of an application for renewal of a dealer registration initially issued on or after January 1, 2027, such information as the department requires to determine that, during the registration period immediately preceding such renewal, (i) such applicant's annual gross revenue from sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products did not exceed fifty per cent of such applicant's annual gross revenue from all sales at the location operated under such dealer registration, and (ii) not more than twenty-five per cent of the total floor area dedicated to sales at the location operated under such dealer registration was dedicated to sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products.

(2) The Department of Consumer Protection: (A) May require that an applicant submit documents sufficient to establish that state and local building, fire and zoning requirements will be met at the location of any sale; (B) may, in the department's discretion, conduct an investigation to determine whether a dealer registration shall be issued to an applicant; and (C) shall not issue a dealer registration or a renewal of a dealer registration to an applicant unless the applicant certifies that an authorized owner or named designee of the applicant has successfully completed the online prevention education program administered by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services pursuant to section 17a-719.

(3) The commissioner shall issue a dealer registration or a renewal of a dealer registration to any such applicant not later than thirty days after the date of application, unless the commissioner finds: (A) The applicant, or any individual named in such application pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, has made a materially false or misleading statement in such application or in any

other application made to the commissioner; (B) the applicant has neglected to pay any taxes due to this state; (C) the authorized owner or named designee of the applicant has not successfully completed the online prevention education program administered by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services pursuant to section 17a-719; (D) the third-party local and national criminal background check for any authorized owner or named designee of the applicant [has a criminal history that is] affords a sufficient basis for denial under section 46a-80; [or] (E) the applicant, any authorized owner of the applicant or any entity owned or managed by any individual named in the applicant's application pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection (i) has [violated] committed multiple violations of any other provision of this section, (ii) is the subject of a delinquency assessment by the Department of Revenue Services, or (iii) is the subject of any other adverse determination by a government agency; or (F) in the case of an application for an initial dealer registration submitted on or after January 1, 2027, that the commissioner has already issued one dealer registration for every two thousand five hundred residents of the town in which the location that is to be operated under such dealer registration will be located, as determined by the most recently completed decennial census.

(4) A dealer registration issued under this section shall be renewed annually, [and] except the department shall not renew a dealer registration initially issued on or after January 1, 2027, if the department determines that the applicant for renewal of such dealer registration does not satisfy the criteria established in subparagraph (J) of subdivision (1) of this subsection. A dealer registration issued under this section may be suspended or revoked at the discretion of the Department of Consumer Protection. A dealer registration shall not constitute property, nor shall it be subject to attachment and execution, nor shall it be alienable. Each holder of a dealer registration shall annually attest in each renewal application as to whether such holder

derived at least fifty per cent of its annual gross revenue from sales of cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, electronic nicotine delivery systems, nicotine products, synthetic nicotine, tobacco products and vapor products.

(5) The applicant shall pay to the department a nonrefundable application fee of one thousand dollars, which fee shall be in addition to the annual fee prescribed in subsection (d) of this section. An application fee shall not be charged for an application to renew a dealer registration.

(d) The annual fee for a dealer registration shall be eight hundred dollars.

(e) (1) The Department of Consumer Protection may renew a dealer registration issued under this section that has expired if the applicant pays to the department any late fee imposed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to subsection (d) of section 21a-4, which late fee shall be in addition to the fees prescribed in this section for the dealer registration applied for.

(2) A person holding a dealer registration shall update, through the Department of Consumer Protection's online licensing system, any application information such person has provided to the department pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, any contact information, ownership information or criminal histories of the individual owners of the business entity, not later than thirty days after any change in such information.

(3) A person holding a dealer registration shall be deemed to have constructive notice of communications sent by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to an electronic mail address provided by such person.

(f) (1) Any business entity in the state that sells, offers for sale or possesses with intent to sell an electronic nicotine delivery system or

vapor product without a dealer registration as required under this section shall, after a hearing conducted pursuant to chapter 54, be fined not more than five thousand dollars per violation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, any business entity with a dealer registration that has expired for a period of ninety calendar days or less and that, during such ninety-day period, sells, offers for sale or possesses with intent to sell an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars for each day such business entity is in violation of the provisions of this subdivision.

[(3) A person holding a dealer registration shall update, through the Department of Consumer Protection's online licensing system, any application information such person has provided to the department pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, any contact information, ownership information or criminal histories of the individual owners of the business entity, not later than thirty days after any change in such information.**]**

(g) (1) For sufficient cause found as set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may suspend or revoke a dealer registration, issue fines of not more than ten thousand dollars per violation, accept an offer in compromise or refuse to grant or renew a dealer registration, **[**or**]** place the registrant on probation, place conditions on such registrant or take other actions authorized by law. No information derived from an inspection or investigation conducted by the Department of Consumer Protection related to an administrative complaint or case shall be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, unless the department has entered into a settlement agreement, or otherwise concluded its investigation or inspection as evidenced by case closure. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the department from sharing any information with another state or federal agency or law

enforcement insofar as such information relates to an investigation of any suspected violation of applicable law.

(2) Any of the following shall constitute sufficient cause for the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection:

(A) Furnishing any false or fraudulent information in an application or any failure to comply with the representations made in an application;

(B) A civil judgment against, or conviction of, an owner or applicant, after review and application of the denial criteria set forth in section 46a-80;

(C) Any failure to maintain effective controls against diversion, theft or loss of electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products;

(D) Any denial, suspension or revocation of a license or registration related to the sale of cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems, tobacco products or vapor products, or any denial of a renewal of a license or registration related to the sale of cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems, tobacco products or vapor products, by any federal, state or local government or a foreign jurisdiction;

(E) Any false, misleading or deceptive representation made to the public or to the department;

(F) Any involvement in a fraudulent or deceitful practice or transaction;

(G) The possession, offer or sale of any illegal or controlled substance by the registrant, any owner of the registrant or any person with a financial interest in the registrant, unless otherwise permitted by applicable law;

(H) Any failure to register a trade name of the business entity with

the town in which the registrant engages in business;

(I) Any failure to notify the department of any change in the information concerning the business entity, owners, ownership information or designated manager or supervisor;

(J) Any adverse administrative decision or delinquency assessment against the registrant by the Department of Revenue Services;

(K) Any failure to cooperate, provide unfettered access to the location or provide information to the department, local law enforcement authorities or any other enforcement agency concerning any matter arising out of conduct in connection with a licensee or registrant;

(L) Advertising an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product in any manner that (i) is designed to appeal to individuals who are younger than twenty-one years of age by, among other things, (I) making use of any spokesperson or celebrity who appeals to individuals who are under the legal age to purchase electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products, (II) depicting any individual who is younger than twenty-five years of age using an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product, (III) including any object, such as a toy, character or cartoon character, that suggests the presence of an individual who is younger than twenty-one years of age, or (IV) making use of any other depiction or method that is designed in any manner to be appealing to an individual who is younger than twenty-one years of age, or (ii) claims or implies that (I) any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product has any curative or therapeutic effect, or (II) any medical claim is true;

(M) Allowing an employee to promote any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product for a wellness purpose; **[**or**]**

(N) Any failure to maintain records, or make records immediately available to the department, in accordance with the provisions of

subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section; or

[(N)**]** (O) Any failure to comply with any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(h) (1) Upon refusal to issue or renew a dealer registration, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall notify the applicant of the denial and of the applicant's right to request a hearing not later than ten days after the applicant receives the notice of denial. If the applicant requests a hearing within such ten-day period, the commissioner shall give notice of the grounds for the commissioner's refusal and shall conduct a hearing concerning such refusal in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 concerning contested cases. If the commissioner's denial is sustained after such hearing, the applicant shall not apply for a new dealer registration for a period of one year after the date on which such denial was sustained.

[(i)**]** (2) No person whose dealer registration has been revoked, including the owners of such registrant, and any person with a financial interest in such registrant, shall apply for a dealer registration or have a financial interest in an applicant under this section for a period of one year after the date of such revocation.

[(j)**]** (3) The voluntary surrender of a dealer registration, or the failure to renew a dealer registration, shall not prevent the Commissioner of Consumer Protection from suspending or revoking such dealer registration or imposing other penalties permitted by applicable law.

(i) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may impose a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars for each electronic nicotine delivery system and vapor product sold, offered for sale or marketed in violation of this section. For purposes of this subdivision, each such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product shall constitute a separate violation.

(j) (1) Any electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product sold, offered for sale or marketed in violation of this section by a registrant shall be deemed a common nuisance and shall be subject to immediate seizure by the state or local police. The authorized officer shall hold such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product subject to confiscation and destruction by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. All costs of such seizure, confiscation and destruction shall be borne by the registrant selling, offering for sale or marketing such electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product.

(2) Any controlled substance or cannabis sold, offered for sale or marketed by a registrant in violation of chapter 420b, 420f or 420h, as applicable, or regulations adopted thereunder, shall be subject to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(k) A violation of this section shall be an unfair trade practice pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

[(k)**]** (l) All fees, settlement amounts and fines collected under this section shall be deposited in the consumer protection enforcement account established in section 21a-8a.

Sec. 34. Section 20-419 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Business entity" means an association, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or partnership.

(2) "Certificate" means a certificate of registration issued under section 20-422.

(3) "Commissioner" means (A) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, and (B) any person designated by the commissioner to

administer and enforce this chapter.

(4) (A) "Contractor" means any person who (i) owns and operates a home improvement business, or (ii) undertakes, offers to undertake or agrees to perform any home improvement.

(B) "Contractor" does not include a person for whom the total price of all of such person's home improvement contracts with all of such person's customers does not exceed one thousand dollars during any period of twelve consecutive months.

(5) (A) "Home improvement" includes, but is not limited to, the repair, replacement, remodeling, alteration, conversion, modernization, improvement, rehabilitation or sandblasting of, or addition to, any land or building or that portion thereof which is used or designed to be used as a private residence, dwelling place or residential rental property, or the construction, replacement, installation or improvement of alarm systems not requiring electrical work, as defined in section 20-330, as amended by this act, driveways, swimming pools, porches, garages, roofs, siding, insulation, sunrooms, flooring, patios, landscaping, fences, doors and windows, waterproofing, water, fire or storm restoration or mold remediation in connection with such land or building or that portion thereof which is used or designed to be used as a private residence, dwelling place or residential rental property or the removal or replacement of a residential underground heating oil storage tank system, in which the total price for all work agreed upon between the contractor and owner or proposed or offered by the contractor exceeds two hundred dollars.

(B) "Home improvement" does not include (i) the construction of a new home, (ii) the sale of goods or materials by a seller who neither arranges to perform nor performs, directly or indirectly, any work or labor in connection with the installation or application of the goods or materials, (iii) the sale of goods or services furnished for commercial or

business use or for resale, provided commercial or business use does not include use as residential rental property, (iv) the sale of appliances, such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners and others, which are designed for and are easily removable from the premises without material alteration thereof, (v) tree or shrub cutting or the grinding of tree stumps, and (vi) any work performed without compensation by the owner on such owner's own private residence or residential rental property.

(6) "Home improvement contract" means an agreement between a contractor and an owner for the performance of a home improvement.

(7) "Mold" means any form of fungi that grows in the form of multicellular filaments known as hyphae and reproduces by way of small spores.

(8) "Mold remediation" means the removal, cleaning, sanitizing, demolition or other treatment of mold or mold-contaminated matter in a building.

[(7)**]** (9) "Owner" means a person who owns or resides in a private residence and includes any agent thereof, including, but not limited to, a condominium association. An owner of a private residence shall not be required to reside in such residence to be deemed an owner under this subdivision.

[(8)**]** (10) "Person" means an individual or a business entity.

[(9)**]** (11) "Private residence" means a single family dwelling, a multifamily dwelling consisting of not more than six units, or a unit, common element or limited common element in a condominium, as defined in section 47-68a, or in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202, or any number of condominium units for which a condominium association acts as an agent for such unit owners.

[(10)**]** (12) "Proprietor" means an individual who (A) has an ownership interest in a business entity that holds or has held a certificate of registration issued under this chapter, and (B) has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have violated any provision of this chapter related to the conduct of a business entity holding a certificate or that has held a certificate issued under this chapter within the two years of the effective date of entering into a contract with an owner harmed by the actions of such individual or business entity.

[(11)**]** (13) "Salesman" means any individual who (A) negotiates or offers to negotiate a home improvement contract with an owner, or (B) solicits or otherwise endeavors to procure by any means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, a home improvement contract from an owner on behalf of a contractor.

[(12)**]** (14) "Residential rental property" means a single family dwelling, a multifamily dwelling consisting of not more than six units, or a unit, common element or limited common element in a condominium, as defined in section 47-68a, or in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202, which is not owner-occupied.

[(13)**]** (15) "Residential underground heating oil storage tank system" means an underground storage tank system used with or without ancillary components in connection with real property composed of four or less residential units.

[(14)**]** (16) "Underground storage tank system" means an underground tank or combination of tanks, with any underground pipes or ancillary equipment or containment systems connected to such tank or tanks, used to contain an accumulation of petroleum, which volume is ten per cent or more beneath the surface of the ground.

Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 20-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

1, 2026):

(a) (1) No person shall hold such person out to be a contractor or salesperson without first obtaining a certificate of registration from the commissioner as provided in this chapter, except **[**(1)**]** (A) that an individual or partner, or officer or director of a corporation registered as a contractor shall not be required to obtain a salesperson's certificate, and **[**(2)**]** (B) as provided in subsections (e) and (f) of this section.

(2) No certificate shall be given to any person who holds such person out to be a contractor that performs radon mitigation unless such contractor provides evidence, satisfactory to the commissioner, that the contractor is certified as a radon mitigator by the National Radon Safety Board or the National Environmental Health Association.

(3) No certificate shall be given to any person who holds such person out to be a contractor that performs removal or replacement of any residential underground heating oil storage tank system unless such contractor provides evidence, satisfactory to the commissioner, that the contractor (A) has completed a hazardous material training program approved by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and (B) has presented evidence of liability insurance coverage of one million dollars.

(4) No certificate shall be given to any person who holds such person out to be a contractor that performs mold remediation unless such contractor provides an attestation, satisfactory to the commissioner, that the contractor (A) is certified in mold remediation by the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification, (B) is certified as a mold remediator by the National Organization of Remediators and Microbial Inspectors, or (C) is certified to perform mold remediation by any organization approved by the commissioner, provided the commissioner posts notice of such approval and the name of such approved organization on the department's Internet web site.

Sec. 36. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) No contractor shall perform any mold remediation in this state unless such contractor performs such remediation in accordance with the ANSI/IICRC S520 "Standard for Professional Mold Remediation, Fourth Edition", or any successor or revision to said standard approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, provided the commissioner posts notice of such approval and the name of such approved successor or revision on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site.

Sec. 37. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The Department of Consumer Protection shall, within available appropriations, make available on the department's Internet web site information for homeowners who have suffered a catastrophic loss due to fire or water damage and are seeking to engage professionals.

Sec. 38. Subparagraph (E) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 1 of public act 26-6 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

(E) While the consumer is in any area of a facility or institution that is used to provide any health care service or veterinary service, including, but not limited to, any examination room or operating room, unless (i) such facility or institution does not include an area that is separated from the areas of such facility or institution used to provide health care services or veterinary services, or (ii) if such consumer's animal or an animal under such consumer's care is receiving any veterinary service, relocating such consumer to an area that is separated from the areas of such facility or institution used to provide veterinary services would, **[**not,**]** in the veterinary care provider's professional judgment, pose a risk of harm to such animal;

Sec. 39. Section 1 of public act 26-64 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

As used in this section and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64 and this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Accessible deletion mechanism" means the mechanism established pursuant to subsection (a) of section 5 of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64 and this act;

(2) "Applicant" means any data broker that submits an application for an initial registration, or for a registration renewal, under subsection (b) of section 2 of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64;

(3) "Brokered personal data" means one or more of the following personal data elements concerning a consumer, if categorized or organized for sale or license to a third party: (A) Name; (B) address; (C) date of birth; (D) place of birth; (E) mother's maiden name; (F) unique biometric data (i) generated from measurement or technical analysis of a human body characteristic, including, but not limited to, a fingerprint, retina or iris image or other unique physical or digital representation of biometric data, and (ii) used by the owner or licensee of such unique biometric data to identify or authenticate the consumer; (G) name or address of a member of the consumer's immediate family or household; (H) Social Security number or other government-issued identification number; or (I) other information that, alone or in combination with the other information sold or licensed, would allow a reasonable person to identify the consumer with reasonable certainty;

(4) "Business" (A) means (i) any person who regularly engages in commercial activities for the purpose of generating income, (ii) any bank, Connecticut credit union, federal credit union, out-of-state bank, out-of-state trust company or out-of-state credit union, as such terms are defined in section 36a-2 of the general statutes, and (iii) any other person who controls, is controlled by or is under common control with any person described in subparagraph (A)(i) or (A)(ii) of this subdivision, and (B) does not include any body, authority, board, bureau,

commission, district or agency of this state or of any political subdivision of this state;

(5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(6) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515 of the general statutes, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-64;

(7) "Data broker" means any business or, if such business is not an individual, any portion of such business that sells or licenses brokered personal data to another person;

[(8) "Data service provider" means any person who maintains personal data on behalf of a registered data broker;**]**

[(9)**]** (8) "Deletion request" means any request submitted by a consumer under subparagraph (A)(i) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 5 of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64 and this act;

[(10)**]** (9) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

[(11)**]** (10) "HIPAA" means the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 USC 1320d et seq., as amended from time to time;

[(12)**]** (11) "License" (A) means to grant access to, or distribute, brokered personal data in exchange for consideration, and (B) does not include using any personal data for the sole benefit of the person who provided such personal data if such person maintains control over the use of such personal data;

[(13)**]** (12) "Minor" means any consumer who is younger than eighteen years of age;

[(14)] (13) "Participating consumer" means any consumer who submits a verified deletion request;

[(15)] (14) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515 of the general statutes, as amended by [this act] public act 26-64;

[(16)] (15) "Personal data" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515 of the general statutes, as amended by [this act] public act 26-64;

[(17)] (16) "Registered data broker" means any data broker that is actively registered as a data broker in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of [this act] public act 26-64; and

[(18)] (17) "Unregistered data broker" means any data broker that is not actively registered as a data broker in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of [this act] public act 26-64.

Sec. 40. Section 5 of public act 26-64 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Not later than July 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall establish an accessible deletion mechanism program. As part of the accessible deletion mechanism program, the commissioner shall establish an accessible deletion mechanism that:

(A) Enables a consumer to (i) submit a deletion request, in a verifiable form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, without charge to the consumer and in [any language spoken] English, Spanish or any other language spoken by a consumer for whom a registered data broker has collected personal data and at home by at least one per cent of the state's population, according to statistics prepared by the United States Census Bureau based on the most recent decennial census, that all registered data brokers [and data service providers] delete the consumer's personal data, and (ii) specifically exclude one or more

registered data brokers **[**, and all data service providers for such registered data broker or brokers,**]** from the consumer's deletion request;

(B) Enables a consumer to (i) securely submit, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, (I) **[**the consumer's motor vehicle operator's license number**]** information sufficient to establish that the consumer is a resident of this state, and (II) additional personal data to aid in processing the consumer's deletion request, (ii) determine the status of the consumer's deletion request, and (iii) not more frequently than once during any forty-five-day period, submit an update to the participating consumer's verified deletion request in a verifiable form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, without charge to such participating consumer and in **[**any language spoken**]** English, Spanish or any other language spoken by a consumer for whom a registered data broker has collected personal data and at home by at least one per cent of the state's population, according to statistics prepared by the United States Census Bureau based on the most recent decennial census;

(C) Enables a registered data broker to determine whether a consumer has specifically excluded the registered data broker **[**, and all data service providers for such registered data broker,**]** from the consumer's deletion request or any update thereto;

(D) Does not enable a registered data broker that accesses the accessible deletion mechanism for the purposes set forth in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision to access any additional personal data by way of such accessible deletion mechanism;

(E) Is readily accessible and usable by consumers with disabilities;

(F) Incorporates reasonable security safeguards, including, but not limited to, administrative, physical and technical safeguards, to protect consumers' personal data from any unauthorized use, disclosure,

access, destruction or modification by way of the accessible deletion mechanism; and

(G) Provides, in a manner that is readily understandable by consumers, (i) a description of what constitutes personal data and therefore may be subject to a deletion request, (ii) an explanation of the processes for a consumer to submit and update a deletion request, and (iii) a description of the actions required under subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(2) (A) If a consumer submits the consumer's motor vehicle operator's license number to the commissioner for the purpose of verifying such consumer's deletion request or any update thereto, the commissioner shall use such consumer's motor vehicle operator's license number to verify such deletion request or update and for no other purpose. **[**The commissioner shall not share, store or retain such consumer's motor vehicle operator's license number.**]**

(B) Each deletion request and update thereto is confidential and shall not be deemed a public record for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes.

(b) On and after August 15, 2028, and except as provided in section 7 of **[**this act**]** <u>public act 26-64</u>, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's authorized agent, shall:

(1) Verify that the consumer who purportedly submitted a deletion request or update thereto actually submitted such deletion request or update by using <u>information submitted by</u> such **[**consumer's motor vehicle operator's license number**]** <u>consumer sufficient to establish that such consumer is a resident of this state</u> and, following such verification, update the accessible deletion mechanism to inform each registered data broker that accesses the accessible deletion mechanism that such deletion request or update has been verified; and

(2) If the commissioner, or the commissioner's authorized agent, cannot verify that the consumer who purportedly submitted a deletion request or update thereto actually submitted such deletion request or update, specify that all registered data brokers [, and all data service providers for such registered data brokers,] that are not specifically excluded from such unverified deletion request or such unverified update (A) may retain any personal data such registered data brokers [and data service providers] maintain concerning such consumer, and (B) shall process such unverified deletion request or such unverified update as an exercise of such consumer's right under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 42-518 of the general statutes, as amended by [this act] public act 26-64.

(c) (1) On and after October 1, 2028, and except as provided in section 7 of [this act] public act 26-64, each registered data broker shall access the accessible deletion mechanism at least once every forty-five days to:

(A) Examine each deletion request or update thereto to determine whether such registered data broker [, and all data service providers for such registered data broker, are] is specifically excluded from such deletion request or update; and

(B) (i) For each verified deletion request or verified update thereto that does not specifically exclude such registered data broker, [and all data service providers for such registered data broker, and] subject to the exceptions set forth in subdivision (5) of this subsection, delete any personal data such registered data broker maintains concerning the participating consumer, [and direct all data service providers that maintain any personal data concerning the participating consumer on behalf of such registered data broker to delete such personal data] except such registered data broker shall maintain any such personal data to the extent that maintaining such personal data is necessary to comply with the provisions of this section and, if such registered data broker maintains such personal data for such purpose, not use such

personal data for any other purpose; or

(ii) For each unverified deletion request or unverified update thereto that does not specifically exclude such registered data broker, [and all data service providers for such registered data broker,] (I) retain any personal data such registered data broker maintains concerning the consumer, and (II) process such unverified deletion request or such unverified update [, and direct all data service providers for such registered data broker to process such unverified deletion request or such unverified update,] as an exercise of the consumer's right under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 42-518 of the general statutes, as amended by [this act] public act 26-64.

(2) At least once every forty-five days after a registered data broker first deletes a participating consumer's personal data pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, repeat the actions required under subparagraph (B)(i) of subdivision (1) of this subsection unless:

(A) Such registered data broker verifies that the participating consumer has submitted a verified update to a verified deletion request such participating consumer previously submitted to the accessible deletion mechanism; and

(B) Such verified update specifically excludes such registered data broker [and all data service providers for such registered data broker] from the verified updated deletion request.

(3) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may impose a fee on each registered data broker that accesses the accessible deletion mechanism for the purposes of performing such registered data broker's duties under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection. Such fee shall be in an amount determined by the commissioner, but shall not exceed the cost of providing such access. All fees collected under this

subdivision shall be deposited in the data broker registration account established in section 8 of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64.

(4) On and after October 1, 2028, and except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, no registered data broker **[**, and no data service provider for such registered data broker,**]** that deletes a participating consumer's personal data pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection shall maintain, use or disclose any personal data such registered data broker **[**or data service provider**]** subsequently acquires concerning the participating consumer.

(5) (A) No registered data broker who maintains a participating consumer's personal data **[**, and no data service provider for such registered data broker,**]** shall be required to delete the participating consumer's personal data, and may maintain, use or disclose such consumer's personal data, to the extent that maintaining, using or disclosing such participating consumer's personal data is reasonably necessary to (i) comply with any federal, state or municipal law, ordinance or regulation, (ii) comply with any civil, criminal or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena or summons by any federal, state, municipal or other governmental authority, (iii) cooperate with any law enforcement agency concerning any conduct or activity that such registered data broker **[**or data service provider**]** reasonably and in good faith believes may violate any federal, state or municipal law, ordinance or regulation, (iv) investigate, establish, exercise, prepare for or defend any legal claim, (v) provide any product or service specifically requested by such participating consumer, (vi) perform pursuant to any contract to which such participating consumer is a party, including, but not limited to, by fulfilling the terms of a written warranty, (vii) take any step at the request of such participating consumer prior to entering into a contract, (viii) take any immediate step to protect any interest that is essential for the life or physical safety of such participating consumer or

another individual, (ix) prevent, detect, protect against or respond to any security incident, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activity or any illegal activity, preserve the integrity or security of any system or investigate, report or prosecute those responsible for any such action, (x) engage in any public or peer-reviewed scientific or statistical research in the public interest that adheres to all other applicable ethics and privacy laws and is approved, monitored and governed by an institutional review board, or a similar independent oversight entity, that determines that (I) maintaining such participating consumer's personal data is likely to provide substantial benefits that do not exclusively accrue to such registered data broker, **[**or data service provider,**]** (II) the expected benefits of such research outweigh the privacy risks, and (III) such registered data broker **[**or data service provider**]** has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate any privacy risk associated with such research, (xi) assist any other person in performing any obligation imposed under sections 1 to 10, inclusive, of **[**this act**]** <u>public act 26-64 and this act</u>, (xii) conduct internal research to develop, improve or repair any product, service or technology, (xiii) effectuate a product recall, (xiv) identify and repair any technical error that impairs existing or intended functionality, or (xv) perform internal operations that are reasonably aligned with the expectations such participating consumer had, or reasonably anticipated, based on such participating consumer's existing relationship with such registered data broker.

(B) Except as provided in section 7 of **[**this act**]** <u>public act 26-64</u>, no registered data broker **[**, or data service provider for such registered data broker,**]** that maintains, uses or discloses a participating consumer's personal data for any purpose set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall maintain, use or disclose the participating consumer's personal data for any other purpose.

(d) (1) Except as provided in section 7 of **[**this act**]** <u>public act 26-64</u>,

not later than July 1, 2031, and triennially thereafter, each registered data broker shall, at the expense of such registered data broker, (A) retain an independent auditor to (i) audit the books of such registered data broker to determine whether such registered data broker is in compliance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, (ii) prepare an audit report disclosing the results of such audit, and (iii) submit such audit report, and any materials associated therewith, to such registered data broker, and (B) maintain each audit report, and any materials associated therewith, that are submitted to such registered data broker pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii) of this subdivision for a period of at least six years beginning on the date on which such audit report and materials are submitted to such registered data broker.

(2) Except as provided in section 7 of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64, a registered data broker shall submit an audit report and the materials described in subparagraph (A)(iii) of subdivision (1) of this subsection to the Department of Consumer Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, not later than five business days after the department sends notice to the registered data broker disclosing that the department requires such registered data broker to submit such audit report and materials to the department.

(e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may enter into a contract with one or more public or private entities (1) for any services necessary to implement the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, (2) to administer the accessible deletion mechanism program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (3) to administer a multistate accessible deletion mechanism program.

Sec. 41. Subdivision (1) of section 6 of public act 26-64 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(1) The total number of deletion requests, inclusive of any updates

thereto, that such business accessed during the preceding calendar year and that did not specifically exclude such business; [and all data service providers for such business;]

Sec. 42. Subsection (a) of section 7 of public act 26-64 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The provisions of sections 1 to 10, inclusive, of [this act] public act 26-64 shall not apply to: (1) [A] Personal data collected, processed, sold or disclosed in compliance with the Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 USC 2721 et seq., as amended from time to time; (2) a covered entity, business associate or protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time; (3) a consumer reporting agency, as defined in 15 USC 1681a(f), as amended from time to time, a person who furnishes information to a consumer reporting agency, as provided in 15 USC 1681s-2, as amended from time to time, or a user of a consumer report, as defined in 15 USC 1681a(d), as amended from time to time, to the extent that the consumer reporting agency, person or user engages in activities that are subject to regulation under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 USC 1681 et seq., as amended from time to time; [(2)] (4) a financial institution, an affiliate or a nonaffiliated third party, as such terms are defined in 15 USC 6809, as amended from time to time, to the extent that the financial institution, affiliate or nonaffiliated third party engages in activities that are subject to regulation under Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 USC 6801 et seq., and the regulations adopted thereunder, as said act and such regulations may be amended from time to time; [(3)] (5) a business that collects information concerning a consumer if the consumer is or was (A) in a contractual relationship with the business, (B) an investor in the business, (C) a donor to the business, or (D) in any relationship with the business that is similar to the relationships described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this subdivision; [(4)] (6) a business that performs services

for, or is acting as an agent or otherwise on behalf of, a business described in subdivision **[**(3)**]** (5) of this subsection or a governmental entity; **[**(5)**]** (7) a business collecting data used for purposes of the regulation of listed chemicals as set forth in 21 USC 830, as amended from time to time; **[**(6)**]** (8) a candidate committee, national committee, party committee or political committee, as such terms are defined in section 9-601 of the general statutes; and **[**(7)**]** (9) a covered entity or business associate, as defined in 45 CFR 160.103.

Sec. 43. Section 10 of public act 26-64 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, after providing notice and conducting a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, may impose a civil penalty of not more than two hundred dollars per day per consumer for each violation of any provision of sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64. Any civil penalties collected under this section shall be deposited in the data broker registration account established in section 8 of **[**this act**]** public act 26-64.

Sec. 44. (NEW) (*Effective February 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Bona fide market price" means the price at which a consumer good or consumer service is advertised to the public on a regular basis by the retail seller or third-party delivery service for a reasonably substantial period of time;

(2) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515 of the general statutes;

(3) "Consumer good" means any article that is purchased, leased, exchanged or received primarily for personal, family or household purposes;

(4) "Consumer service" means any service that is purchased, leased, exchanged or received primarily for personal, family or household purposes;

(5) "Discounted price" means any price for a consumer good or consumer service that is (A) established for, or offered to, a consumer or group of consumers, and (B) verifiably lower than the generally available, publicly disclosed and bona fide market price established for the consumer good or consumer service;

(6) "Person" means any individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

(7) "Personal data" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515 of the general statutes;

(8) "Retail seller" (A) means a retailer, as defined in section 12-407 of the general statutes, to the extent such retailer is engaged in making in-person sales, at retail, of tangible personal property, and (B) includes, but is not limited to, a retail food establishment;

(9) "Surveillance pricing" means the practice of establishing a customized price for a consumer good or consumer service that is specific to a consumer or group of consumers based, in whole or in part, on the consumer's personal data collected (A) through any technology or technological method, system or tool, including, but not limited to, any biometric monitoring, camera, device tracking or sensor, that is used to gather personal data in a physical or digital environment, and (B) by the person establishing the customized price either directly or indirectly by gathering, purchasing or otherwise acquiring such personal data from a third party; and

(10) "Third-party delivery service" means a company, organization or entity, outside of the operation of a retail food establishment's business, that facilitates delivery or online ordering services to customers of a

retail food establishment.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, any person doing business in the state who engages in surveillance pricing for any reason other than to establish a discounted price for a consumer good or consumer service to be sold, leased, exchanged or provided as part of an online transaction, and who directly or indirectly advertises or promotes online a price established for a consumer good or consumer service by using surveillance pricing, labels a consumer good with such price online or publishes an online statement, display, image, offer or announcement disclosing such price, shall include in such online advertisement, promotion, label, statement, display, image, offer or announcement the following disclosure, or a substantially similar disclosure: "THIS PRICE WAS INCREASED USING YOUR PERSONAL DATA". Any person doing business in this state who is required to include such disclosure shall disclose to consumers their rights under section 42-518 of the general statutes. No disclosure shall be required under this subdivision if the advertised, promoted, labeled or published price is the bona fide market price.

(2) The disclosure required under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be readily visible to the average consumer.

(c) (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, no retail seller or third-party delivery service doing business in the state shall engage in surveillance pricing.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the following shall not be deemed to constitute surveillance pricing:

(A) Establishing for, or offering to, a consumer a discounted price for a consumer good or consumer service for purposes such as retaining a consumer as a customer, reestablishing a consumer as a customer,

attracting a consumer as a new customer, cross-selling an item to a consumer or reengaging a lapsed customer;

(B) Establishing for, or offering to, different consumers different prices for the same consumer good or consumer service due to (i) justifiable differences in the costs incurred in providing such consumer good or consumer service to such consumers, including, but not limited to, justifiable differences in consumers' physical locations, consumer selections, delivery distances or delivery times, or (ii) justifiable temporal differences, including, but not limited to, justifiable temporal differences due to price fluctuations based on supply and demand;

(C) Establishing for, or offering to, a consumer or group of consumers a discounted price for a consumer good or consumer service (i) based on publicly disclosed discounted prices and uniform terms and conditions that may be satisfied by any consumer, including, but not limited to, by signing up for a mailing list, registering for promotional communications or participating in a promotional event, (ii) that is available to all consumers who are members of a broadly defined group, including, but not limited to, veterans or members of the armed forces, senior citizens, students, teachers or residents of a specific area, based on publicly disclosed discounts and uniform terms and conditions, or (iii) through a loyalty, membership or rewards program in which consumers must affirmatively enroll. The retail seller or third-party delivery service shall prominently post the discount and discounted price, and the uniform terms and conditions for such discount and discounted price, on such retail seller's or third-party delivery service's Internet web site in language that is readily understandable by the average consumer; or

(D) Correcting a price resulting from a pricing error or resetting a price following a system or network outage.

(d) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall not

be construed to apply to:

(1) Any person licensed, authorized to operate or registered, or required to be licensed, authorized to operate or registered, pursuant to the insurance laws of this state; or

(2) Any person who can demonstrate that any refusal to extend credit, the terms, rates or pricing on which any credit or financial services are extended or any refusal to enter into a transaction with a specific consumer is based on (A) data provided in a consumer report covered by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 USC 1681 et seq., as amended from time to time, or (B) data reflecting factors a creditor is permitted to consider under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, 15 USC 1681 et seq., as amended from time to time, and the regulations promulgated under said act.

(e) Any violation of the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private right of action or to provide grounds for an action under section 42-110g of the general statutes.

Sec. 45. Subsection (a) of section 42-524 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 12 of public act 25-113, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) Nothing in sections 42-515 to 42-526, inclusive, shall be construed to restrict a controller's, processor's or consumer health data controller's ability to: **[**(1)**]** (A) Comply with federal, state or municipal ordinances or regulations; **[**(2)**]** (B) comply with a civil, criminal or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena or summons by federal, state, municipal or other governmental authorities; **[**(3)**]** (C) cooperate

with law enforcement agencies concerning conduct or activity that the controller, processor or consumer health data controller reasonably and in good faith believes may violate federal, state or municipal ordinances or regulations; [(4)] (D) investigate, establish, exercise, prepare for or defend legal claims; [(5)] (E) provide a product or service specifically requested by a consumer; [(6)] (F) perform [under] pursuant to a contract to which a consumer is a party, including fulfilling the terms of a written warranty; [(7)] (G) take steps at the request of a consumer prior to entering into a contract; [(8)] (H) take immediate steps to protect an interest that is essential for the life or physical safety of the consumer or another individual, and where the processing cannot be manifestly based on another legal basis; [(9)] (I) prevent, detect, protect against or respond to security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities or any illegal activity, preserve the integrity or security of systems or investigate, report or prosecute those responsible for any such action; [(10)] (J) engage in public or peer-reviewed scientific or statistical research in the public interest that adheres to all other applicable ethics and privacy laws and is approved, monitored and governed by an institutional review board that determines, or similar independent oversight entities that determine, [(A)] (i) whether the deletion of the information is likely to provide substantial benefits that do not exclusively accrue to the controller or consumer health data controller, [(B)] (ii) the expected benefits of the research outweigh the privacy risks, and [(C)] (iii) whether the controller or consumer health data controller has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate privacy risks associated with research, including any risks associated with re-identification; [(11)] (K) assist another controller, processor, consumer health data controller or third party with any of the obligations under sections 42-515 to 42-526, inclusive; or [(12)] (L) process personal data for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, community health or population health, but solely to the extent that such processing is [(A)] (i) subject to suitable and specific measures to safeguard the rights of the consumer whose

personal data are being processed, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) under the responsibility of a professional subject to confidentiality obligations under federal, state or local law.

(2) (A) A controller or consumer health data controller that uses any facial recognition technology on its premises to prevent, detect, protect against or respond to security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities or any illegal activity, preserve the integrity or security of systems or investigate, report or prosecute those responsible for any such action shall: (i) Exclusively use such facial recognition technology to match still images or video to a database maintained exclusively by such controller or consumer health data controller; and (ii) post clearly legible signage at each entrance to the premises where the facial recognition technology described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision is in use, other than an entrance to an area where access is restricted to authorized employees, (I) alerting consumers entering such premises that facial recognition technology is in use at such premises, and (II) that includes a conspicuous hyperlink or quick response code that directs consumers to the facial recognition technology policy maintained by such controller or consumer health data controller.

(B) Each facial recognition technology policy maintained pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) of this subdivision: (i) Shall include contact information for the office of the Attorney General; and (ii) may disclose the controller's or consumer health data controller's policies concerning interactions between such controller's or consumer health data controller's loss prevention officers and consumers.

(C) No controller or consumer health data controller shall be required to satisfy the requirements established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision with respect to a consumer if the controller or consumer health data controller has obtained the consumer's consent to use facial recognition technology in the course of a commercial transaction.

Sec. 46. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515 of the general statutes;

(2) "Generative artificial intelligence system" (A) means any technology that uses machine learning to generate images, audio or video, and (B) includes, but is not limited to, any system utilizing deep learning, natural language processing or other computational processing techniques of similar or greater complexity;

(3) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

(4) "Subscription" means an agreement between a subscription-based provider and a consumer under which the subscription-based provider offers a generative artificial intelligence system to the consumer in exchange for a fee, remuneration or compensation of any kind from the consumer; and

(5) "Subscription-based provider" (A) means a person doing business in the state who (i) creates, codes or otherwise produces a generative artificial intelligence system that (I) has more than one million users per month, and (II) is publicly accessible to consumers for personal use, and (ii) provides, or offers to provide, the generative artificial intelligence system to a consumer pursuant to a subscription, and (B) does not include any federal, state or local government agency.

(b) (1) No subscription-based provider shall enter into or renew a subscription with a consumer, or collect any fee, remuneration or compensation of any kind from a consumer for an initial subscription or subscription renewal, unless:

(A) The subscription-based provider has provided to the consumer a written notice disclosing the key terms and conditions of the

subscription; and

(B) The consumer has provided to the subscription-based provider a written notice disclosing that the consumer has accepted the key terms and conditions of the subscription.

(2) The written notice required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall, at a minimum, set forth:

(A) In the case of an initial subscription, material information that is sufficient to enable a reasonable consumer to decide whether to purchase or maintain the subscription, which information shall include, but need not be limited to:

(i) Any quantitative or qualitative limitations, including, but not limited to, any limitations on tokens, images generated or modified or transcription services, the subscription-based provider may impose under the terms of such subscription, including, but not limited to, any such limitations the subscription-based provider may impose in response to conduct by the consumer under such subscription; and

(ii) Whether the subscription-based provider has discretion to limit or eliminate the consumer's access to, or reduce the quantity or quality of, any functionality of the generative artificial intelligence system offered under such subscription; and

(B) In the case of a subscription renewal:

(i) Any quantitative or qualitative limitations described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision that (I) will be imposed for the first time during the subscription renewal term, or (II) were imposed for the immediately preceding subscription term but have been modified for the subscription renewal term; and

(ii) Any discretion described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this

subdivision that the subscription-based provider (I) will be able to exercise for the first time during the subscription renewal term, or (II) was able to exercise during the immediately preceding subscription term but has been modified for the subscription renewal term.

(c) Any violation of the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General. The provisions of section 42-110g of the general statutes, shall not apply to any such violation. Nothing in this section shall be construed as providing the basis for a private right of action.

Sec. 47. (*Effective October 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(2) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

(3) "Independent verification organization" means an independent third-party entity approved as part of the pilot program to assess the adherence of artificial intelligence models to standards reflecting best practices for risk mitigation and the prevention of harm;

(4) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-110a of the general statutes; and

(5) "Pilot program" means the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Department of Consumer Protection shall, within available appropriations, develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of independent verification programs administered by independent third-party entities to assess the adherence of artificial intelligence

models to standards reflecting best practices for the prevention of personal injury, property damage, data privacy harms and other harms. The pilot program shall terminate on March 31, 2031.

(c) An independent third-party entity seeking to participate in the pilot program as an independent verification organization shall submit an application to the Department of Consumer Protection in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Each application shall include:

(1) A description of the scope of the applicant independent third-party entity's independent verification program, including, but not limited to, a description of the harms to be prevented or mitigated and the risks against which such applicant intends to verify that artificial intelligence models implement mitigation measures sufficient to achieve acceptable levels of risk;

(2) For each risk described pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A) a proposed definition of the acceptable levels of risk, (B) metrics that are measurable and can be used to determine whether the acceptable levels of risk defined by the applicant independent third-party entity produce beneficial outcomes, (C) target levels for such metrics, including, but not limited to, the data sources upon which such target levels are based and methods for measurement, and (D) a description of the evaluation and reporting protocol that will be used to determine whether verified artificial intelligence models meet the outcome metrics on an ongoing basis, including, but not limited to, a description of how, where appropriate, the applicant independent third-party entity's methodologies, metrics, benchmarks and verification processes align with relevant guidance, standards and frameworks developed by federal and state authorities, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and international organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers;

(3) A detailed explanation of the applicant independent third-party entity's evaluation and verification processes for such entity's independent verification program, including, but not limited to, how such entity determines whether a person participating in an artificial intelligence model is using industry best practices;

(4) The applicant independent third-party entity's (A) technical, governance and audit methodologies for such entity's independent verification program, (B) ongoing monitoring, reassessment and remediation procedures for such program, including, but not limited to, such entity's (i) corrective action procedures for such program, and (ii) procedures for suspension, revocation or verification of good standing, as applicable, (C) policies to ensure independence and transparency and to avoid conflicts of interest, and (D) governance structure;

(5) The qualifications of the applicant independent third-party entity's personnel who are involved in such entity's independent verification program; and

(6) Any additional information the commissioner requires for the purposes of this section.

(d) The Department of Consumer Protection shall approve not more than five independent verification organizations to participate in the pilot program. Each independent verification organization shall:

(1) Establish and maintain (A) minimum verification and auditing standards for persons seeking verification from such independent verification organization's independent verification program for artificial intelligence models, and (B) procedures for verification suspension or revocation for persons participating in such program;

(2) Share data with, and submit an annual report to, the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(3) Require each person participating in such independent verification organization's independent verification program to participate in such program in a manner that is transparent to the public; and

(4) Establish procedures for reassessment and, if necessary, suspension of verification when a person participating in such program makes a material change to a verified artificial intelligence model, including, but not limited to, a material change to the training data, deployment context or intended use of the verified artificial intelligence model.

(e) (1) Evidence of verification or good standing provided by an independent verification organization shall be admissible solely in a civil action brought by a private party asserting claims for personal injury or property damage caused by an artificial intelligence model, and only to the extent such action relates to a specific harm or risk within such verification's state-approved scope. Such evidence shall not be admissible in any civil or administrative enforcement action brought by the Attorney General or any state agency, nor shall it give rise to any presumption, inference or defense in any such action.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any person whose artificial intelligence model has been verified by an independent verification organization's independent verification program if such person:

(A) Acted in a wilful, wanton or reckless manner;

(B) Materially misrepresented information to the independent verification organization; or

(C) Failed to implement any corrective action required by the independent verification organization as part of such organization's independent verification program.

(f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may suspend or revoke an independent verification organization's approval to participate in the pilot program if the commissioner determines, in the commissioner's discretion, that:

(1) Such independent verification organization's verification process is ineffective or misleading, including, but not limited to, because such organization has failed to verify against the metrics, target levels or specific harms or risks within the scope of such organization's independent verification program;

(2) Such independent verification organization has failed to adhere to any conditions or requirements established under this section;

(3) Such independent verification organization is not an independent third-party entity;

(4) An artificial intelligence model verified by such independent verification organization's independent verification program has caused the type of harm or risk that such program purported to prevent, mitigate or assess, and the occurrence of such harm or manifestation of such risk reflects a material deficiency in such program's methodologies, standards or verification processes; or

(5) Continued participation by such independent verification organization in the pilot program would not be in the public interest.

(g) (1) Not later than December 31, 2028, the Department of Consumer Protection shall, in consultation with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut, evaluate the pilot program and recommend legislation based on such evaluation, including, but not limited to, legislation to modify or extend the pilot program. The evaluation shall:

(A) Be designed to assess the performance and impact of the pilot

program, including, but not limited to, the extent to which the pilot program advanced its purposes as set forth in this section; and

(B) Include, but need not be limited to, (i) a landscape analysis of legislation, laws and executive actions of other states that similarly seek to recognize independent third-party entities to verify the safety of artificial intelligence, and (ii) recommended legislation to establish reciprocity between this state and other states, where appropriate and advantageous.

(2) The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut shall develop appropriate evaluation criteria and methodologies for the evaluation performed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, which criteria and methodologies may take into account:

(A) The structure, requirements and implementation of the pilot program;

(B) Whether the pilot program effectively met its goals, including, but not limited to, (i) its target harm mitigation or prevention levels, (ii) the metrics for the pilot program, and (iii) the target levels for such metrics;

(C) The extent to which industry participated in the pilot program;

(D) The impact of the pilot program on innovation and economic growth;

(E) The effectiveness of the verification standards for participation in the pilot program; and

(F) Whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, modified or established as a permanent program, and, if such pilot program should be continued or established as a permanent program, (i) which state agency should administer such program, and (ii) what

information should be reported to such state agency to ensure that such program is effective.

(h) Not later than January 31, 2029, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, the results of the evaluation performed pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

Sec. 48. Section 21a-8c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 13 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) There shall be a State-Wide Cannabis, Hemp and Controlled Substances Enforcement Board consisting of the Attorney General, the Chief State's Attorney, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, **[**and**]** the Commissioner of Revenue Services and the executive director of the Social Equity Council, or their designees.

(b) The board shall convene quarterly to (1) identify areas of need and enforcement opportunities concerning illegal cannabis sales, intoxicating hemp product sales and controlled substance sales, and (2) examine developments in national trends and best practices concerning cannabis, hemp and controlled substance enforcement.

(c) **[**The quarterly meetings of the board, and all documents related to such meetings, shall not be available to the public or subject to inspection or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200.**]** Any portion of the quarterly meetings of the board during which discussion of identified areas of need and

enforcement opportunities concerning illegal cannabis and controlled substance sales occurs may be held in executive session. No records related to such executive session shall be available to the public or subject to inspection or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude the board from convening in executive session for any other purpose permitted under subdivision (6) of section 1-200.

Sec. 49. Subdivision (29) of section 21a-240 of the general statutes, as amended by section 16 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(29) "Cannabis" (A) means all parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof, whether growing or not; (B) includes (i) every resin extracted from any part of such plant, including, but not limited to, every resin extracted from (I) the mature stalks of such plant, (II) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, or (III) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (ii) every other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such plant or its resin, and (iii) every (I) high-THC hemp product, (II) manufactured cannabinoid, or (III) cannabinol or cannabidiol and chemical compounds which are similar to cannabinol or cannabidiol in chemical structure or which are similar thereto in physiological effect, which are controlled substances under this chapter, except cannabidiol derived from hemp, as defined in section 22-61*l*, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8 and this act, that is not a high-THC hemp product; and (C) does not include (i) the mature stalks of such plant, (ii) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, (iii) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (iv) any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the mature stalks of such plant, (v) the seeds of such plant, (vi) hemp, as defined in section 22-61*l*, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8 and this act, (I) with a total THC concentration of not more than three-tenths

per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (II) that is not a high-THC hemp product, (vii) **[**cannabinol, cannabigerol, cannabichromene or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp, (viii)**]** any substance approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency as a drug and reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency which is included in the same schedule designated by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency, or **[**(ix)**]** (viii) any infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8.

Sec. 50. Section 21a-420d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 54 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a Social Equity Council, which shall be within the Department of Economic and Community Development for administrative purposes only.

(b) The Social Equity Council shall consist of seventeen members as follows:

(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of either social justice or civil rights;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of either social justice or civil rights;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of economic development to help minority-owned businesses;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who has a professional background of not less than five years in providing access to capital to minorities, as defined in section 32-9n;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is from a community that has been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who has a professional background of not less than five years in providing access to capital to minorities, as defined in section 32-9n;

(7) Two appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be designated by the chairperson of the Black Caucus of the General Assembly and one of whom shall be designated by the chairperson of the Puerto Rican and Latino Caucus of the General Assembly;

(8) Five appointed by the Governor, one who is from a community that has been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement, one who has a professional background of not less than five years working in the field of economic development and one who is an executive branch official focused on workforce development;

(9) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee;

(10) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee;

(11) The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee; and

(12) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

(c) (1) In making the appointments in subsection (b) of this section,

the appointing authority shall use best efforts to make appointments that reflect the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the population of the state.

(2) Members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years from the time of appointment and members appointed by any other appointing authority shall serve a term of three years from the time of appointment. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired term.

(3) (A) The Governor shall appoint an interim executive director to operationalize and support the Social Equity Council until, notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council appoints an executive director. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within available appropriations, the council may thereafter appoint an executive director and such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties of the council.

(B) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall adopt bylaws specifying which duties are retained by the members of the council and which duties are delegated to the executive director.

(C) The council may, by a simple majority vote of the members of the council, take any formal personnel action concerning the executive director for any reason.

(D) In addition to the council's authority under subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, if a final review board consisting of the chairperson and the members of the council appointed under subdivisions (1), (2), (5) and (6) of subsection (b) of this section determines, by a simple majority vote of the members of the final review board, that removing the executive director is in the best interest of serving the council's mission, such final review board shall issue a letter to the council recommending that the council remove the executive director.

(4) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the council from among the members of the council. The chairperson shall directly supervise, establish annual goals for and conduct an annual performance review of the executive director.

(5) The chairperson and executive director shall jointly develop, and the council shall review and approve, (A) allocations of moneys in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, for the purposes that the council determines under subsection (a) of section 21a-420f, further the principles of equity, and (B) any plans for expenditures to provide (i) access to capital for businesses, (ii) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business, (iii) funding for workforce education, (iv) funding for community investments, and (v) funding for investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

(d) A majority of the members of the Social Equity Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall, within available appropriations, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings, or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year, may be removed from office by a simple majority vote of the members of the council. The appointing authority shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of any member who is removed from office under this subsection, and shall use best efforts to ensure such appointment reflects the racial, gender and geographic diversity of the population of the state.

(e) The Social Equity Council may (1) request, and shall receive, from any state agency such information and assistance as the council may require to carry out its duties, (2) use such funds as may be available from federal, state or other sources to carry out its duties, (3) enter into contracts or agreements to carry out its duties, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated,

constituent units of the state system of higher education, regional workforce development boards and community development financial institutions, (4) utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, state or federal agencies and organizations as may, from time to time, be offered and needed to carry out its duties, (5) accept any gift, donation or bequest to carry out its duties, (6) conduct such investigations as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties, provided such investigations concern matters, complaints or concerns that (A) are brought before the council by individuals who meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, and (B) relate to the protection, enforcement or advancement of equity under this chapter, (7) hold public hearings, (8) establish such standing committees, as necessary, to carry out its duties, and (9) adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties.

(f) The Social Equity Council shall promote and encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by persons from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement.

(g) Not later than forty-five days after June 22, 2021, or at a later date determined by the Social Equity Council, the council shall establish criteria for proposals to conduct a study under this section and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall post on the State Contracting Portal a request for proposals to conduct a study, and shall select an independent third party to conduct such study and provide detailed findings of fact regarding the following matters in the state or other matters determined by the council:

(1) Historical and present-day social, economic and familial consequences of cannabis prohibition, the criminalization and stigmatization of cannabis use and related public policies;

(2) Historical and present-day structures, patterns, causes and consequences of intentional and unintentional racial discrimination and racial disparities in the development, application and enforcement of cannabis prohibition and related public policies;

(3) Foreseeable long-term social, economic and familial consequences of unremedied past racial discrimination and disparities arising from past and continued cannabis prohibition, stigmatization and criminalization;

(4) Existing patterns of racial discrimination and racial disparities in access to entrepreneurship, employment and other economic benefits arising in the lawful palliative use cannabis sector as established pursuant to chapter 420f; and

(5) Any other matters that the council deems relevant and feasible for study for the purpose of making reasonable and practical recommendations for the establishment of an equitable and lawful adult-use cannabis business sector in this state.

(h) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Equity Council shall, taking into account the results of the study conducted in accordance with subsection (g) of this section, make written recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, consumer protection and the judiciary regarding legislation to implement the provisions of this section. The council shall make recommendations regarding:

(1) Creating programs to ensure that individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement are provided equal access to licenses for cannabis establishments;

(2) Specifying additional qualifications for social equity applicants;

(3) Providing for expedited or priority license processing for each license as a retailer, hybrid retailer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer, product packager, transporter and delivery service license for social equity applicants;

(4) Establishing minimum criteria for any cannabis establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to comply with an approved workforce development plan to reinvest or provide employment and training opportunities for individuals in disproportionately impacted areas;

(5) Establishing criteria for a social equity plan for any cannabis establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to further the principles of equity;

(6) Recruiting individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement to enroll in the workforce training program established pursuant to section 21a-421g;

(7) Potential uses for revenue generated under RERACA to further equity;

(8) Encouraging participation of investors, cannabis establishments and entrepreneurs in the cannabis business accelerator program established pursuant to section 21a-421f;

(9) Establishing a process to best ensure that social equity applicants have access to the capital and training needed to own and operate a cannabis establishment; and

(10) Developing a vendor list of women-owned and minority-owned businesses that cannabis establishments may contract with for necessary

services, including, but not limited to, office supplies, information technology infrastructure and cleaning services.

(i) (1) Not later than August 1, 2021, and annually thereafter until July 31, 2023, the Social Equity Council shall use the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates or any successor data to determine one or more United States census tracts in the state that are a disproportionately impacted area and shall publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site.

(2) Not later than August 1, 2023, the council shall use poverty rate data from the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates, population data from the most recent decennial census and conviction information from databases managed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to identify all United States census tracts in the state that are disproportionately impacted areas and shall publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site. In identifying which census tracts in this state are disproportionately impacted areas and preparing such list, the council shall:

(A) Not deem any census tract with a poverty rate that is less than the state-wide poverty rate to be a disproportionately impacted area;

(B) After eliminating the census tracts described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, rank the remaining census tracts in order from the census tract with the greatest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses to the census tract with the lowest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses; and

(C) Include census tracts in the order of rank described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision until including the next census tract would cause the total population of all included census tracts to exceed twenty-five per cent of the state's population.

(j) After developing criteria for workforce development plans as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this section, the Social Equity Council shall review and approve or deny in writing any such plan submitted by an applicant for a final license. If the Social Equity Council does not approve a workforce development plan for a cannabis establishment on or before July 1, 2025, the cannabis establishment shall submit a workforce development plan to the council not later than October 1, 2025, or sixty days prior to the next renewal date for such cannabis establishment's license, whichever is earlier. Not later than sixty days after the cannabis establishment submits the workforce development plan to the council, the council shall send notice to the cannabis establishment disclosing whether such workforce development plan has been approved, rejected or requires modification.

(k) (1) The Social Equity Council shall develop criteria for evaluating the ownership and control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420m, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420u, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420aa, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420bb, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, or 21a-420cc, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, and shall review and approve or deny in writing such equity joint venture prior to such equity joint venture being licensed under section 21a-420j, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420m, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420u, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420aa, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, 21a-420bb, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, or 21a-420cc, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8. The council shall not approve any equity joint venture applicant which shares with an equity joint venture any individual owner who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8, other than an individual owner in their capacity as a backer licensed under section 21a-420o.

(2) No contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this section shall provide that any change may be made in the ownership or control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, 21a-420m, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, 21a-420u, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, 21a-420aa, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, 21a-420bb, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, or 21a-420cc, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, that would cause such equity joint venture not to be controlled, and at least fifty per cent owned, by an individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, unless:

(A) At least five years have elapsed since a final license was issued to the equity joint venture;

(B) At least ninety days before the proposed effective date of such change, the equity joint venture (i) submits a written notice to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing that the equity joint venture intends to make such change, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, disclosing that such individual may, not later than sixty days before the proposed effective date of such change, submit a written request to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, that the council perform **[**an optional nonfinancial**]** a review of such change pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

(C) If the council receives a written request submitted under subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, the council, not later than **[**thirty**]** fifteen days before the proposed effective date of such change, (i) completes the **[**optional nonfinancial**]** review to determine (I) whether the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has retained legal counsel to advise such individual regarding such change,

understands the structure and implications of such change, understands the financial terms of such change, has engaged with such individual's business partners, if any, to ensure that such change is appropriate and consents to such change free of any coercion or undue pressure, and (II) whether such change complies with the organizational documents of the equity joint venture, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision and the equity joint venture, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing the results of such [optional nonfinancial] review; and

(D) The person acquiring ownership or control of the equity joint venture from the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has paid to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, (i) a nonrefundable transaction processing fee in the amount of eight thousand dollars, which the council shall deposit in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, and (ii) the outstanding balance of all loans issued to the equity joint venture, or the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, as part of the revolving loan program established pursuant to section 21a-421i.

[(3) Nothing in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be construed to authorize the council to delay or reject any change described in said subdivision due to the results of an optional nonfinancial review performed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of said subdivision. Any change made in violation of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be void and of no effect.]

<u>(3) If the council concludes at any point during or upon completion of a review performed under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection that there was coercion or undue pressure, or that the proposed change does not comply with the organizational documents of the equity joint venture, the council may refer such equity joint venture to the department for administrative enforcement action, which</u>

may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the equity joint venture's license.

(4) (A) No individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, shall enter into any agreement, including, but not limited to, any consulting agreement or similar contractual arrangement, on or after November 1, 2026, if such agreement:

(i) Transfers or delegates any operational control of the cannabis establishment to a person who does not meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8;

(ii) Grants any authority or ability to control, direct, determine or materially influence, whether directly or indirectly, decisions concerning the cannabis establishment, including, but not limited to, decisions concerning hiring, pricing, purchasing, inventory management or day-to-day operations, regardless of whether such individual retains nominal approval rights;

(iii) Results in such individual serving as a nominal or passive owner of the cannabis establishment; or

(iv) Impairs such individual's (I) final decision-making authority over the management, policies and operations of the cannabis establishment, or (II) authority to hire, terminate and supervise the cannabis establishment's executive management and key personnel.

(B) For the purposes of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the provision of personnel, staffing, operational systems or vendor relationships by a person who does not meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, shall be considered evidence of control if such provision results in operational dependence by the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, on

such person, or such individual does not have authority to override decisions made by such person.

(C) Nothing in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit an individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (51) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, from:

(i) Engaging any third-party vendor or consultant to provide bona fide advisory, technical or support services, provided such services do not confer any control described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; or

(ii) Delegating any operational or management functions, provided such individual retains final decision-making authority.

(5) The council shall not approve, and shall require correction of, any equity joint venture, or any transfer, assignment, sale or acquisition of an ownership or financial interest in a cannabis establishment, that violates the provisions of this subsection.

(6) Each cannabis establishment approved by the council shall:

(A) Not later than January 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, submit to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, a signed statement certifying that (i) no material change occurred in the ownership, control or financing arrangements of such cannabis establishment during the preceding calendar year, or (ii) a material change occurred in the ownership, control or financing arrangements of such cannabis establishment during the preceding calendar year and setting forth the nature of such material change; and

(B) Maintain records sufficient to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the ownership and control requirements of this chapter for a period of at least five years.

(l) The Social Equity Council shall, upon receipt of funds from producers in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section

21a-420*l*, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, develop a program to assist social equity applicants to open not more than two micro-cultivator establishment businesses in total. Producers shall provide mentorship to such social equity applicants. The council shall, with the department, determine a system to select social equity applicants to participate in such program without participating in a lottery or request for proposals.

(m) (1) The Social Equity Council shall review and either approve or deny, in writing, any social equity plan submitted by a cannabis establishment as part of the cannabis establishment's final license application. The council shall approve or deny such social equity plan not later than thirty days after such social equity plan is submitted to the council. If the council denies any such social equity plan, the applicant may revise and resubmit such social equity plan without prejudice.

(2) (A) Each licensed cannabis establishment shall (i) maintain an active social equity plan at all times while such cannabis establishment is in operation, and (ii) not later than March first, annually, submit to the council a report disclosing the impact such social equity plan had on the disproportionately impacted area in which such cannabis establishment is located during the preceding calendar year.

(B) The council shall review each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision and may, not later than sixty days after completing such review, request that the licensed cannabis establishment that submitted such report revise such cannabis establishment's social equity plan to ensure that such social equity plan furthers the principles of equity.

(3) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall update the criteria for social equity plans described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this section to include a specific, points-based rubric to evaluate social equity

plans.

(n) The Social Equity Council shall approve the amounts, grantees and purposes of any grants made by the council from the social equity and innovation account or the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund, established under section 21a-420f, and any contract executed by and between the council and a grant maker shall require that the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker shall be approved by the council.

(o) Not later than the first days of January, April, July and October for the preceding calendar quarter, the Social Equity Council shall prepare and submit a quarterly report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection and the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The fiscal-year-to-date expenditures of the council, which expenditures shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures made for personal services and the fringe benefit costs associated therewith; (B) all expenditures made for consultants retained for the purpose of reviewing applications for social equity applicant status; (C) all expenditures made to provide businesses with access to capital and the number of businesses that received access to such capital; (D) all expenditures made to provide technical assistance for the start-up and operation of businesses and the number of businesses that received such assistance; (E) all expenditures made to fund workforce education, the number of persons served by the workforce education programs

supported by such expenditures and the number of persons successfully placed in relevant professional roles after completing such workforce education programs; (F) all expenditures made to fund community investment grants, the amounts, grantees and purposes of such grants and, if any of such grants were made to a grant maker, the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker; (G) all expenditures made for promotional or branding items and which promotional or branding items were purchased; (H) all expenditures made for advertising or marketing campaigns; (I) all expenditures made to advertising or marketing firms; (J) all expenditures made for sponsorships; (K) all expenditures made for other community outreach; (L) all expenditures made for travel; and (M) all other expenditures not described in subparagraphs (A) to (L), inclusive, of this subdivision; and

(2) The status of the council's performance of the council's responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but not limited to: (A) The number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council, categorized into the number of applications, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council for (i) less than thirty days, (ii) at least thirty days but less than sixty days, (iii) at least sixty days but less than ninety days, and (iv) at least ninety days; (B) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans approved during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type; and (C) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans denied during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type.

(p) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and submit a strategic plan to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection. The strategic plan

shall include a framework that outlines the council's goals, planned actions and priorities for the three-year period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

(q) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and adopt an ethical code of conduct for council members and staff.

(r) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the members of the council and council staff shall complete an ethics training course focusing on disproportionately impacted areas and the cannabis industry.

(s) The council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, prior to adopting such regulations the council shall, not later than October 1, 2026, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, that shall have the force and effect of law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or October 1, 2027, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for consideration under section 4-170. Any violation of such policies and procedures or any violation of such regulations related to any change in ownership or control may be referred by the council to the Department of Consumer Protection for administrative

enforcement action, which may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the cannabis establishment's license.

Sec. 51. Subsections (e) to (s), inclusive, of section 21a-420d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 54 of public act 26-8, and section 50 of this act, are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) The Social Equity Council may (1) request, and shall receive, from any state agency such information and assistance as the council may require to carry out its duties, (2) use such funds as may be available from federal, state or other sources to carry out its duties, (3) enter into contracts or agreements to carry out its duties, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, constituent units of the state system of higher education, regional workforce development boards and community development financial institutions, (4) utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, state or federal agencies and organizations as may, from time to time, be offered and needed to carry out its duties, (5) accept any gift, donation or bequest to carry out its duties, (6) conduct such investigations as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties, provided such investigations concern matters, complaints or concerns that (A) are brought before the council by individuals who meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision **[**(51)**]** (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, and (B) relate to the protection, enforcement or advancement of equity under this chapter, (7) hold public hearings, (8) establish such standing committees, as necessary, to carry out its duties, and (9) adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, as the council may deem necessary to carry out its duties.

(f) The Social Equity Council shall promote and encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by persons from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and

enforcement.

(g) Not later than forty-five days after June 22, 2021, or at a later date determined by the Social Equity Council, the council shall establish criteria for proposals to conduct a study under this section and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall post on the State Contracting Portal a request for proposals to conduct a study, and shall select an independent third party to conduct such study and provide detailed findings of fact regarding the following matters in the state or other matters determined by the council:

(1) Historical and present-day social, economic and familial consequences of cannabis prohibition, the criminalization and stigmatization of cannabis use and related public policies;

(2) Historical and present-day structures, patterns, causes and consequences of intentional and unintentional racial discrimination and racial disparities in the development, application and enforcement of cannabis prohibition and related public policies;

(3) Foreseeable long-term social, economic and familial consequences of unremedied past racial discrimination and disparities arising from past and continued cannabis prohibition, stigmatization and criminalization;

(4) Existing patterns of racial discrimination and racial disparities in access to entrepreneurship, employment and other economic benefits arising in the lawful palliative use cannabis sector as established pursuant to chapter 420f; and

(5) Any other matters that the council deems relevant and feasible for study for the purpose of making reasonable and practical recommendations for the establishment of an equitable and lawful adult-use cannabis business sector in this state.

(h) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Equity Council shall, taking into account the results of the study conducted in accordance with subsection (g) of this section, make written recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, consumer protection and the judiciary regarding legislation to implement the provisions of this section. The council shall make recommendations regarding:

(1) Creating programs to ensure that individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement are provided equal access to licenses for cannabis establishments;

(2) Specifying additional qualifications for social equity applicants;

(3) Providing for expedited or priority license processing for each license as a retailer, hybrid retailer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, product manufacturer, food and beverage manufacturer, product packager, transporter and delivery service license for social equity applicants;

(4) Establishing minimum criteria for any cannabis establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to comply with an approved workforce development plan to reinvest or provide employment and training opportunities for individuals in disproportionately impacted areas;

(5) Establishing criteria for a social equity plan for any cannabis establishment licensed on or after January 1, 2022, to further the principles of equity;

(6) Recruiting individuals from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement to enroll in the workforce training program established pursuant to section

21a-421g;

(7) Potential uses for revenue generated under RERACA to further equity;

(8) Encouraging participation of investors, cannabis establishments and entrepreneurs in the cannabis business accelerator program established pursuant to section 21a-421f;

(9) Establishing a process to best ensure that social equity applicants have access to the capital and training needed to own and operate a cannabis establishment; and

(10) Developing a vendor list of women-owned and minority-owned businesses that cannabis establishments may contract with for necessary services, including, but not limited to, office supplies, information technology infrastructure and cleaning services.

(i) (1) Not later than August 1, 2021, and annually thereafter until July 31, 2023, the Social Equity Council shall use the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates or any successor data to determine one or more United States census tracts in the state that are a disproportionately impacted area and shall publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site.

(2) Not later than August 1, 2023, the council shall use poverty rate data from the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates, population data from the most recent decennial census and conviction information from databases managed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to identify all United States census tracts in the state that are disproportionately impacted areas and shall publish a list of such tracts on the council's Internet web site. In identifying which census tracts in this state are disproportionately impacted areas and preparing such list, the council shall:

(A) Not deem any census tract with a poverty rate that is less than the state-wide poverty rate to be a disproportionately impacted area;

(B) After eliminating the census tracts described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, rank the remaining census tracts in order from the census tract with the greatest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses to the census tract with the lowest historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses; and

(C) Include census tracts in the order of rank described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision until including the next census tract would cause the total population of all included census tracts to exceed twenty-five per cent of the state's population.

(j) After developing criteria for workforce development plans as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this section, the Social Equity Council shall review and approve or deny in writing any such plan submitted by an applicant for a final license. If the Social Equity Council does not approve a workforce development plan for a cannabis establishment on or before July 1, 2025, the cannabis establishment shall submit a workforce development plan to the council not later than October 1, 2025, or sixty days prior to the next renewal date for such cannabis establishment's license, whichever is earlier. Not later than sixty days after the cannabis establishment submits the workforce development plan to the council, the council shall send notice to the cannabis establishment disclosing whether such workforce development plan has been approved, rejected or requires modification.

(k) (1) The Social Equity Council shall develop criteria for evaluating the ownership and control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420m, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420u, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420aa, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420bb, as amended by public act 26-8, or 21a-420cc, as amended by public act 26-8, and shall review and

approve or deny in writing such equity joint venture prior to such equity joint venture being licensed under section 21a-420j, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420m, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420u, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420aa, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420bb, as amended by public act 26-8 or 21a-420cc, as amended by public act 26-8. The council shall not approve any equity joint venture applicant which shares with an equity joint venture any individual owner who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision **[**(51)**]** (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, other than an individual owner in their capacity as a backer licensed under section 21a-420o.

(2) No contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this section shall provide that any change may be made in the ownership or control of any equity joint venture created under section 21a-420j, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420m, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420u, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420aa, as amended by public act 26-8, 21a-420bb, as amended by public act 26-8 or 21a-420cc, as amended by public act 26-8, that would cause such equity joint venture not to be controlled, and at least fifty per cent owned, by an individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision **[**(51)**]** (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, unless:

(A) At least five years have elapsed since a final license was issued to the equity joint venture;

(B) At least ninety days before the proposed effective date of such change, the equity joint venture (i) submits a written notice to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing that the equity joint venture intends to make such change, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision **[**(51)**]** (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, disclosing that such individual may, not

later than sixty days before the proposed effective date of such change, submit a written request to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, that the council perform a review of such change pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

(C) If the council receives a written request submitted under subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, the council, not later than fifteen days before the proposed effective date of such change, (i) completes the review to determine (I) whether the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has retained legal counsel to advise such individual regarding such change, understands the structure and implications of such change, understands the financial terms of such change, has engaged with such individual's business partners, if any, to ensure that such change is appropriate and consents to such change free of any coercion or undue pressure, and (II) whether such change complies with the organizational documents of the equity joint venture, and (ii) sends a written notice to the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision and the equity joint venture, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, disclosing the results of such review; and

(D) The person acquiring ownership or control of the equity joint venture from the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision has paid to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, (i) a nonrefundable transaction processing fee in the amount of eight thousand dollars, which the council shall deposit in the social equity and innovation account established under section 21a-420f, and (ii) the outstanding balance of all loans issued to the equity joint venture, or the individual described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, as part of the revolving loan program established pursuant to section 21a-421i.

(3) If the council concludes at any point during or upon completion of a review performed under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this

subsection that there was coercion or undue pressure, or that the proposed change does not comply with the organizational documents of the equity joint venture, the council may refer such equity joint venture to the department for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the equity joint venture's license.

(4) (A) No individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision **[**(51)**]** (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, shall enter into any agreement, including, but not limited to, any consulting agreement or similar contractual arrangement, on or after November 1, 2026, if such agreement:

(i) Transfers or delegates any operational control of the cannabis establishment to a person who does not meet the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision **[**(51)**]** (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8;

(ii) Grants any authority or ability to control, direct, determine or materially influence, whether directly or indirectly, decisions concerning the cannabis establishment, including, but not limited to, decisions concerning hiring, pricing, purchasing, inventory management or day-to-day operations, regardless of whether such individual retains nominal approval rights;

(iii) Results in such individual serving as a nominal or passive owner of the cannabis establishment; or

(iv) Impairs such individual's (I) final decision-making authority over the management, policies and operations of the cannabis establishment, or (II) authority to hire, terminate and supervise the cannabis establishment's executive management and key personnel.

(B) For the purposes of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the provision of personnel, staffing, operational systems or vendor relationships by a person who does not meet the criteria established in

subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, shall be considered evidence of control if such provision results in operational dependence by the individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, on such person, or such individual does not have authority to override decisions made by such person.

(C) Nothing in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit an individual who meets the criteria established in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [(51)] (54) of section 21a-420, as amended by public act 26-8, from:

(i) Engaging any third-party vendor or consultant to provide bona fide advisory, technical or support services, provided such services do not confer any control described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; or

(ii) Delegating any operational or management functions, provided such individual retains final decision-making authority.

(5) The council shall not approve, and shall require correction of, any equity joint venture, or any transfer, assignment, sale or acquisition of an ownership or financial interest in a cannabis establishment, that violates the provisions of this subsection.

(6) Each cannabis establishment approved by the council shall:

(A) Not later than January 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, submit to the council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, a signed statement certifying that (i) no material change occurred in the ownership, control or financing arrangements of such cannabis establishment during the preceding calendar year, or (ii) a material change occurred in the ownership, control or financing arrangements of such cannabis establishment during the preceding calendar year and setting forth the nature of such material change; and

(B) Maintain records sufficient to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the ownership and control requirements of this chapter for a period of at least five years.

(l) The Social Equity Council shall, upon receipt of funds from producers in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 21a-420*l*, as amended by public act 26-8, develop a program to assist social equity applicants to open not more than two micro-cultivator establishment businesses in total. Producers shall provide mentorship to such social equity applicants. The council shall, with the department, determine a system to select social equity applicants to participate in such program without participating in a lottery or request for proposals.

(m) (1) The Social Equity Council shall review and either approve or deny, in writing, any social equity plan submitted by a cannabis establishment as part of the cannabis establishment's final license application. The council shall approve or deny such social equity plan not later than thirty days after such social equity plan is submitted to the council. If the council denies any such social equity plan, the applicant may revise and resubmit such social equity plan without prejudice.

(2) (A) Each licensed cannabis establishment shall (i) maintain an active social equity plan at all times while such cannabis establishment is in operation, and (ii) not later than March first, annually, submit to the council a report disclosing the impact such social equity plan had on the disproportionately impacted area in which such cannabis establishment is located during the preceding calendar year.

(B) The council shall review each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision and may, not later than sixty days after completing such review, request that the licensed cannabis establishment that submitted such report revise such cannabis establishment's social equity plan to ensure that such social equity plan

furthers the principles of equity.

(3) Not later than July 1, 2024, the council shall update the criteria for social equity plans described in subdivision (5) of subsection (h) of this section to include a specific, points-based rubric to evaluate social equity plans.

(n) The Social Equity Council shall approve the amounts, grantees and purposes of any grants made by the council from the social equity and innovation account or the Cannabis Social Equity and Innovation Fund, established under section 21a-420f, and any contract executed by and between the council and a grant maker shall require that the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker shall be approved by the council.

(o) Not later than the first days of January, April, July and October for the preceding calendar quarter, the Social Equity Council shall prepare and submit a quarterly report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection and the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The fiscal-year-to-date expenditures of the council, which expenditures shall disclose, at a minimum: (A) All expenditures made for personal services and the fringe benefit costs associated therewith; (B) all expenditures made for consultants retained for the purpose of reviewing applications for social equity applicant status; (C) all expenditures made to provide businesses with access to capital and the

number of businesses that received access to such capital; (D) all expenditures made to provide technical assistance for the start-up and operation of businesses and the number of businesses that received such assistance; (E) all expenditures made to fund workforce education, the number of persons served by the workforce education programs supported by such expenditures and the number of persons successfully placed in relevant professional roles after completing such workforce education programs; (F) all expenditures made to fund community investment grants, the amounts, grantees and purposes of such grants and, if any of such grants were made to a grant maker, the amounts, grantees and purposes of any subgrants made by such grant maker; (G) all expenditures made for promotional or branding items and which promotional or branding items were purchased; (H) all expenditures made for advertising or marketing campaigns; (I) all expenditures made to advertising or marketing firms; (J) all expenditures made for sponsorships; (K) all expenditures made for other community outreach; (L) all expenditures made for travel; and (M) all other expenditures not described in subparagraphs (A) to (L), inclusive, of this subdivision; and

(2) The status of the council's performance of the council's responsibilities in the licensing process under RERACA, including, but not limited to: (A) The number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council, categorized into the number of applications, social equity plans and workforce development plans pending before the council for (i) less than thirty days, (ii) at least thirty days but less than sixty days, (iii) at least sixty days but less than ninety days, and (iv) at least ninety days; (B) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans approved during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type; and (C) the number of applications for social equity applicant status, social equity plans and workforce development plans denied during the then current fiscal year, broken down by license type.

(p) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and submit a strategic plan to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and consumer protection. The strategic plan shall include a framework that outlines the council's goals, planned actions and priorities for the three-year period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

(q) Not later than October 1, 2025, the council shall develop and adopt an ethical code of conduct for council members and staff.

(r) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the members of the council and council staff shall complete an ethics training course focusing on disproportionately impacted areas and the cannabis industry.

(s) The council shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by public act 26-8. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by public act 26-8, prior to adopting such regulations the council shall, not later than October 1, 2026, issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of subsection (k) of this section and subsection (a) of section 21a-420g, as amended by public act 26-8, that shall have the force and effect of law. The council shall post all policies and procedures on its Internet web site, and submit such policies and procedures to the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of such policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or October 1, 2027, if such regulations have not been submitted to the legislative regulation review committee for

consideration under section 4-170. Any violation of such policies and procedures or any violation of such regulations related to any change in ownership or control may be referred by the council to the Department of Consumer Protection for administrative enforcement action, which may result in a fine of not more than ten million dollars or action against the cannabis establishment's license.

Sec. 52. Subsection (a) of section 21a-420g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 56 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Social Equity Council shall review the ownership information and any other information necessary to confirm that an applicant qualifies as a social equity applicant for all cannabis establishment license type applications submitted to the department and designated by the applicant as a social equity applicant. The Social Equity Council shall prescribe the documentation necessary for applicants to submit to establish that the ownership, residency and income requirements for social equity applicants are met. On or before September 1, 2021, the Social Equity Council shall post such necessary documentation requirements on its Internet web site to inform applicants of such requirements prior to the start of the application period. Except as provided in the regulations adopted by the council pursuant to section <u>21a-420d, as amended by public act 26-8, and this act, or</u> 21a-420h, as amended by **[**this act**]** <u>public act 26-8, as applicable</u>, no change shall be made<u>, without prior approval from the council,</u> in the ownership or control of <u>(1)</u> a social equity applicant that has been approved by the council during the period of provisional licensure and for three years following issuance of a final license<u>, or (2) an equity joint venture during the period of provisional licensure and for seven years following issuance of a final license</u>.

Sec. 53. Subsection (c) of section 21a-420t of the 2026 supplement to

the general statutes, as amended by section 69 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(c) Dispensary facilities, [and] hybrid retailers and cannabis testing laboratories shall perform real-time uploads to the prescription drug monitoring program. Any cannabis or medical cannabis products sold to qualifying patients, qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers or qualifying out-of-state caregivers shall be [dispensed by a licensed pharmacist and shall be] recorded into the prescription drug monitoring program, established pursuant to section 21a-254, in real-time or immediately upon completion of the transaction, unless not reasonably feasible for a specific transaction, but in no case longer than one hour after completion of the transaction.

Sec. 54. Section 21a-421j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 78 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section: [, "total THC"]

(1) "Other cannabis plant material" (A) means cannabis trim and all parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof, excluding a growing plant, and the seeds thereof, and (B) does not include (i) cannabis flower or hemp, as defined in section 22-61*l*, as amended by this act, or (ii) an uprooted clone or uprooted cutting of the cannabis plant; and

(2) "Total THC" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, as amended by this act.

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to implement the provisions of RERACA. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-172, inclusive, in order to effectuate the purposes of RERACA and protect public health and

safety, prior to adopting such regulations the commissioner shall issue policies and procedures to implement the provisions of RERACA that shall have the force and effect of law. The commissioner shall post all policies and procedures on the department's Internet web site and submit such policies and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the Secretary of the State for posting on the eRegulations System, at least fifteen days prior to the effective date of any policy or procedure. The commissioner shall also provide such policies and procedures, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, to each licensee. Any such policy or procedure shall no longer be effective upon the earlier of either the adoption of the policy or procedure as a final regulation under section 4-172 or July 1, 2028. The commissioner shall issue policies and procedures and thereafter final regulations that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Setting appropriate dosage, potency, concentration and serving size limits and delineation requirements for cannabis, provided (A) a standardized serving of an edible cannabis product or beverage, other than a medical **[**marijuana**]** cannabis product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC, and (B) there shall be no dosage, potency or concentration limit for (i) cannabis concentrates, or (ii) other cannabis plant material.

(2) Requiring that each single standardized serving of cannabis product in a multiple-serving edible product or beverage is physically demarked in a way that enables a reasonable person to determine how much of the product constitutes a single serving and a maximum amount of THC per multiple-serving edible cannabis product or beverage.

(3) Requiring that, if it is impracticable to clearly demark every

standardized serving of cannabis product or to make each standardized serving easily separable in an edible cannabis product or beverage, the product, other than cannabis concentrate, [or medical marijuana] other cannabis plant material or a medical cannabis product, shall contain not more than five milligrams of THC per unit of sale, with an allowable variance for cannabis testing laboratory method uncertainty of up to plus or minus ten per cent of the reported value for THC.

(4) Establishing, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, consumer health materials that shall be posted or distributed, as specified by the commissioner, by cannabis establishments to maximize dissemination to cannabis consumers. Consumer health materials may include pamphlets, packaging inserts, signage, online and printed advertisements and advisories and printed health materials.

(5) Imposing labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis sold by a cannabis establishment that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Inclusion of universal symbols to indicate that cannabis, or a cannabis product, contains THC and is not legal or safe for individuals younger than twenty-one years of age, and prescribe how such product and product packaging shall utilize and exhibit such symbols.

(B) A disclosure concerning the length of time it typically takes for the cannabis to affect an individual, including that certain forms of cannabis take longer to have an effect.

(C) A notation of the amount of cannabis the cannabis product is considered the equivalent to.

(D) A list of ingredients and additives for cannabis.

(E) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section

21a-420p, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, child-resistant, tamper-resistant and light-resistant packaging. For the purposes of this subparagraph, packaging shall be deemed to be (i) child-resistant if the packaging satisfies the standard for special packaging established in 16 CFR 1700.1(b)(4), as amended from time to time, (ii) tamper-resistant if the packaging has at least one barrier to, or indicator of, entry that would preclude the contents of such packaging from being accessed or adulterated without indicating to a reasonable person that such packaging has been breached, and (iii) light-resistant if the packaging is entirely and uniformly opaque and protects the entirety of the contents of such packaging from the effects of light.

(F) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of section 21a-420p, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, (i) packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings to be resealable in such a manner so as to render such packaging continuously child-resistant, as described in subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision, and preserve the integrity of the contents of such packaging, and (ii) if packaging for cannabis intended for multiple servings contains any edible cannabis product, for each single standardized serving to be easily discernible and (I) individually wrapped, or (II) physically demarked and delineated as required under this subsection.

(G) Impervious packaging that protects the contents of such packaging from contamination and exposure to any toxic or harmful substance, including, but not limited to, any glue or other adhesive or substance that is incorporated in such packaging.

(H) Product tracking information sufficient to determine where and when the cannabis was grown and manufactured such that a product recall could be effectuated.

(I) A net weight statement.

(J) A recommended use by or expiration date.

(K) Standard and uniform packaging and labeling, including, but not limited to, requirements (i) regarding branding or logos, (ii) that all packaging be opaque, and (iii) that amounts and concentrations of THC and cannabidiol, per serving and per package, be clearly marked on the packaging or label of any cannabis product sold.

(L) For any cannabis concentrate cannabis product or other cannabis plant material that contains a total THC percentage greater than thirty per cent, a warning that such cannabis product or other cannabis plant material is a high-potency product and may increase the risk of psychosis.

(M) Chemotypes, which shall be displayed as (i) "High THC, Low CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is at least fifteen per cent, (ii) "Moderate THC, Moderate CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is at least one to five but not greater than five to one and the total THC percentage is greater than five per cent but less than fifteen per cent, (iii) "Low THC, High CBD" where the ratio of THC to CBD is less than one to five and the total THC percentage is not greater than five per cent, or (iv) the chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph that most closely fits the cannabis or cannabis product, as determined by mathematical analysis of the ratio of THC to CBD, where such cannabis or cannabis product does not fit a chemotype described in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph.

(N) A requirement that, prior to being sold and transferred to a consumer, qualifying patient, [or] qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver, cannabis packaging be clearly labeled, whether printed directly on such packaging or affixed by way of a separate label, other than an extended content label, with:

(i) A unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section; and

(ii) The following information concerning the cannabis contained in such packaging, which shall be in legible English, black lettering, Times New Roman font, flat regular typeface, on a contrasting background and in uniform size of not less than one-tenth of one inch, based on a capital letter "K", which information shall also be available on the Internet web site of the cannabis establishment that sells and transfers such cannabis:

(I) The name of such cannabis, as registered with the department under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(II) The expiration date, which shall not account for any refrigeration after such cannabis is sold and transferred to the consumer, qualifying patient, **[**or**]** qualifying out-of-state patient, caregiver or qualifying out-of-state caregiver.

(III) The net weight or volume, expressed in metric and imperial units.

(IV) The standardized serving size, expressed in customary units, and the number of servings included in such packaging, if applicable.

(V) Directions for use and storage.

(VI) Each active ingredient comprising at least one per cent of such cannabis, including cannabinoids, isomers, esters, ethers and salts and salts of isomers, esters and ethers, and all quantities thereof expressed in metric units and as a percentage of volume.

(VII) A list of all known allergens, as identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration, contained in such cannabis, or the denotation "no known FDA identified allergens" if such cannabis does not contain any allergen identified by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

(VIII) The following warning statement within, and outlined by, a red box:

"This product is not FDA-approved, may be intoxicating, cause long-term physical and mental health problems, and have delayed side effects. It is illegal to operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of cannabis. Keep away from children."

(IX) At least one of the following warning statements, rotated quarterly on an alternating basis:

"Warning: Frequent and prolonged use of cannabis can contribute to mental health problems over time, including anxiety, depression, stunted brain development and impaired memory."

"Warning: Consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding may be harmful."

"Warning: Cannabis has intoxicating effects and may be habit-forming and addictive."

"Warning: Consuming more than the recommended amount may result in adverse effects requiring medical attention.".

(X) All information necessary to comply with labeling requirements imposed under the laws of this state and federal law, including, but not limited to, sections 21a-91 to 21a-120, inclusive, and 21a-151 to 21a-159, inclusive, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq., as amended from time to time, and the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, 15 USC 1451 et seq., as amended from time to time, for

similar products that do not contain cannabis.

(XI) Such additional warning labels for certain cannabis products as the commissioner may require and post on the department's Internet web site.

(6) Establishing laboratory testing standards. **[**,**]**

(7) Establishing consumer disclosures concerning mold and yeast in cannabis. **[**and**]**

(8) Establishing permitted remediation practices, which practices shall include, but need not be limited to, remediation of cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material by way of one or more exposures to ionizing radiation for any cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material that fails any laboratory testing due to microbial contamination.

[(7)**]** (9) Restricting forms of cannabis products and cannabis product delivery systems to ensure consumer safety and deter public health concerns.

[(8)**]** (10) Prohibiting certain manufacturing methods, or inclusion of additives to cannabis products, including, but not limited to, (A) added flavoring, terpenes or other additives unless approved by the department, or (B) any form of nicotine or other additive containing nicotine.

[(9)**]** (11) Prohibiting cannabis product types that appeal to children, including, but not limited to, facsimiles of foods, beverages and other items that appeal to children.

[(10)**]** (12) Establishing physical and cyber security requirements related to build out, monitoring and protocols for cannabis establishments as a requirement for licensure.

[(11)] (13) Placing temporary limits on the sale of cannabis in the adult-use market, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the commissioner, in response to a shortage of cannabis for qualifying patients.

[(12)] (14) Requiring retailers and hybrid retailers to make best efforts to provide access to (A) low-dose THC products, including products that have one milligram and two and a half milligrams of THC per dose, and (B) high-dose CBD products.

[(13)] (15) Requiring producers, cultivators, micro-cultivators, product manufacturers and food and beverage manufacturers to register brand names for cannabis, in accordance with the policies and procedures and subject to the fee set forth in, regulations adopted under chapter 420f.

[(14)] (16) Prohibiting a cannabis establishment from selling, other than the sale of medical [marijuana] cannabis products between cannabis establishments and the sale of cannabis to qualifying patients, [and] qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers, (A) cannabis flower [or other cannabis plant material] with a total THC concentration greater than thirty-five per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than seventy per cent on a dry-weight basis, except that the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not apply to the sale of cannabis concentrates, other cannabis plant material or prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section 19a-342a, as amended by [this act, and the department may adjust the percentages set forth in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section for purposes of public health or to address market access or shortage] public act 26-8. As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" means material from the cannabis plant, as defined in section 21a-279a, as amended by

[this act**]** public act 26-8.

[(15)**]** (17) Requiring dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and retailers to display the following types of cannabis in a form and manner prescribed by the department and in an area physically and visually separated from other cannabis for sale at such establishment: (A) Cannabis flower or other cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than thirty per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (B) any cannabis product other than cannabis flower and cannabis plant material with a total THC concentration greater than sixty per cent on a dry-weight basis, excluding prefilled cartridges for use in an electronic cannabis delivery system. As used in this subdivision, "cannabis plant material" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (j) of section 21a-279a, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8.

[(16)**]** (18) Requiring any dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer that sells any form of cannabis that exceeds the THC concentrations set forth in subdivision **[**(15)**]** (17) of this subsection to include the words "Warning - High THC" next to each such form of cannabis on such cannabis establishment's menus and advertisements.

[(17)**]** (19) Prescribing signage to be displayed at a dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer informing consumers, qualifying patients, **[**and**]** qualifying out-of-state patients, caregivers and qualifying out-of-state caregivers of health risks associated with cannabis in excess of the THC concentrations set forth in subdivision **[**(15)**]** (17) of this subsection.

[(18)**]** (20) Permitting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.

[(19)**]** (21) Prohibiting packaging that is (A) visually similar to any commercially similar product that does not contain cannabis, or (B) used for any good that is marketed to individuals reasonably expected to be younger than twenty-one years of age.

[(20)**]** (22) Allowing packaging to include a picture of the cannabis

product and contain a logo of one cannabis establishment, which logo may be comprised of not more than three colors and provided neither black nor white shall be considered one of such three colors.

[(21)**]** (23) Requiring packaging to (A) be entirely and uniformly one color, and (B) not incorporate any information, print, embossing, debossing, graphic or hidden feature, other than any permitted or required label.

[(22)**]** (24) Requiring that packaging and labeling for an edible cannabis product, excluding the warning labels required under this subsection and a picture of the cannabis product described in subdivision **[**(20)**]** (22) of this subsection but including, but not limited to, the logo of the cannabis establishment, shall only be comprised of black and white or a combination thereof.

[(23)**]** (25) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, requiring that delivery device cartridges be labeled, in a clearly legible manner and in as large a font as the size of the device reasonably allows, with only the following information (i) the name of the cannabis establishment where the cannabis is grown or manufactured, (ii) the cannabis brand, (iii) the total THC and total CBD content contained within the delivery device cartridge, (iv) the expiration date, and (v) the unique identifier generated by a cannabis analytic tracking system maintained by the department and used to track cannabis under the policies and procedures issued, and final regulations adopted, by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

(B) A cannabis establishment may emboss, deboss or similarly print the name of the cannabis establishment's business entity, and one logo with not more than three colors, on a delivery device cartridge.

[(24)**]** (26) Prescribing signage to be prominently displayed at dispensary facilities, retailers and hybrid retailers disclosing (A)

possible health risks related to mold, and (B) the use and possible health risks related to the use of mold remediation techniques.

Sec. 55. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 21a-425a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 94 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) (1) **[**An**]** No infused beverage manufacturer shall **[**only**]** obtain hemp, a hemp product or an intermediate hemp derivative for the purpose of manufacturing any infused beverage that is intended to be sold or offered for sale in this state unless such hemp product is in the form of hemp oil or an intermediate hemp derivative, and no such infused beverage manufacturer shall use any hemp product other than hemp oil or an intermediate hemp derivative to manufacture any such infused beverage.

Sec. 56. Subsection (a) of section 22-61*l* of the general statutes, as amended by section 99 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the purpose of this section and section 22-61m, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, the following terms have the same meaning as provided in 7 CFR 990.1, as amended from time to time: "Acceptable hemp THC level", "Agricultural marketing service", "Audit", "Cannabis", "Conviction", "Corrective action plan", "Culpable mental state greater than negligence", "Decarboxylated", "Decarboxylation", "Disposal", "Dry weight basis", "Gas chromatography", "Geospatial location", "Handle", "Liquid chromatography", "Immature plants", "Information sharing system", "Measurement of uncertainty", "Negligence", "Phytocannabinoid", "Postdecarboxylation", "Remediation", "Reverse distributor" and "Total THC". In addition, for the purpose of this section, section 22-61m, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8, and sections 100 and 101 of **[**this act**]** public act 26-8:

(1) "Cannabidiol" or "CBD" means the nonpsychotropic compound by the same name;

(2) "Cannabis" (A) means all parts of any plant or species of the genus cannabis, or any infra specific taxon thereof, whether growing or not; (B) includes (i) every resin extracted from any part of such plant, including, but not limited to, every resin extracted from (I) the mature stalks of such plant, (II) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, or (III) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (ii) every other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such plant or its resin, and (iii) every (I) high-THC hemp product, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8 and this act, (II) manufactured cannabinoid, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8 and this act, or (III) cannabinol or cannabidiol and chemical compounds which are similar to cannabinol or cannabidiol in chemical structure or which are similar thereto in physiological effect, which are controlled substances under this chapter, except cannabidiol derived from hemp, that is not a high-THC hemp product; and (C) does not include (i) the mature stalks of such plant, (ii) the fiber produced from the mature stalks of such plant, (iii) the oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, (iv) any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the mature stalks of such plant, (v) the seeds of such plant, (vi) hemp (I) with a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8 and this act, concentration of not more than three-tenths per cent on a dry-weight basis, and (II) that is not a high-THC hemp product, (vii) **[**cannabinol, cannabigerol, cannabichromene or any other minor cannabinoid derived from hemp, (viii)**]** any substance approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration or successor agency as a drug and reclassified in any schedule of controlled substances or unscheduled by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration or successor agency that is included in the same schedule designated by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration

or successor agency, or **[**(ix)**]** (viii) any infused beverage, as defined in section 21a-425, as amended by **[**this act**]** public act 26-8;

(3) "Certificate of analysis" means a certificate from a laboratory describing the results of the laboratory's testing of a sample;

(4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designated agent;

(5) "Cultivate" means to plant, grow, harvest, handle and store a plant or crop;

(6) "Federal act" means the United States Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 USC 1639o et seq., as amended from time to time;

(7) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

(8) "Hemp" has the same meaning as provided in the federal act;

(9) "Hemp products" means all manufacturer hemp products and producer hemp products;

(10) "Independent testing laboratory" means a facility:

(A) For which no person who has any direct or indirect financial or managerial interest in the laboratory and also has any direct or indirect interest in a facility that:

(i) Produces, distributes, manufactures or sells hemp or hemp products, or cannabis in any state or territory of the United States; or

(ii) Cultivates, processes, distributes, dispenses or sells cannabis; and

(B) That is accredited as a laboratory in compliance with section 21a-408-59 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies;

(11) "Infused beverage" has the same meaning as provided in section

21a-425, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8;

(12) "Infused beverage manufacturer" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-425, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8;

(13) "Intermediate hemp derivative" means an oil or concentrate that (A) is extracted directly and exclusively from raw hemp plant material, (B) contains a total THC, as defined in section 21a-240, as amended by [this act] public act 26-8 and this act, concentration of more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis, and (C) is extracted by (i) adding heat, (ii) decarboxylation, (iii) adding (I) a Class 3 organic solvent within the meaning of the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, as amended from time to time, or (II) another solvent approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, (iv) ethanol extraction, (v) carbon dioxide extraction, (vi) a solventless extraction method, including, but not limited to, the use of ice water, rosin pressing, dry sifting or steam distillation, or (vii) an extraction process not set forth in subparagraphs (C)(i) to (C)(vi), inclusive, of this subdivision, provided such extraction process has been approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(14) "Laboratory" means a laboratory that meets the requirements of 7 CFR 990.3 and that is accredited as a testing laboratory to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 by a third-party accrediting body such as the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation or the Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services;

(15) "Law enforcement agency" means the Connecticut State Police, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Consumer Protection Drug Control Division or any other federal, state or local law enforcement agency or drug suppression unit;

(16) "Licensee" means an individual or entity that possesses a license to produce or manufacture hemp or hemp products in this state;

(17) "Manufacture" means the conversion of the hemp plant into a by-product or an extract by means of (A) adding heat, (B) decarboxylation, (C) adding (i) a Class 3 organic solvent within the meaning of the most recent United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter 467, as amended from time to time, or (ii) another solvent approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, (D) ethanol extraction, (E) carbon dioxide extraction, (F) a solventless extraction method, including, but not limited to, the use of ice water, rosin pressing, dry sifting or steam distillation, or (G) any method of extraction that modifies the original composition of the plant for the purpose of creating a manufacturer hemp product for commercial or research purposes;

(18) "Manufacturer" means a person in the state licensed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to manufacture, handle, store and market manufacturer hemp products pursuant to the provisions of section 22-61m, as amended by **[**this act**]** <u>public act 26-8</u>, and any regulation adopted pursuant to section 22-61m, as amended by **[**this act**]** <u>public act 26-8</u>;

(19) "Market" or "marketing" means promoting, distributing or selling a hemp product within the state, in another state or outside of the United States and includes efforts to advertise and gather information about the needs or preferences of potential consumers or suppliers;

(20) "On-site manager" means the individual designated by the producer license applicant or producer responsible for on-site management and operations of a licensed producer;

(21) "Pesticide" has the same meaning as "pesticide chemical" as provided in section 21a-92;

(22) "Lot" means a contiguous area in a field, greenhouse or indoor growing structure containing the same variety or strain of hemp throughout the area;

(23) "Post-harvest sample" means a representative sample of the form of hemp taken from the harvested hemp from a particular lot's harvest that is collected in accordance with the procedures established by the commissioner;

(24) "Pre-harvest sample" means a composite, representative portion from plants in a hemp lot, that is collected in accordance with the procedures established by the commissioner;

(25) "Produce" means to cultivate hemp or create any producer hemp product;

(26) "State plan" means a state plan, as described in the federal act and as authorized pursuant to this section;

(27) "THC" means delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol;

(28) "Controlled Substances Act" or "CSA" means the Controlled Substances Act as codified in 21 USC 801 et seq.;

(29) "Criminal history report" means the fingerprint-based state and national criminal history record information obtained in accordance with section 29-17a;

(30) "Drug Enforcement Administration" or "DEA" means the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

(31) "Farm service agency" or "FSA" means an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture;

(32) "Key participant" means a sole proprietor, a partner in partnership or a person with executive managerial control in an entity,

including persons such as a chief executive officer, chief operating officer and chief financial officer;

(33) "Manufacturer hemp product" (A) means a commodity manufactured from the hemp plant, for commercial or research purposes, that (i) is intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption or other internal consumption, and (ii) contains a THC concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis or per volume or weight of such manufacturer hemp product, and (B) does not include an infused beverage;

(34) "Producer" means an individual or entity licensed by the commissioner to produce and market producer hemp products pursuant to the federal act, the state plan, the provisions of this section and the regulations adopted pursuant to this section;

(35) "Producer hemp product" means any of the following produced in this state: Raw hemp product, fiber-based hemp product or animal hemp food product, and each of which contains a THC concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis or per volume or weight of such producer hemp product;

(36) "USDA" means the United States Department of Agriculture;

(37) "Entity" means a corporation, joint stock company, association, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, irrevocable trust, estate, charitable organization or other similar organization, including any such organization participating in the hemp production as a partner in a general partnership, a participant in a joint venture or a participant in a similar organization; and

(38) "Homogenize" means to blend hemp into a mixture that has a uniform quality and content throughout such mixture.

Sec. 57. Subsection (c) of section 22-61n of the general statutes, as

amended by section 103 of public act 26-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) Hemp or hemp products purchased by a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer from a third party shall be tracked as a separate batch throughout the manufacturing process in order to document the disposition of such hemp or hemp products. Once hemp or hemp products are received by a producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer, **[**to manufacture a cannabis product,**]** such hemp or hemp products shall be deemed cannabis and shall comply with the requirements for cannabis contained in the applicable provisions of the general statutes and any regulations adopted pursuant to such provisions. A producer, cultivator, micro-cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer or product manufacturer shall retain a copy of the certificate of analysis for purchased hemp or hemp products and invoice and transport documents that evidence the quantity purchased and date received.

Sec. 58. Subsection (a) of section 20 of public act 26-64 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Cable operator" has the same meaning as provided in 47 USC 522, as amended from time to time;

(2) "Commercial advertisement" has the same meaning as such term is used in the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act, P.L. 111-311, as amended from time to time;

(3) "Consumer" means any person who is physically present in this state; **[**and is a recipient, or a prospective recipient, of a streaming video service;**]**

(4) "Multichannel video programming distributor" has the same meaning as provided in 47 USC 522, as amended from time to time;

(5) "Person" means any individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

(6) "Streaming video service" [means any service through which any video content, including, but not limited to, any video programming, is made available directly to consumers through a distribution method that uses the Internet protocol] (A) means any person that makes available directly to consumers, through a distribution method that uses Internet protocol, either (i) video programming, or (ii) video content such person makes available for users to view, and (B) does not include (i) a television broadcast station, cable operator or other multichannel video programming distributor, or (ii) any person that serves video programming or video content without commercial advertisements;

(7) "Television broadcast station" has the same meaning as provided in 47 USC 325, as amended from time to time; and

(8) "Video programming" has the same meaning as provided in 47 USC 613, as amended from time to time.

Sec. 59. Section 49 of public act 26-8 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) No retailer, hybrid retailer or dispensary facility shall borrow money or receive credit, directly or indirectly, in any form for a period in excess of thirty days from any cultivator, micro-cultivator or producer.

(b) No cannabis establishment shall borrow money or receive credit, directly or indirectly, in any form for a period in excess of thirty days from any cannabis testing laboratory.

Sec. 60. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2027, the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Commissioner of Administrative Services and the working group established pursuant to section 61 of this act, shall, within available appropriations, establish a two-year risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program to improve the scheduling, documentation and prioritization of fire inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families pursuant to section 29-305 of the general statutes. Municipalities participating in such pilot program shall: (1) Implement a schedule of such residential fire inspections using a standardized scoring method that assigns scores for violations and classifies residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features, (2) maintain timely fire inspections as required pursuant to section 29-305 of the general statutes, while allocating more fire inspection resources to high-risk residential buildings, (3) comply with the data collection and record-keeping requirements of such pilot program, including, but not limited to, using a data system designated by the State Fire Marshal to record fire inspection data required pursuant to such pilot program, and (4) review the current fire inspection revenue structure and staffing allocation.

(b) The State Fire Marshal shall select, from among applicants for participation in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program, not less than three participating municipalities which shall include, but need not be limited to, two municipalities with populations of at least one hundred thousand and one municipality with a population of at least thirty-five thousand, but less than one hundred thousand. If any participating municipality withdraws or is unable to meet the requirements of the pilot program, the State Fire Marshal may select a comparable municipality as a replacement. In selecting participating municipalities, the State Fire Marshal shall consult with the appointing authority for local fire marshals within such municipality, pursuant to section 29-297 of the general statutes, to determine the (1) volume and

diversity of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families in such municipality, (2) availability of local resources, and (3) capability for consistent implementation of such pilot program.

(c) For the implementation of the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program by a participating municipality, the State Fire Marshal shall:

(1) Specify a standardized scoring method that assigns scores to violations identified during fire inspections based on the severity of life-safety hazards related to such violations;

(2) Establish a grading system that classifies such residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features and other risk indicators for the purpose of prioritizing the annual fire inspection of such residential buildings;

(3) Develop a pre-inspection checklist for owners of residential buildings to encourage voluntary correction of potential hazards prior to a fire inspection;

(4) Standardize the documentation of fire inspection findings to support enforcement actions and compliance follow-up, which documentation shall include, but not be limited to, photographs; and

(5) Designate one or more data systems, including, but not limited to, the National Emergency Response Information System, that is capable of (A) collecting and exporting data related to, at a minimum, residential building classifications with risk-relevant construction and fire prevention features, dates and types of fire inspections, violations cited with assigned score, corrective action status and fire inspections timelines pursuant to section 29-305 of the general statutes, (B) generating residential building classifications based on data recorded into such system, (C) producing quarterly reports of fire inspection activities, including, but not limited to, responses to complaints and

outcomes of public reporting, and (D) establishing a baseline of residential fire inspection activity for each municipality based on a two-year history of data collection or, when such data is unavailable, based on predictive data deemed sufficient to establish a baseline by the State Fire Marshal. As used in this subdivision, "National Emergency Response Information System" means the national data system developed or designated by the United States Fire Administration, or its successor system, for the collection, reporting and analysis of fire and emergency incident data.

(d) The risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program shall terminate on January 1, 2029. Not later than February 1, 2027, and annually thereafter until February 1, 2029, the State Fire Marshal shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security a report on such pilot program, whether such pilot program should be made permanent based on the results from such pilot program and whether the recommendations of the working group established pursuant to section 61 of this act were integrated in such pilot program.

Sec. 61. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to advise the State Fire Marshal on the development and implementation of a risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program, established pursuant to section 60 of this act, concerning the scheduling, documentation and prioritization of fire inspections of residential buildings designed to be occupied by more than two families pursuant to section 29-305 of the general statutes. The working group shall advise on (1) the design and implementation of such pilot program, (2) any data collection required pursuant to such pilot program and an assessment of the capacity of participating municipalities to report such data, (3) the progression of such pilot program and any data quality issues, and (4) any modifications to the reporting requirements under such pilot

program.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The State Fire Marshal, or the State Fire Marshal's designee;

(2) Four local fire marshals appointed by the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, one of whom shall represent a municipality participating in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program;

(3) Two members of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Services Organizations, appointed by said council;

(4) Two appointed jointly by the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety, who shall be members of such joint standing committee, or their designees;

(5) A representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, appointed by said conference; and

(6) Two appointed by the State Fire Marshal, each of whom shall be a representative from a municipality participating in the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program.

(c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, except the representative appointed pursuant to subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of this section shall be appointed as soon as practical after the State Fire Marshal selects the participating municipalities in the risk-based residential fire inspection program pursuant to subsection (b) of section 60 of this act. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety shall select the chairpersons of the working group from among the members

of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(f) Not later than December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter until December 1, 2028, the working group shall submit to the State Fire Marshal its evaluation of and recommendations for the implementation of the risk-based residential fire inspection pilot program, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) An evaluation of the pilot program's effectiveness in improving statutory inspection compliance, reducing inspection backlog, identifying and correcting high severity life safety hazards, improving firefighter operational safety through better hazard intelligence, reducing repeat violations, supporting consistent enforcement actions, and assessing fiscal and staffing impacts through comparisons of municipalities participating in the pilot program to baseline pre-pilot program fire inspection activity of such municipality and, where practicable, to similarly situated nonparticipating municipalities;

(2) Not later than December 1, 2026, (A) designation of the type of data required to establish a baseline of residential fire inspection activity in a municipality based on a two-year history or, when such data is unavailable, based on predictive data, (B) identification of the gaps in the availability of such data for each participating municipality, (C) determination of initial inspection volumes and timelines, (D) development of a plan for data collection and quality assurance during the pilot program, (E) for the requirements specified in subsection (c) of section 60 of this act, development of a (i) standardized scoring method for violations based on the severity of life-safety hazards; (ii) grading

system for residential buildings based on fire prevention and construction features; (iii) pre-inspection checklist for owners of residential buildings; and (iv) standardized documentation system for fire inspection findings, and (F) recommendations for any adjustments to the implementation of the pilot program;

(3) Not later than December 1, 2027, (A) determination of any adjustment to inspection volumes and timelines, (B) aggregation of violations by severity and changes from initial baseline data for each participating municipality, (C) identification of any trends in voluntary hazard correction undertaken as result of the pre-inspection checklist developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 60 of this act, (D) assessment of the use of the data system designated pursuant to subsection (c) of section 60 of this act and the quality of such data, and (E) an overview of the results of the pilot program as of such date; and

(4) Not later than December 1, 2028, recommendations for (A) legislation required to continue or alter the inspection schedule developed during the pilot program for each participating municipality, (B) state-wide implementation, other expansion, modification or termination of the pilot program, and (C) if applicable, statutory, regulatory, staffing, funding or technological changes required for broader implementation of the pilot program.

(g) The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits its final report or February 1, 2029, whichever is later.

Sec. 62. Section 30-22c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Juice bar or similar facility" means an area within permit premises in which nonalcoholic beverages are served to minors; and

(2) "Permit premises" means the premises operated under (A) a cafe permit issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a, or (B) a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g.

(b) The holder of a cafe permit issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a or a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g may operate a juice bar or similar facility at permit premises if the juice bar or similar facility is limited to a room or rooms or separate area within the permit premises wherein there is no sale, consumption, dispensing or presence of alcoholic liquor. The holder of a cafe permit, at all times when a portion of the permit premises is being operated as a juice bar, shall limit the number of patrons in the portion of the permit premises being operated as a juice bar to not more than ten per cent of the total building occupant load established by the Fire Marshal under the Fire Safety Code.

(c) Any town may, by ordinance, (1) provide the hours during which a juice bar may operate, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, prohibit the operation of juice bars within the town or municipality.

[(c)**]** (d) The holder of a cafe permit issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a or a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g shall provide advance written notice to the chief law enforcement officer of the town in which the permit premises is located of the specific dates and hours of any scheduled event at which such permit premises, or any portion thereof, will be used to operate a juice bar or similar facility. Such notice shall be sent (1) by certified mail, or by electronic mail to the designated electronic mail address for the chief law enforcement officer, and (2) in a manner so that such notice is received by such chief law enforcement officer not less than five days, and not more than thirty days, prior to the date of such scheduled event. The chief law enforcement officer of the town in which such permit premises is located may designate one or more law enforcement officers

to attend any such scheduled event at the cost of such permit holder. If, at any time prior to or during such scheduled event, the chief law enforcement officer of the town, or such officer's designee, determines that (A) there is insufficient police capacity to properly and safely monitor the event or enforce any applicable law related to the event or the permit premises, or (B) the event may, or has, become a danger to public safety, such officer or designee may, in such officer's or designee's sole discretion, reject such scheduled event or order such scheduled event to be terminated.

[(d)**]** (e) Nothing in this section shall exempt the holder of a cafe permit issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a or a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g from compliance with any other provisions of the general statutes or regulations of Connecticut state agencies concerning minors, including, but not limited to, the prohibition against the sale of alcoholic liquor to minors. The presence of alcoholic liquor or the sale or dispensing to or consumption of alcoholic liquor by a minor at a juice bar or similar facility is prohibited.

[(e)**]** (f) (1) A permittee or agent or employee of a permittee who operates a juice bar or similar facility at a permit premises may serve alcoholic liquor during the hours of operation of such juice bar or similar facility only to a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and who is wearing a conspicuous wristband that has been issued to the person wearing it by the permittee or agent or employee of the permittee to indicate that the permittee or agent or employee of the permittee has verified that such person is twenty-one years of age or older.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, any town or municipality may, by ordinance, prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquor on any permit premises while a juice bar is in operation.

[(f)**]** (g) Any permittee or agent or employee of a permittee convicted

of a violation of any provision of this section shall (1) (A) for a first offense, be fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, (B) for a second offense, be fined not more than five thousand dollars, and (C) for a third or subsequent offense, be fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or (2) be imprisoned not more than one year for a first, second, third or subsequent offense, or (3) be both fined and imprisoned.

(h) The Department of Consumer Protection may conduct an investigation into any purported violation of the provisions of this section and, if the department finds any violation, may impose any penalty set forth in section 30-55.

Sec. 63. Section 53a-115 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A person is guilty of criminal mischief in the first degree when: (1) With intent to cause damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages tangible property of another in an amount exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars, or (2) with intent to cause (A) (i) damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, or (ii) an interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public, and [having] (B) with no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages or tampers with tangible property of a utility or mode of public transportation, power or communication, and thereby causes an interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public, or (3) with intent to cause damage to any electronic monitoring equipment owned or leased by the state or its agent and required as a condition of probation or conditional discharge pursuant to section 53a-30, as a condition of release pursuant to section 54-64a or as a condition of community release pursuant to section 18-100c, and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages such electronic monitoring equipment and

thereby causes an interruption in its ability to function, or (4) with intent to cause (A) damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, or (B) an interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages or tampers with **[**(A)**]** (i) any tangible property owned by the state, a municipality or a person for fire alarm or police alarm purposes, **[**(B)**]** (ii) any telecommunication system operated by the state police or a municipal police department, **[**(C)**]** (iii) any emergency medical or fire service dispatching system, **[**(D)**]** (iv) any fire suppression equipment owned by the state, a municipality, a person or a fire district, or **[**(E)**]** (v) any fire hydrant or hydrant system owned by the state or a municipality, a person, a fire district or a private water company, or (5) with intent to cause damage to tangible property owned by the state or a municipality that is located on public land and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages such tangible property in an amount exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars.

(b) Criminal mischief in the first degree is a class D felony.

Sec. 64. Section 53a-116 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) A person is guilty of criminal mischief in the second degree when: (1) With intent to cause damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages tangible property of another in an amount exceeding two hundred fifty dollars; or (2) with intent to cause (A) damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, or (B) an interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages or tampers with tangible property of a public

utility or mode of public transportation, power or communication, and thereby causes a risk of interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public; or (3) with intent to cause damage to tangible property owned by the state or a municipality that is located on public land and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, such person damages such tangible property in an amount exceeding two hundred fifty dollars.

(b) Criminal mischief in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 65. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Up to $250,000 of the amount appropriated in section 1 of public act 25-168, as amended by public act 26-68, to the Attorney General, for Personal Services, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, shall be transferred to the Department of Consumer Protection, for Personal Services, for the costs of registering and ensuring compliance by operators of hotels, motels, inns and similar lodgings.

(b) The office of the Attorney General and the Department of Consumer Protection shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to effectuate the purpose of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 66. Sections 11 and 16 of public act 26-64 are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 67. Sections 1 and 33 of public act 26-15 are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 68. Sections 55 and 79 of public act 26-8 are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 69. Sections 20-324g and 42-103b to 42-103m, inclusive, of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Governor's Action:
Approved June 2, 2026