YMCA Youth And Government Schedule

Thursday, March 5th	Meeting	
4:00 p.m.	Registration and Check-in	Windsor Ballroom
4:30 p.m.	Committee Chair Training	Hartford Room
5:00 p.m.	Delegate Orientation (All Delegates)	Windsor Ballroom
5:30 p.m.	Opening Session (All Delegates and Adults)	Windsor Ballroom
6:00 p.m.	Legislative Committees	
6:00 p.m.	Adult Meeting (at least one adult from each delegation)	Lobby
7:00 p.m.	Dinner	Windsor Ballroom
7:45 p.m.	Legislative Committees	
9:15 p.m.	Closing Session	Windsor Ballroom
9:45 p.m.	Delegation Meetings	
10:00 p.m.	Curfew (Students in Rooms)	

Friday, March 6th		
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Windsor Ballroom
9:00 a.m.	Gather for Bus Dismissal	Windsor Ballroom
**We will depart to the Capitol from this session, bring everything you need for the day*		
9:15 a.m. -9:45 a.m.	Travel to Capitol	
10:00 a.m.	Opening Session	House Chamber
	Governor's Office	Speaker's Office
	Youth In Law	LOB Room 1C
	**Legislative Schedule on next page*	
5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	Travel back to Hotel	
6:00 p.m.- 6:45 p.m.	Election Speeches	Windsor Ballroom
6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Dinner & Break to change clothes	Windsor Ballroom
8:00 p.m.	Delegation Meeting	
8:15 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.	Delegate Celebration (Movie, Games, etc…).	Windsor Ballroom
	Movie	
	Karaoke	Windsor Ballroom
	Quiet Room	Lobby
9:45 p.m.	Closing Session	Windsor Ballroom
10:15 p.m.	Curfew (Students in Rooms)	

Saturday, March 7th		
7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast	Windsor Ballroom
8:30 a.m.	Youth in Law Final	
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Closing Session, Awards	Windsor Ballroom

	House	Senate	Middle School
9:00 AM	Windsor Ballroom		
9:15 AM	Depart		
9:30 AM	Arrive at Capitol		
9:45 AM	Security		
10:00 AM	Opening Session in House Chamber		
10:15 AM			
10:30 AM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	LOB 1D
10:45 AM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	LOB 1D
11:00 AM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	LOB 1D
11:15 AM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	LOB 1D
11:30 AM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	LOB 1D
11:45 AM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	LOB 1D
12:00 PM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	Lunch
12:15 PM	House Chamber	Senate Chamber	Lunch
12:30 PM	House Chamber	Lunch	Lunch
12:45 PM	House Chamber	Lunch	Senate Chamber
1:00 PM	House Chamber	Lunch	Senate Chamber
1:15 PM	House Chamber	Lunch	Senate Chamber
1:30 PM	Lunch	Senate Chamber	House Chamber
1:45 PM	Lunch	Senate Chamber	House Chamber
2:00 PM	Lunch	Senate Chamber	House Chamber
2:15 PM	Lunch	Senate Chamber	House Chamber
2:30 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	Once the Middle School Students have finished debate on their bills they will be assigned to join either the House or Senate Chamber with the High School Students.
2:45 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
`3:00 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
3:15 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
3:30 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
3:45 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
4:00 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
4:15 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
4:30 PM	Assembly Chamber	Senate Chamber	
4:45 PM	Closing Session in House Chamber		
5:00 PM			
5:15 PM	Depart	Depart	Depart

OUR MISSION

YMCA OF THE USA MISSION STATEMENT

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

CORE VALUES

Honesty **Respect**
Caring **Responsibility**

YMCA DIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

The Y is made up of people of all ages and from every walk of life working side by side to strengthen communities. Together we work to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity. Our core values are caring, honesty, respect and responsibility—they guide everything we do.

AREAS OF FOCUS

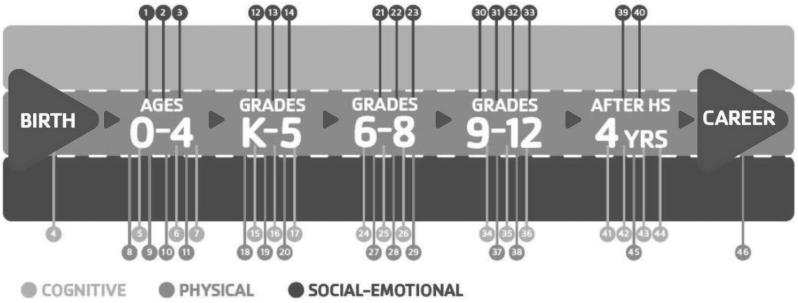
Youth Development
Nurturing the potential of every child and teen

Healthy Living
Improving the nation's health and well-being

Social Responsibility
Giving back and providing support to our neighbors

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AT THE YMCA

YMCA Youth Development is the **social-emotional**, **cognitive**, and **physical** process that all youth uniquely experience from birth to career. A successful development process fulfills children and teens' innate need to be loved, spiritually grounded, educated, competent, and healthy.



Positive youth development is supported by the intentional efforts of individuals, including parents, mentors, teachers, community members, peers, and others who help foster the skills needed for successful living through motivation, active engagement, enriching activities, and healthy relationships.

DIMENSIONS OF WELL-BEING

At the Y, we support youth development by fostering nine dimensions of well-being: Character, Giving, Inspiration, Health, Achievement, Relationships, Belonging, Meaning, and Safety.

Youth Development at the Y emphasizes three of these dimensions when measuring the impact and effectiveness of our programs:

Achievement **Relationships** **Belonging**

THE FIVE PILLARS

To help ensure the fidelity and quality of our YMCA teen programs, we measure and seek to maximize impact using the following pillars:

Academics
Positive Relationships
Positive Identity
Life Skills
Civic Engagement (Youth and Government*)

*Each YMCA teen program has a unique pillar of measurement. As a Youth and Government program, we measure civic engagement.

Dress Code

DAILY CLOTHING NEEDS

Day 1
Delegates will need one professional business casual outfit for this day. Please wear a skirt, slacks, or khakis that are not overly revealing or attention-grabbing. Shirts should have collars, and shoulders should be covered. This should not include blue jeans, shorts, leggings, athletic wear, sneakers, or sandals.
The clothes you travel to and from the conference in are decided by your local group.

Day 2
Delegates will need one professional business formal outfit for this day, and this should be a business suit or appropriate substitute.
Shoes should be appropriate for the outfit, not sneakers or other casual shoes. There will be a lot of walking throughout the day, so delegates should refrain from wearing uncomfortable shoes for the sake of appearance.
Delegates will be allowed to change into casual clothes for the social activities in the evening.

Day 3
Delegates may wear casual clothes on this day. Many will choose to wear their conference T-Shirt. Candidates are allowed but not required to wear a business formal or casual outfit.

Dockets

Committees

Bill #	Delegation	Chamber	Committee
1	Maloney	House	Committee 1
2	Maloney	House	Committee 1
8	O.H. Platt High School	House	Committee 1
9	Old Saybrook High School	House	Committee 1
17	Waterbury YMCA	House	Committee 1
19	Master's School	House	Committee 1
24	Notre Dame	Senate	Committee 1
27	O.H. Platt High School	Senate	Committee 1
32	Regional Y of Western CT	Senate	Committee 1
33	Regional Y of Western CT	Senate	Committee 1
5	O.H. Platt High School	House	Committee 2
7	O.H. Platt High School	House	Committee 2
11	Regional Y of Western CT	House	Committee 2
13	Regional Y of Western CT	House	Committee 2
18	Waterbury YMCA	House	Committee 2
20	Maloney	Senate	Committee 2
25	O.H. Platt High School	Senate	Committee 2
34	Regional Y of Western CT	Senate	Committee 2
35	Waterbury YMCA	Senate	Committee 2
4	Maloney	House	Committee 3
6	O.H. Platt High School	House	Committee 3
12	Regional Y of Western CT	House	Committee 3
14	Regional Y of Western CT	House	Committee 3
15	Waterbury YMCA	House	Committee 3
22	Maloney	Senate	Committee 3
23	Maloney	Senate	Committee 3
30	Old Saybrook High School	Senate	Committee 3
36	Waterbury YMCA	Senate	Committee 3
3	Maloney	House	Committee 4
10	Old Saybrook High School	House	Committee 4
16	Waterbury YMCA	House	Committee 4
21	Maloney	Senate	Committee 4
26	O.H. Platt High School	Senate	Committee 4
28	O.H. Platt High School	Senate	Committee 4
29	Old Saybrook High School	Senate	Committee 4
31	Old Saybrook High School	Senate	Committee 4
37	Waterbury YMCA	Senate	Committee 4

Chambers

Bill #	Delegation	Chamber
1	Maloney	House
14	Regional Y of Western CT	House
18	Waterbury YMCA	House
6	O.H. Platt High School	House
9	Old Saybrook High School	House
15	Waterbury YMCA	House
13	Regional Y of Western CT	House
11	Regional Y of Western CT	House
4	Maloney	House
7	O.H. Platt High School	House
2	Maloney	House
10	Old Saybrook High School	House
5	O.H. Platt High School	House
19	Master's School	House
3	Maloney	House
8	O.H. Platt High School	House
12	Regional Y of Western CT	House
17	Waterbury YMCA	House
16	Waterbury YMCA	House
Bill #	Delegation	Chamber
24	Notre Dame	Senate
21	Maloney	Senate
22	Maloney	Senate
30	Old Saybrook High School	Senate
35	Waterbury YMCA	Senate
31	Old Saybrook High School	Senate
20	Maloney	Senate
25	O.H. Platt High School	Senate
37	Waterbury YMCA	Senate
32	Regional Y of Western CT	Senate
29	Old Saybrook High School	Senate
26	O.H. Platt High School	Senate
36	Waterbury YMCA	Senate
27	O.H. Platt High School	Senate
34	Regional Y of Western CT	Senate
23	Maloney	Senate
33	Regional Y of Western CT	Senate
28	O.H. Platt High School	Senate

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment:1 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 1

Sponsors: Carissa Fox, Victoria Gonzalez, and Lyndsey Smith

An Act To: Concerning homeschooling regulations in Connecticut

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To require all Connecticut parents with homeschooled children to send reports of their child's academic progress to the superintendent of their local school district. To combat the issue of potential academic negligence in Connecticut homeschoolers.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

A SUPERINTENDENT is known as

1. The chief executive (CEO) of a school district, overseeing all aspects of its functioning

-The practice of education on a K-12 grade level at a facility that is not accredited by the Connecticut Department of Education (commonly takes place in the home)

A STANDARDIZED TEST in the context of education is a(n)

1. Measure of students performance and academic abilities

2. Assessment that uses a uniform system of test questions, scoring, and comparison to ensure that scores are an accurate reflection of performance

The DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES is known as

1. Connecticut's lead agency for the mental health of minors, ensuring the safety of minors in their households

The HOME SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR will be defined as

1. The parent or guardian that takes responsibility for the education upon being a signatory of the Letter of Intent to Homeschool AKA 'LEAP'

The LETTER OF INTENT TO HOMESCHOOL is known as

1. A form submitted to the local school district by a legal guardian that declares the intent to home school a student"

Section 2: Provisions (a) Parents must send yearly detailed records of their curriculum every July 2nd (second), consisting of the core classes: ELA, math, history, and science for at least 180 days/900 hours to the local superintendent or school committee and wait for approval before proceeding with any home school education.

(b) All parents of homeschooled students are required to send academic performance reports of their child's work to the local school district superintendent through standardized test or portfolio reviews.

(c) Progress reports vary depending on the student's age

1. (Every three months for infants/special needs students,

2. Every 6 (six) months for students aged 2 (two) to 4 (four), at least annually (mid-year) for school-aged children.
3. The end of the school year for high school students.

(d) If progress/good consistency isn't demonstrated by the students the district will intervene, offering support but also expecting improvement. In the event that a student repeatedly fails to demonstrate adequate progress after intervention, the district will potentially revoke their homeschool exemption, requiring the student to enroll in public school. The Department of Children and Families will also get involved. This can be brought about by a suspicion of neglect seen through no academic progress or a decline in their academic performance after the first semester of school. If neglect is sustained DCF workers will visit the family once a week to check on the student.

Justification: Progress checks will allow homeschoolers to reach the same amount of education at the same academic level as their in school peers, ensuring that homeschooled students won't fall behind other students in their local district.

Fiscal Implications: General education funds.

Effective Date: October 1, 2026

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 2

Sponsors: Ameera Burch

An Act To: Concerning protection against municipal negligence to homeowners' property

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect homeowners from expensive damages, caused by negligible liability of municipal water mains.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Municipal-Relating to a city or town or its governing body.

Negligence-Failure to take proper care in doing something .

Homeowner-A person who owns their home.

Property-A thing or things belonging to someone; possessions collectives.

Liability-The state of being responsible for something.

Section 2: Provisions

(1) Towns in Connecticut must be found liable for all damages caused by water main breaks.

(2)Towns must pay for all damages caused to homeowners homes from water main breaks.

(3) Homeowners will be protected from all costs, and municipalities must provide services in order to fix damaged homes.

Justification: This bill is being created because municipalities are often not found liable, which causes homeowners to pay excessive amounts of money that most citizens are not able to afford.

(1) Towns in Connecticut often do not pay for damages caused by water main breaks, causing homeowners to pay excessive amounts of money.

(2)Towns are not found liable for damages; endless negligence of maintenance is proven or known potential defects.

(3) Homeowners must make a claim with their insurance company, who often do not cover the price of the damages; claims get denied.

Fiscal Implications: Funding shall come from the water department of the town where the water main was broken.

1. The water department shall pay for all damages caused, no matter the cost.
2. If the water department does not have efficient funds, then the homeowner has the full right to sue the town or water department.
3. The department shall ensure compliance within 60 days of the incident.
4. Municipalities must maintain insurance policies against these claims.

Effective Date: October 1,2026

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Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 3

Sponsors: Kaiis Maha and Kaiera Maha

An Act To: Concerning the availability of free housing and shelter for citizens in need

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To improve the quality of life of all citizens and decrease the amount of people living unhoused.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Quality of life - standard of health, happiness, and comfort.

Unhoused - without accommodation or shelter.

Section 2: Provisions

The state of Connecticut will allocate state funds to open 150 homeless shelters across the state's poorest planning regions such as Middlesex, Bridgeport, South Central, Northeastern, and Naugatuck Valley by 2035. The bill will …

1. Reallocate state funds intended for other social programs to building and staffing the shelters.
2. Open 75 beds per planning region.
3. Provide dwellers with two meals per day.
4. Provide referrals to low-skilled jobs that will help people get over the poverty line.

Justification: To improve the lives of all people. A smaller homeless population would mean cleaner streets and more money flowing into the community. Crime rates would decrease tremendously given the lack of need among poorer citizens. Decrease the near 4,000 people living unhoused by at least 60%.

Fiscal Implications: Money will come from tax dollars intended for public service programs. We will use tax money to build and fully staff functioning shelters for homeless Connecticut citizens.

Effective Date: October 1st

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Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 10

Sponsors: Emma Courtright, Brooke Garvey, and Michele Sapozhnikov

An Act To: Require a semester-long course in internet safety and responsible digital usage as a graduation requirement for public high school students in the state of Connecticut

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This act aims to incorporate internet safety and usage, particularly the productive use of AI and digital footprint, in Connecticut public High School education. Students would be required to complete the semester-long course in order to apprehend knowledge on how to safely and educationally operate AI, in an allowed manner, and track the digital representation of themselves.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

Teachers of public schools who will be running this course will partake in additional learning on the matters of the class.

1.a: This additional learning should include how to use AI properly in both professional and casual settings, and how to incorporate it in learning, in a way that is both allowed and beneficial to the students' studies.

1.b: The learning should also include lessons on digital privacy and social media usage, including managing one's digital footprint and being made aware of microtargeting information and data.

The class would constitute all the regular tests, quizzes, and projects, as other half year classes.

2.a: Students will receive grades according to the district's existing grading system, whether it's a pass/fail system, letter, or number grade. In all scenarios, students will need to pass the class. (Earn a pass or passing grade defined by school both number and letter)

The Connecticut Department of Education will be charged with creating and standardizing a curriculum for the course, which will be evaluated annually.

The class will be offered as a baseline credit class, with no advanced or honors route.

The course of action when failure to comply with this mandate occurs will vary from each individual noncompliance, on the school and student level.

5.a: If a student disobeys the mandate and fails to complete and pass the required course they would be unable to graduate from their given school.

5.b: If a school fails to produce the class and make it available to its intended students, as decided by the CT Department of Education in their existing annual data certification evaluations, be given a state controlled Corrective Action Plan to ensure the class is taught. "

Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 10

Justification: Through the establishment of this digital awareness class students will engage in life long lessons revolving around AI usage, digital footprint and how to navigate the internet properly. As we expand into a more technologically advanced society the need for internet understanding has increased and has become more prevalent in our society. By establishing this curriculum it provides direction, structure and relevance to a classroom environment. Courses such as the one described above are becoming more necessary to help students understand the consequences and limitations of technological advanced softwares just as Artificial Intelligence. In the past five years as AI has become more widespreadly used, universities have begun to confront these students leading to expulsion of many. Specifically in 2024, a University of Minnesota PhD student known as Haishan Yang was expelled for using "ChatGPT" on an exam. By integrating a course and educating students on the dangers of AI it provides students the skills to avoid situations such as Haishan Yang. In addition through this course, students are taught how to manage their "public image" or digital footprint to avoid job restrictions, a damaged reputation or lack of college experiences. The Science Survey states "27% reported visiting applicants' social media profiles, and 66% believe social media profiles are fair game when making decisions." This provides a direct example as to why this course is not only relevant but life lasting to ensure students are protected and can thrive in their lifestyle. Overall with the integrating and introduction of this educational curriculum, students will be provided with life long lessons to help understand the risks of AI usage, how to maintain a positive digital footprint and navigate the internet properly.

Fiscal Implications: There are no apparent Fiscal Implications.

Effective Date: Due to the need for CT Departments of Education to make the proper changes, this statue will go into effect by the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 11

Sponsors: Scarlette Moreno

An Act To: Limit book censorship in all public libraries

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To limit censorship on all books in all public libraries. An agency shall be established in the executive branch to monitor book censorship

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Public Library: All state municipal public libraries and public K-12 libraries

Book challenge: An attempt to get a book removed from a library

Book Ban: The removal or restriction of access to a book in a library

Pressure groups: Organized groups that advocate for book bans by challenging materials they deem inappropriate, often because the content conflicts with their ideologies or religion.

Sexually Explicit: Content that graphically depicts or describes profound sexual acts

Marginalized groups: Communities that experience social, economic, or political exclusion or discrimination based on characteristics such as race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, economic status, or religion.

Section 2: Provisions

1. Sec. 4-38c. Departments within the executive branch: is amended to include: Connecticut, shall create a state agency to investigate book challenges and bans. This agency shall determine whether book challenges are valid or invalid.
2. This state agency shall be part time and meet once a month.
3. The Governor shall appoint members of the Department of Education, Children and Families, and the Connecticut State Library to work on this new agency.
4. The agency shall consist of an agency head and ten people.
5. All book challenge requests submitted to public libraries in the state shall be directed to the newly formed state agency.
6. To request a book challenge, the applicant must identify themselves to the agency, identify the book requested for review, and provide an explanation for the challenge.
7. Individuals who do not have a child in the school system are limited to one book challenge every 6 months.
8. Content warning tags shall be placed on all books in municipal public libraries that contain mature content or content that may be distressing or harmful to certain individuals.
9. No book should be removed from a public library for not aligning with an individual’s ideology or religion.

10. The state agency overseeing the book challenges shall follow the criteria below when evaluating whether a public school library book challenge is valid or invalid:
- Elementary: Books in elementary schools must follow the school curriculum. An elementary school book's mission is to educate and improve kids' reading skills while entertaining them with fun stories, educating about behavior, or light-hearted topics. Should a book in an elementary book contain profanities, violence/gore, sexual content, or encourage hateful actions or risky behaviors, said book may be removed from the library.
- Middle school: Books in a middle school must follow the school curriculum. Middle school books should be relatable to the students, meaning that complex topics should be explored, such as self-discovery, real experiences kids in middle school undergo, and mild mature themes as well. Should a book in a middle school contain excessive profanities, sexually explicit content, graphic gore/violence, or glorified risky behavior or hateful actions, said book may be removed from the library.
- High school: Books in high school must follow the school curriculum. High schoolers should be reading books they can relate to, as well as books discussing real-world issues. High school students may read books with mature themes, moderate violence, moderate profanities, and moderate physical intimacy as long as the content is not highly graphic and adds to or serves a purpose in the book to deepen the plot or message.

Justification: In recent years, the United States has experienced a notable rise in book banning and challenges, efforts to have books removed from libraries are at an all-time high. According to the American Library Association (ALA), in 2022, there were 2,571 unique titles targeted for censorship; the next year, in 2023, there were 4,240 unique book titles challenged, a 65% increase in book challenges. This was the third highest number ever documented by the ALA. Nearly all of these challenges target books created by people of, or content discussing the experiences of marginalized groups. It is reported by the ALA that about 72% of these challenges come from pressure groups and politicians, not the parents of children who frequent the library.

Actions taken by politicians and pressure groups to censor books actively violate the First Amendment and free expression, as everyone has the right to express their ideas as well as have their ideas acknowledged by others. Consequently, some excellent books have been or are at the brink of being removed from libraries in certain states and our state, restricting or erasing knowledge from the public. These books could have greatly benefitted individuals with new ideas, information,

perspectives, or provided them with a sense of recognition where they may not gain elsewhere but books.

Fiscal Implications: Employees of the state agency overseeing the book bans shall earn a salary of $48/hour and their training is $480 per individual. All expenses come from the Governor's executive branch budget.

Environmental Implications: By limiting censorship on books by establishing a state agency to oversee book challenges and bans, individuals of all ages will be able to read a variety of books, feel represented, and gain vast amounts of knowledge on the world safely.

Effective Date: One year after passage

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Committee Assignment: 3 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 12

Sponsors: Lori Huaman and Emily Reinoso Vasquez

An Act To: Concerning structural unemployment rising due to AI.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To enforce a limit on artificial intelligence in the workforce

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Artificial intelligence - technology that enables machines to simulate human intelligence, allowing them to learn, reason, solve problems, perceive, and understand language to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive functions, like recognizing speech, making decisions, and generating creative content

Workforce - the people engaged in or available for work, either in a country or state or in a particular company or industry.

Structural unemployment - a long-lasting, involuntary form of joblessness caused by a fundamental mismatch between the skills workers possess and the skills demanded by employers, often due to technological changes, shifts in consumer demand, or globalization

Section 2: Provisions 1. To decrease the spike in job losses that are in connection to AI 2. Implanting a cap of 20% of job roles

Justification: This bill is necessary because Artificial intelligence has lead to many jobs being cut off, due to replacement of robots. This makes it hard for people to find jobs and hard to find a source of income. Income is necessary for a family to sustain a household with their necessities.

Fiscal Implications: Reduced Labor Costs: Robots do not require salaries, benefits, or vacations, and can operate 24/7, allowing 24/7 production. Which can make it more expensive to hire humans

Lower Operating Expenses: robots can work in unheated or unlit environments, reducing utility costs.

High Upfront Investment: Purchasing, installing, and integrating robotic systems can be very expensive which makes it easier to higher humans

Maintenance and Training: Ongoing costs for maintenance, software updates, and training staff to manage the robots can add up

Environmental Implications: AI and the related data centers require a tremendous amount of electricity, with AI's share of global energy consumption projected to increase dramatically. This often involves burning more fossil fuels, as the electrical grid still heavily depends on these sources, keeping coal and gas plants running longer than they might otherwise.

Effective Date: March 2027

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Committee Assignment: 2 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 13

Sponsors: Melissa Saquinaula and Adrianna Cabrera

An Act To: Prohibit drivers in the state of Connecticut from making a right-hand turn at a red traffic signal.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To improve road safety throughout Connecticut by banning right turns on red. Which would reduce intersection crashes caused by rushed drivers, protecting pedestrians and cyclists, and adapting traffic laws to a state with increasing vehicle volume and dense urban areas.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Right turn on red — the act of turning a motor vehicle to the right at an intersection while the traffic signal is red without waiting for a green signal.

Section 2: Provisions

1. Drivers shall be prohibited from making a right-hand turn at a red traffic signal unless explicitly directed by a traffic officer.
2. Drivers must wait until the signal turns green before proceeding through an intersection.
3. Violators shall be subject to fines and penalties consistent with running a stop sign: in Connecticut, the typical ticket for running a stop sign is approximately $139 plus fees, and two demerit points on a driver's license. Total costs may range from $35 to over $181 depending on court fees.
4. This law shall apply statewide unless emergency conditions require temporary exceptions.

Justification: Right turns on red may seem convenient, but they create dangerous situations when drivers hurry through intersections, especially when they fail to make a full stop or check for cross traffic. This bill prevents rushed individuals from improperly rolling through a signal, as many collisions occur when drivers accelerate rather than properly stop and scan for vehicles and pedestrians.

Research has shown that at intersections where right-on-red is allowed, crashes increase, including pedestrian accidents and cyclist collisions. One analysis cited in The Guardian found that pedestrian crashes at these intersections can increase by as much as 60%, and overall collisions rise significantly.

Connecticut's population has been increasing overall, growing by over 30,000 residents between 2023 and 2024 , meaning more drivers and more vehicles on state roads (USAFacts.org). With more cars comes more complexity at intersections, and the potential for drivers to misjudge gaps or rush turns increases.

This law also reinforces responsible driving behavior by emphasizing principles taught in driver education. For example, permitting that drivers should never push through a signal because they are "late," a factor often linked with accidents due to emotional urgency and poor judgment.

By banning right turns on red, Connecticut joins other traffic safety efforts designed to protect vulnerable road users and reduce the number of preventable crashes each year.

Fiscal Implications: State costs will be modest. Primary expenses involve updating traffic signage at intersections and funding public safety awareness campaigns. These can be integrated into the Department of Transportation's regular maintenance budget. Reducing intersection crashes may also reduce state spending on emergency response, insurance costs, and roadway repair.

Fines collected from violations, similar to stop-sign infractions, will help offset administrative and enforcement costs. In Connecticut, running a stop sign carries an average fine of about $139 plus fees and adds two demerit points to the driver's license, with total costs sometimes exceeding $180. Courts may also assess additional surcharges (CT.gov).

Environmental Implications: Although prohibiting right turns on red could slightly increase wait times at intersections, the policy improves overall safety for pedestrians and cyclists, making walking and biking more viable and pleasant, contributing to reduced vehicle dependency. Additionally, fewer crashes mean less congestion caused by accident cleanups and fewer emergency vehicle emissions at scenes.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect one year after passage to give local municipalities time to update signage and educate the public.

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Committee Assignment: 3 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 14

Sponsors: Shalyn Huaman, Rosy Siguenza, Dhylan Basurto, and Cesar Soriano

An Act To: Amend Section 10-221a. Concerning Environmental Education as a High School Graduation Requirement, Be it enacted by the Connecticut General Assembly

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this act is to ensure that students enrolled in Connecticut public or private high schools receive instruction in environmental education prior to graduation. This act provides students with a foundational understanding of environmental systems, human interactions with the environment, and environmental conditions relevant to the state and nation. By incorporating environmental education into high school graduation requirements, the state establishes consistent educational standards across all school districts. This act is intended to support academic understanding and informed decision making without promoting specific political or policy positions.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Environmental education means instruction that provides students with an understanding of natural systems, human interactions with the environment, and environmental challenges using scientifically supported information.

Environmental literacy means the ability to understand environmental data, evaluate environmental information, and apply this knowledge to decision making at the individual and community level.

Extreme precipitation events means weather events involving unusually heavy rainfall that increase the risk of flooding, erosion, and infrastructure damage.

Section 2: Provisions

Section 10-221a of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be amended to require that environmental education be included among the instructional components necessary for high school graduation. Environmental education may be integrated into existing coursework and shall not require the creation of a separate graduation course. The State Board of Education shall provide guidance to school districts to ensure consistent implementation across the state. Local school districts shall retain flexibility in curriculum design, provided that students receive instruction aligned with the definition of environmental education in this act.

Justification: "This bill is necessary because environmental issues increasingly affect Connecticut infrastructure,economy and public safety making environment literacy as important component of a well rounded education. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Connecticut has experienced more frequent expensive weather and

climate disasters, averaging about one billion-dollar event per year between 1980 and 2024, with flooding and severe storms among those events. State climate science reports also note that annual precipitation and the number of intense precipitation events have risen, which can disrupt transportation and agriculture, and pose challenges for water management.Educational surveys in the region show knowledge gaps in local environmental systems: a 2024 survey found that including environmental education as a graduation requirement can help ensure students across all districts receive consistent information about environmental systems, data interpretation, and community planning priorities.ly 37 percent of residents in the Long Island Sound watershed knew they lived in it, despite the area's importance for local water resources and coastal ecosystems.
Administratively, the Northeast has experienced a 55% increase in extreme precipitation events since the mid twentieth century contributing to flooding,erosion and strain on the transportation system. In connection specifically, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection reports that average annual temperature has increased by nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900,which has implications for agriculture,energy use, and public health. This bill would affect students,educators and communities by establishing a consistent expectation for environment education statewide. Teacher and school districts would be impacted as the curriculum alignment would ensure students meet gratin stander without requiring new scours structure. In addition to this students benefit by gaining skills in data interpretation, scientific reasoning, and civic understanding that apply to many careers, including emerging fields in environmental science, energy, and public health. Families and communities will be better equipped to understand and respond to local environmental changes, such as storm resilience and water quality issues, when graduates have a foundational understanding of these topics. Over time, a more environmentally literate population can contribute to informed decision making in local planning, risk management, and workforce development without prescribing specific policy choices.
Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact of this act would be relatively low, as environmental education could be incorporated into existing courses within Connecticut public schools. While there may be short-term costs for curriculum development, instructional materials, and teacher training, these expenses represent an investment in the state's future. By promoting environmentally responsible behavior, this act could help reduce future environmental damage and lower long-term costs related to cleanup, public health, and resource management.

Environmental Implications: This act will positively affect the environment by increasing student awareness of local and global environmental issues. Educated students are more likely to make responsible choices, such as conserving resources and reducing pollution. By sharing this knowledge with others, students can help create long-term environmental improvements in their communities.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect one year after passage, beginning with the following academic year.

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Committee Assignment: 3 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 15

Sponsors: Aisha Etemi

An Act To: Amend School Bus Exterior Camera Systems.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect public and private school children and catch any driver who violates the actions of this bill, bringing them to justice.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

All cities in the state of Connecticut must install exterior bus cameras for public and private schools within 1 year by the date January 1, 2027.

Justification: The original passing of the bill was in 2018 and as of now there is only a minimal amount of cities that have taken the initiative to install exterior cameras under stop arm signs on school buses.

Fiscal Implications: Any violation from a city official of section 1 of this amendment shall be fined $500.

Any violation of section 1 of this amendment done by the driver of a vehicle other than the bus driver shall be considered a Class A Misdemeanor with up to 1 year in prison and a fine up to $2,000.

Any violation of section 1 of this amendment done by the driver of a vehicle other than the bus driver in the act of a collision with a child shall be considered a Class A Felony with 10-25 years in prison and a fine up to $20,000.

Effective Date: Upon passage of this amendment.

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Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 16

Sponsors: Alexander Nieves

An Act To: Concerning

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to encourage customers to order food directly from fast food restaurants instead of using third-party delivery apps. This helps consumers avoid extra fees and better understand the true cost of their food.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

This section defines key terms used in the bill, including "fast food restaurant," "third-party delivery app," and "direct ordering," to ensure clarity and consistency throughout the bill.

Section 2: Provisions

This section encourages fast food restaurants to inform customers about direct ordering options, such as ordering in person, online, or by phone, rather than through delivery apps that charge additional fees.

Justification: Delivery apps often add service fees, delivery charges, and higher menu prices, which can make food more expensive. Encouraging direct ordering allows customers to save money and make more informed choices while supporting restaurants directly.

Fiscal Implications: This bill does not require government funding. Consumers may save money by avoiding extra fees, and restaurants may benefit from increased direct sales without paying commission fees to delivery apps.

Environmental Implications: Ordering directly from restaurants may reduce unnecessary packaging and delivery trips, which can help lower waste and decrease environmental impact.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect upon approval.

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 17

Sponsors: Samiah Brunette

An Act To: Reduce dangerous heats in the major cities of Connecticut

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect citizens of major cities

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions A state funded tree equity score shall be put in place, any major cities below the threshold must be required to get new state-funded plantings. Plantings shall be done by criminals as an act of community service, if not done by said person, the court shall treat it as non-compliance and shall bring said person back before a judge.

Justification: This bill is needed to protect the well-being and lives of our citizens

Fiscal Implications: In Bridgeport, some neighborhoods have as little as 9% tree canopy, far below the state average of about 67%.

Hartford's overall tree canopy is around 25%

New Haven's overall canopy is about 38%, but low-income neighborhoods can be as low as 16%, meaning many residents lack cooling shade.

Across Connecticut's urban areas, tree cover in Bridgeport and Hartford (20–26%) is well below what research suggests is needed to significantly reduce heat (often estimated around 40% for strong heat mitigation).

Hartford (25% canopy, 30 sq mi urban area): roughly 15,000–20,000 new trees

Bridgeport (9% canopy, 15 sq mi urban area): roughly 10,000–12,000 new trees

New Haven (16–38% canopy, 10 sq mi urban area in low-income zones): roughly 5,000–7,000 new trees Total: 30,000–40,000 trees statewide

Cost per tree (planting + 3–5 years care): $500–$1,500 ([EPA, urban forestry programs])

-Lower heat-related health costs

-Reduced energy costs from shade cooling

-Less infrastructure damage from stormwater / erosion

Environmental Implications: This will directly reduce carbon footprint, give our animals somewhere to live, and reduce heat risks as this will bring down local air temperatures by 5-9 Fahrenheit.

Trees absorb CO_2, ozone, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter.

Fully grown urban trees can remove hundreds of pounds of pollutants per year, improving respiratory health.

Tree roots and canopy intercept rainfall, reducing runoff into storm drains.

This decreases flooding, erosion, and water pollution, lowering costs for municipal stormwater systems.

Effective Date: October 20th 2028

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Committee Assignment: 2 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 18

Sponsors: Isaac Diaz

An Act To: Release or Settlement of Claim by Injured Individual in the State of Connecticut

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect injured individuals from greedy insurance conglomerates rushing them into a settlement without fully evaluating their medical costs.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Section 2: Provisions

All settlements or release of liability waivers signed within the first 30 days of a tort by an injured individual without just legal representation, shall have the ability to be voided by the injured individual within 60 days of signage. All injured individuals voiding a settlement from this provision shall provide notice in writing within 72 hours to the parties and return any monetary settlement (if any) to the other parties in 5-8 business days. Parties seeking to obtain a settlement or release of liability shall not speak with an injured individual in the hospital without legal representation present 15 days of the occurrence causing the patient's injury. Any settlement or release of liability obtained by a party without following the conditions listed in this section shall be null and void.

Justification: Maryland implemented a similar law to protect individuals in 2024, MD Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code § 5-401.1

Fiscal Implications: Any individuals who violate any provision of this act shall be subject to a Class A Felony.

Environmental Implications: This act would ensure that all members involved in a tort have a fair and just process.

Effective Date: Effective upon passage of this bill.

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 19

Sponsors: Stella Stinziani

An Act To: Make Students Healthier with Gardens

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this Act is to educate students about the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables. Creating a positive association with nutritious food options to give schools a foundation to further improve lunch programs.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

"Campus garden" means any Public-School property that can be designated for agricultural use.

"Green Team" means students, teachers, and community members who plant and maintain gardens.

"Green Team Stipend" is to be managed by the Bureau of Health, Family Services, Nutrition and Adult Education

Section 2: Provisions

1. Set up community gardens (potted, in ground, raised beds or vertical growing systems)
2. Create Green Teams to organize students to manage gardens.
3. The program's yearly goal is to grow at least 3 different fruits and/or vegetables and have a minimum of 50% of their student body try them. The students will report their garden tasting to their teacher who will submit it to the Green Team. The team will compile the survey data and submit it to the Bureau of Health, Family Services, Nutrition and Adult Education.
4. If the goal of trying 3 fruits and vegetables by 50% of the student body is met; the school will receive funding for the next school year to expand fruit and vegetable options in school lunches as overseen and decided by the Bureau of Health, Family Services, Nutrition and Adult Education.

Justification: The YMCA Model General Assembly finds that this Act is important to keep students healthy and establish positive eating habits

Fiscal Implications: One million five hundred thousand dollars is taken from the State General Fund to pay for community gardens and Green Teams. This is an appropriate amount because the current general budget is 13.6 billion dollars, making it only about 0.011% of Connecticut's education cost sharing formula

Effective Date: Effective in the following school year

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Committee Assignment: 2 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #:20

Sponsors: Zoe Castrogiovanni, Julia Graham, and Aliyah Silva

An Act To: Concerning voter registration education

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To educate high school students on the importance of voting so young adults go into the voting space with knowledge on the matter.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Young adults - a person in their late teens or early twenties.

Education - the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.

Youth voting - graduating seniors getting ready to vote

Section 2: Provisions

a.) All public high schools Civics classes must provide a unit on youth voting. The unit will be focusing on preparing upperclassmen for life beyond high school and making sure this information is obtained for when they are approved to vote.

b.)This unit focuses on the history of voting, the process of registration, and instructing students on where to vote.

c.) The school shall provide voter registration cards to eligible students. The students can receive these cards at the office or at guidance so they are more accessible for everyone.

Justification: Many young voters are going into voting heavily uneducated without the understanding of the process.

Fiscal Implications: Non applicable

Effective Date: 7/1/26

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Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 21

Sponsors: Lucy Fisher and Caylee Brown

An Act To: Concerning misleading job positions known as 'ghost jobs'

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect laborers from being threatened or otherwise misled by predatory job postings that are intended to pressure workers into an elevated sense of disposability

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

A 'GHOST JOB' is known as a job that

1. Typically exists for a prolonged period of time without being filled (over one month)

2. Typically only found on job posting boards -- not the company's official career website

3. Does not offer follow-up communication to applicants

A ghost job typically intends to

1. Not be filled

2. Amplify productivity by pressuring existing workers into believing that they are easily replaceable

The 'DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTIONS' is

1. A Connecticut agency that protects the consumers of Connecticut from unfair business practices that operates under the state government

'VALUATION' is known as

1. The financial worth of a company

A 'SMALL BUSINESS' will be defined as a business that

1. Has had an annual revenue under the amount of ONE MILLION DOLLARS ($1,000,000) of the most recent completed accounting year

Section 2: Provisions

(a) Explicitly adds the practice of advertising and creating ghost jobs to be an unfair business practice by amending The Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act of 1973 (CUTPA)

(b) Enacts that upon the effective date of this bill companies will have to deposit TWICE the amount of a prospective job offering's salary in order to advertise said job offering on job boards, career websites, and all other modes of job advertisement

(c) If a company or entity is found liable for engaging in advertising at least ONE (1) ghost jobs, there will be a fine issued to the perpetrating company that will be defaulted to 10% of the company's valuation

1. Fines issued will be according to each civil case where a company is found to be liable for advertising ghost jobs

(d) If a company or entity is found liable for engaging in advertising at least TWO (2) ghost jobs, the corporate tax rate of the company will be doubled for the next TWO (2) quarters

(e) Small businesses, as defined in provisions, will be exempted from aforementioned fines and will instead be fined in the amount of $10,000

(f) The DCP will employ an extra 10% of existing commissioner figures using their existing revenue of $35 million

Justification: This initiative will protect the Connecticut workforce from being unfairly threatened into increased work performance by standardizing the definition of ghost jobs and the punishment for advertising them.

Fiscal Implications: (a) This bill will cost an estimated $4,400,000 that covers the salary of new DCP workers

(b) These costs will be covered by the DCP's existing revenue of $35 million

Effective Date: October 1st, 2026

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Committee Assignment: 3 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 22

Sponsors: Carolyn Caldas and Leo Martinez

An Act To: Fund the Creation of Additional Mental Health Group Homes.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This bill will ensure that those with serious mental illness (SMI) that require care in a group home setting are able to have an available group home they can go to and so those who are already in group homes can live comfortably.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Mental health group home is defined as a residential facility that provides therapeutic services and housing to individuals with mental health disorders.

Serious Mental Illness (SMI) is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.

Section 2: Provisions

1. $5 million shall be allocated to the Department of Mental Health and Additional Services (DHMAS) for the construction, mental health services, staffing and cost of operation of per new mental health group home created through this bill.
2. Mental health group homes will be dispersed based on regional demand and population density to ensure their accessibility in both urban and rural areas.
   a. Information to determine the location shall be found through the Health Professional Shortage Area Find from the Health Resources and Services Administration.
3. Group homes created under this bill must follow state licensing and accreditation requirements in the Facility Licensing and Investigations Section (FLIS) from the Department of Public Health.

Justification: In Connecticut there is a lack of available beds open in mental health group homes. According to reports made by existing mental health group homes, there are little to no beds available for those in need. About 1 in 5 adults in Connecticut experienced a mental health disorder in 2021. A 2016 study has shown that people with access to supportive mental health housing have healthier outcomes, including improved quality of life and a decrease in hospitalizations. The lack of available group homes needs to be fixed in order for those facing serious mental illness to get the care they need to help function and live comfortably in society. Due to these studies, by creating more group homes this would allow those facing mental health challenges to be able to have a place to stay and prevent the development of long-term issues, including homelessness, addiction, and involvement in crimes. An increase in group homes would also allow individuals to

live more independently while receiving needed care and relieve the stress of caregivers that have to manage a cared one's mental health conditions.

Fiscal Implications: To construct, pay for staffing, operation maintenance, and mental health services for a mental health group home, it will cost $5 million dollars annually. Funding will come from the Connecticut Budget Reserve, Medicaid, house-related subsides & support services, and federal grants from programs such as, Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration.

Environmental Implications: Creating new mental health group homes requires land for development, which could impact local ecosystems. In order to minimize this, group homes can be built on already developed areas, such as using existing structures. The construction method used to create these group homes will determine the environmental impact based on construction materials. Having more group homes would foster inclusive and positive communities and ease environmental pressures caused by homelessness and strains on public resources.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Committee Assignment: 3 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 23

Sponsors: Alexandra Curtis

An Act To: Concerning the age in which people can vote on topics regarding that district's school board.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To create more fairness in public schools by district, giving the students a voice on what they want to see happening in their schools.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

School board election - any election for members inside that specific board of education or school committee.

The age of students voting - students age 16 and above permitted to vote in these elections who meet all voter eligibility requirements besides age.

Section 2: Provisions

This law is allowing municipalities to lower the voting age for school board elections within the district of the town or other regional education district down to a minimum of 16 years of age. This law will go into effect before the 2028 election cycle with districts now required to hold either an informational presentation with updated voting information with topics including but not limited to voting location, time, requirement, candidates, and necessary identification.

Justification: Only adults voting in a school board election where it doesn't only affect them is unfair, many school board decisions personally affect student body experience in the district. This will ensure the best outcome out of their funding and what will happen in these schools, overall making it a better place and instituting a positive stigma around these school board decisions since eligible students would now have an option to vote.

This law will go into effect before the 2028 election cycle to allow municipalities to change their laws.

Fiscal Implications: Any cost associated with new voters will be funded by the secretary of state office and municipal voting location funds.

Effective Date: Before the 2028 election cycle in districts.

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 24

Sponsors: Chael Baijnauth, Amir Glenn, and Ari Bartolomei

An Act To: To install an assessment every 6-8 years for anyone with a drivers license, and 4 years for anyone above the age of 65

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To decrease the number of vehicular accidents from happening on Connecticut roads

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Accident shall be defined as: an unforeseen, unexpected, and unintentional incident, often implying a lack of fault. However, in certain circumstances, there can be a person at fault

License refers to any drivers license unless specifically identified as a different type.

Section 2: Provisions

This bill is to be implemented at every DMV in Connecticut through a gradual 2-3 year process starting from the counties most impacted to the counties least impacted. If a DMV location does not offer the test within the time limit, the DMV will be fined $2,500 per month. The test will consist of questions based on the most common cause of accidents, along with a vision exam, if a driver is older than 65. If a driver fails the test, their license will be suspended, and they must retake it until they pass.

Justification: Every year about 400 people die in CT car accidents. Older drivers tend to drive considerably fewer miles each year than do younger drivers, but their accident involvement rate on a miles-driven basis appears to increase appreciably after age 75, and then fairly more after age 80. Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport have the most reported deaths in CT concerning car crashes. This bill is targeted towards the elderly as their motor skills and physical abilities are waning. Things like eyesight and hearing are vital to driving, allowing the driver to see the signs and hear any sirens and horns on the road. While there have been attempts to help (for example, the state has implemented campaigns to encourage safe driving practices and reduce the number of fatalities), these attempts have not done enough. While younger drivers are not out of the equation, the more elderly that are on the road, the more dangerous it is for themselves.

Fiscal Implications: It is to be partially paid for by application costs, partially paid for by tax dollars with a $5 million, 10 year budget. It is to be applied to anyone with a driver's license in the state of Connecticut. It is to be applied to anyone with any variation of a drivers license. The cost is to be added to the cost to renew a license: ($50+ [Amount Full Cost to Renew License)). The State of Connecticut will

allocate $3 million dollars to start the program ($5,000,000-$3,000,000 $2,000,000 for the test to be made).

Environmental Implications: Implementing the bill will lead to less debris on public roads, smaller chances of cars leaking gas, and less environmentally harmful materials having to be used in the repair of damaged vehicles and roads

Effective Date: It is to be implemented through a gradual 2-3 year process starting on January 1st, 2026,. By January 1st, 2029, the bill shall be fully implemented.

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Committee Assignment: 2 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 25

Sponsors: Ethan Ricciardi and Edward Ramirez-Medina

An Act To: Concerning reforms to student mental health wellness days

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To amend the Connecticut General Statutes to expand and standardize the use of excused mental health absences for students under existing school attendance law.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

"Mental Health Wellness Day" means a school day during which a student attends to such a student's emotional and psychological well-being in lieu of attending school, as established in section 10-198f of the general statutes.

Section 2: Provisions This act reforms Connecticut law by expanding student mental health wellness days from two to four per school year for schools that already recognize such days. Mental health wellness days shall be excused absences, may be taken consecutively or non-consecutively, and shall not count toward truancy. The act prohibits schools from requiring medical documentation, allows retroactive notification within forty-eight hours, and provides academic and extracurricular protections for affected students. The act takes effect at the start of the first school year following its passage.

Justification: Student mental health directly affects academic performance, attendance, and overall well-being. Current Connecticut law recognizes mental health wellness days but limits students to only two per school year, which may be insufficient to address ongoing stress, anxiety, or emotional strain.

This act responsibly expands the number of allowable mental health wellness days while maintaining parental oversight and existing attendance procedures. By treating mental health absences the same as physical illness and providing academic protections, the bill promotes student wellness without undermining educational standards or school accountability.

Fiscal Implications: This act is not anticipated to result in significant additional costs to the state or to local school districts. The act expands the allowable number of mental health wellness days but does not require the hiring of additional staff, the creation of new programs, or the allocation of new funding.

Schools will continue to use existing attendance reporting systems, communication platforms, and academic make-up policies to implement the provisions of this act. Any administrative adjustments required are expected to be minimal and absorbable within current resources.

Environmental Implications: This act is not expected to have any direct environmental impact. The provisions of the act concern school attendance policy

and student mental health wellness days and do not affect natural resources, energy use, land use, or environmental regulation.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect at the beginning of the first school year following its passage, in accordance with the academic calendar of each individual school or school district.

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Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 26

Sponsors: Sarah Kuch, Madeleine Kingsland, and Isla Peacock

An Act To: Establish a 30 minute paid break after working 5 hours consecutively.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this act is to improve labor practices and protect employee health by mandating a paid 30-minute break after five consecutive hours of work.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Unauthorized Breaks: Any break taken by an employee that extends a 30 minute break or takes an unscheduled break that the employer did not approve

Consecutive hours: A steady period of work done by an employee with out having a pause for an authorized break of 30 minutes

Employee: Any individual working for a business and does labor in exchange for wages, or salary including full time, and part time.

Employers: Any person, business, or organization that hires an employee to handle duties on behalf of the employer.

Work place:Any location, physical or remote, where an employee performs work duties on behalf of an employer, including offices, retail locations, industrial sites, and remote work environments.

Work place accidents:Any injury, illness, or harmful incident that occurs while an employee is performing job-related duties during working hours.

Paid breaks: A 30-minute period of rest during which an employee is relieved of work duties and continues to receive regular compensation, counted as time worked for wage calculation purposes.

Section 2: Provisions

(1) Employers will be required to provide a paid 30-minute break to any employee who works five consecutive hours or more in a single shift.

(2) By the 5th consecutive hour of work, a worker is entitled to a 30-minute paid break. If the employee’s entire shift is 6.5 hours or less, then the break is mutually waived.

(3) Paid breaks will be counted as hours worked for the purpose of calculating wages. This will have no lowering impact on wages.

(4) For the employer's needs, employers may schedule the paid break before the 5-hour window. It may not, however, be moved to after the window.

(5) If an employee has an unauthorized break without permission, the employer does not have to pay for the extra time.

(6) This act shall apply to all employers operating within the state of Connecticut, including those employing minors.

Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 26

Justification: Giving a paid break to employees improves productivity, increases job satisfaction, and reduces workplace accidents. This will in turn help employers operate efficiently and promote fair labor standards. Additionally, guaranteeing a paid break creates a consistent statewide expectation, preventing workers from being treated differently based on employer discretion.

Fiscal Implications: Providing a 30 minute paid break for employees will require employers to allocate greater funds for proper compensation. With the addition of this break, the tax rate would increase in the state of Connecticut. However, these funds are crucial to improving morale in the workplace. A paid break would encourage employees to work more efficiently and enthusiastically. This is not solely due to the fact that they are well rested, but also because these workers will feel valued for their time, thus, their spirits will be high. Additionally, a 30 minute paid break after 5 hours of consecutive work is most beneficial because it will encourage employees to work longer hours, taking on longer shifts because they feel that they are prepared to do so.

Environmental Implications: Environmental Implications with this act seem to be very limited, since it is only based on the labor standards of the workplace. It does not change any use of land, resource extraction, or emissions. The only possible slight impact if any is due to less operational errors, causing unnecessary waste to decrease.

Effective Date: This Act shall take effect June 1st, 2026, following passage of this bill upon the Governor’s signing it.

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 27

Sponsors: Sydney Quicquaro and Gisella Zelesky

An Act To: Establish Mental Health Resource Centers In All Public High Schools

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this Act is to improve student well-being and academic success by ensuring that all public high schools have accessible mental health support services on campus. To achieve this goal we plan to have at least one mental health clinician in every public high school. In Connecticut, although state law does not mandate that every high school have a mental health clinician at all times, this bill would require that at least one clinician is in the building during school hours every day. Our bill will ensure that all public 9-12 high schools have this important resource in their building at all times.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Public high school- means any secondary school operated by a local or regional board of education that includes grades 9 through 12

Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC)- means a designated on-site location within a high school staffed by qualified professionals to provide mental health support, counseling, and referrals.

Qualified professionals- means licensed psychologists, social workers, counselors, or psychiatrists certified under state law to deliver mental health services.

Clinician- a healthcare professional who works directly with patients to diagnose, treat, and manage illnesses or conditions

Section 2: Provisions

1. All public high schools within the state shall establish a Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC) on school premises by the start of the 2027–2028 academic year.
2. Each MHRC shall provide the following services free of charge to enrolled students:
   a. confidential individual counseling;
   b. group support sessions;
   c. crisis intervention;
   d. referrals to community mental health providers.
3. Staffing Requirements:
   a. Each MHRC shall be staffed every school day during school hours by at least one qualified mental health professional for every 330 enrolled students.
   b. Schools may partner with community mental health organizations to meet staffing requirements.
4. Annual Reporting:

a. Each school district shall submit an annual report to the State Department of Education detailing MHRC utilization, services provided, and staffing compliance.

Justification: In Connecticut, there has been a spike in mental health crises among high school students. According to the 2023 Connecticut School Health Survey, nearly 36% of high school students were reported to have been feeling alone, and hopeless. Another survey in 2024 of Connecticut teachers and staff agree that their schools are not equipped to help all of their students with worsening mental health needs. Many students have to wait for long periods of time to be able to have an available resource to talk to. Having a dedicated Mental Health Resource Center within every public high school gives students the immediate help they need, and know there's someone there daily for them and their needs. Mental health issues are one of the leading causes of school absence. These services keep students in the classroom and make school feel like a trusting place.

Fiscal Implications: 1. There is appropriated $25,000,000 from the General Fund in the fiscal year 2026–2027 to the State Department of Education to support initial implementation costs, including staffing, training, and facility setup.

2. Annual maintenance and staffing costs shall be funded through a dedicated line item in the state education budget beginning in fiscal year 2027–2028.

3. If a school district fails to comply with Section 4(a)(1) by the deadline established, the State Department of Education shall withhold 5% of that district's annual administrative grant until compliance is achieved.

Environmental Implications: The environmental implications are secondary. The main concern would be more use of utility load for the school district.

Effective Date: This Act shall take effect July 1, 2026, provided that schools may begin planning and implementation immediately upon enactment.

Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 28

Sponsors: Brayden Mauro

An Act To: Concerning comprehensive income tax reform and relief for Connecticut taxpayers

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The General Assembly finds that Connecticut residents face one of the highest combined state and local tax burdens in the nation, contributing to out-migration, workforce loss, and reduced economic competitiveness.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

The General Assembly further finds that sustained budget surpluses, growth in the Budget Reserve Fund, and increased revenue stability provide an opportunity to responsibly reduce income tax rates without compromising essential public services.

Reduction and Restructuring of Personal Income Tax Rates

(a) Beginning January 1 following passage of this act, section 12-700 of the general statutes is amended to revise the personal income tax rates as follows:

For Single Filers and Married Filing Separately:

- 1.75% on taxable income up to $15,000
- 4.00% on taxable income from $15,001 to $60,000
- 5.00% on taxable income from $60,001 to $125,000
- 5.75% on taxable income from $125,001 to $250,000
- 6.45% on taxable income over $250,001 to $450,000
- 6.69% on taxable income over $450,001 to $700,000
- 6.90% of taxable income over $700,001

For Married Filing Jointly:

- 1.75% on taxable income up to $30,000
- 4.00% on taxable income from $30,001 to $120,000
- 5.00% on taxable income from $120,001 to $250,000
- 5.75% on taxable income from $250,001 to $500,000
- 6.25% on taxable income over $500,000 to $750,000
- 6.56% on taxable income over $750,001 to 1,000,000
- 6.91% on taxable income over $1,000,001

(b) The top marginal income tax rate shall be reduced from 6.99% to 6.91%.

(c) No taxpayer shall experience an increase in income tax liability as a result of this act.

Expansion of Middle-Class Tax Relief

(a) The personal exemption and standard deduction shall be increased by 10 percent for filers with adjusted gross income below $150,000 (single) and $300,000 (joint).

(b) The earned income tax credit shall be increased from 30.5% to 35% of the federal credit to further offset payroll and income tax burdens on working families.

Fiscal Safeguards and Revenue Neutrality Measures

(a) Income tax reductions under this act shall be funded through:

1. A portion of annual revenue growth exceeding the statutory volatility cap;

2. Continued budgetary efficiencies identified by the Office of Policy and Management; and

3. Preservation of the Budget Reserve Fund at no less than 15 percent of annual General Fund expenditures.

(b) The State Comptroller shall annually certify compliance with the fiscal safeguards established in this section.

Justification: To give money back to the residents of Connecticut

Fiscal Implications:

Effective Date: This act shall take effect January 1, 2027 following passage, and shall apply to taxable years commencing on or after said date.

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Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 29

Sponsors: Nico Sokolowski and Olive Egbert

An Act To: Require all public schools in Connecticut to implement certified therapy dog programs to support student mental health and well-being.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to reduce student stress and anxiety by expanding access to certified therapy dogs in public school settings.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

A therapy dog is defined as a certified, vaccinated, and temperament-tested dog that is approved by a nationally recognized therapy animal organization for use in school environments.

Section 2: Provisions

All public schools shall establish a therapy dog program within two academic years of the bill's effective date, with dogs present only during designated times and under the supervision of trained handlers.

Justification: Students face increasing academic and mental health pressures, and therapy dogs have been shown to provide emotional support and stress reduction in educational settings.

Fiscal Implications: This bill has minimal fiscal impact as schools may utilize community partnerships, nonprofit therapy organizations, and existing mental health resources rather than purchasing animals.

Environmental Implications: This bill has no significant environmental impact.

Effective Date: This bill shall take effect in August 2027 to allow sufficient time for school districts to plan and implement the program

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Committee Assignment: 3 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 30

Sponsors: Hannah Belknap, Yisel Serrano, and Azemina Cecunjanin

An Act To: Protect the rights of all Connecticut citizens

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure all citizens of Connecticut are aware of the rights they possess and to protect citizens' privacy and personal information.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

CHRO- Connecticut Commission on Humans Rights and Opportunities

Kids Court Academy- Program with the CHRO that holds experiences and online workshops for Connecticut youth to learn about civil rights.

Connecticut Trust Act (HB 7172)- Created limitations on law enforcements cooperation with federal immigration authorities (ICE), prohibiting detention unless a judicial warrant is provided, or an individual has criminal convictions.

Class A-B Felonies- The most serious crimes that can be committed that are not limited to, but include: murder, robbery, kidnapping, and manslaughter.

Automated license plate readers (ALPR)- Computer controlled camera systems on police cars that photograph and record vehicle license plates, date, and time.

Section 2: Provisions

Section I: The CHRO will engage in a comprehensive advertising campaign throughout Connecticut, educating and providing resources for citizens to "Know their Rights" as a protection from harassment and unlawful practices.

Section II: The CHRO is required to provide resources and information in the 20 most common and spoken languages in Connecticut. (Statistical Atlas) A translating website should also be linked to the CHRO's website, for citizens that speak a different language.

Section III: The CHRO will specifically provide online resources with substantial information, host public forums to educate populations of Connecticut municipalities, host educational outreach with the Kids Court Assembly, and train community leaders to educate their communities.

Section IV: Rewrite and improve the TRUST Act (HB 7212) to restrict and prohibit local police officers from accessing detention center logs to solely contact federal officers when a suspect is arrested for Class A-B felonies or Capital felonies.

Section V: Include provision in the Trust Act (HB 7212) to prohibit local law enforcement from utilizing automated license plate readers to enforce federal immigration policies." on police cars that photograph and record vehicle license plates, date, and time.

Justification: The importance of knowing one's rights and being protected by government overreach is essential for a functional and thriving society. However,

currently the knowledge of rights granted by the government that citizens possess is staggeringly low. According to the Annenberg Public Policy Center, less than 1 of 4 individuals (24%) could name the Freedom of Religion as a Constitutional right, demonstrating the lack of knowledge that the majority of citizens nationwide possess. Thus, the advertising campaign proposed within, will serve as a means to solve this issue, and create a more informed and protected citizenry. Knowing one's rights serves as protection against unlawful conduct such as searches, seizures and detention. This type of conflict has become more prevalent in recent years, aided by the large number of ICE arrests in the U.S. which have risen from around 300/day in 2024 to more than 1,000 in October 2025 (Prison Policy Initiative). Many ICE officials or other federal officers have often utilized state information or information within states, to further their agendas. This had led to officials' usage of detention center logs and ALPRs. The addition of new policies to the Trust Bill, which limit the sharing of detention logs with the federal government, are essential to further protections for inmates. Moreover, the elimination of ALPRs to further federal immigration policy, is a crucial measure to prevent government misuse of data, protect civil liberties, and protect privacy. To the ACLU, "ALPR technology…poses an immense threat to civil liberties", which is why it is necessary for Connecticut to take action. Overall, Connecticut needs to work to protect the rights of its citizens and inform citizens of their rights, as is established in this bill.

Fiscal Implications: The CHRO's online resources, training programs for community leaders, outreach events, and educational programs will require additional staff and a larger budget. Allocation from the state budget for more funding, or reallocation of funds within the CHRO budget will be decided following the creation of upcoming Connecticut Budgets. This campaign will alleviate state spending, as it will reduce the cost of legal disputes over the rights of Connecticut citizens.

Environmental Implications: There are no environmental implications.

Effective Date: Immediately.

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Committee Assignment: 4 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 31

Sponsors: Casey DeAngelo, Brandan Beaudoin, and Josh Roslonek

An Act To: Regulate the Board of Education High School Graduation Requirements in Physical Education

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Provide students with more opportunities to reach High School graduation requirements while still acquiring the proper necessary skills and knowledge in the department of Physical Education and Health for future prosperity.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

The Connecticut Board of Education will amend its graduation requirements on Physical Education Public Act 17-42, Section 10-221a (c). Implementing an alternative method of obtaining a Physical Education credit, in participating in school sports.

Public Act 17-42, Section 10-221a (c) states, "no local or regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than… one credit in physical education and wellness."

In the Connecticut Board of Education Required Public School Program of Study, the distinction separating "physical" from "health" education class is made. With "Health" education including but not limited to hygiene, nutrition, relationships, sexual safety, mental health, and substance abuse this requirement still must be met in the classroom.

Section 2: Provisions

No student shall be required to participate in interscholastic athletics in order to meet graduation requirements. Each local and regional board of education must still provide traditional physical education classes to all students.

Under review and approval by school athletic director proper attendance, similar to in school requirements. In connection with coaching staff and athletic director, one must hold proper attendance to practices, games and events in order to earn proper credit. Credit cannot be earned from non-school run athletic programs. Students involved in events or sports with another school or co-op programs can still earn credit, however outside of school affiliated sporting teams and groups cannot be put towards credit.One season of a sport correlates to one semester or trimester worth of physical education credit.

Justification: Student Athletes participate and engage in consistent, meaningful and professionally organized athletic activity which consists of training and consistency that adequately matches the material in a physical education class, therefore, credit can be alternately achieved through sports.

Fiscal Implications: $0

Effective Date: This act is effective beginning July 1, 2027.

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 32

Sponsors: Makayla Conley, Samantha Samaniego, and Matt Cruz

An Act To: Increase food security in Connecticut by providing state-funded Conn SNAP benefit supplements and supporting local food systems to improve access to nutritious food.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to reduce food insecurity in Connecticut by supplementing existing ConnSNAP benefits and strengthening local food systems. This legislation seeks to improve access to nutritious food for low-income households, reduce reliance on emergency food assistance, and support local food producers facing rising operational costs. When enacted, this bill will promote public health, economic stability, and long-term food security across the state.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Food Insecurity — the lack of consistent access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food necessary to maintain an active and healthy life.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — the federal nutrition assistance program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

ConnSNAP — Connecticut's administration of the federal SNAP program, operated by the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Eligible Household — a household residing in Connecticut that qualifies for and receives ConnSNAP benefits.

Local Food Producer — a farm, food processor, or food distributor operating within the State of Connecticut.

Community Food Partnership — a collaboration between local food producers, food retailers, food banks, schools, or nonprofit organizations to increase access to affordable, nutritious food.

ConnSNAP Benefits — monthly nutrition assistance benefits issued electronically to eligible households.

ALICE — Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed

Section 2: Provisions

1. The State of Connecticut shall establish a state-funded ConnSNAP benefit supplement to provide additional food assistance to eligible households, in addition to federal SNAP benefits.
2. The Department of Social Services shall conduct outreach efforts to increase awareness of ConnSNAP and improve enrollment among eligible households.
3. The Department of Agriculture shall administer a Local Food Support Program providing grants and low-interest loans to local food producers affected by rising operational costs.

4. Competitive grants shall be awarded to community food partnerships to expand access to fresh and affordable food in underserved communities.
5. Nutrition incentive programs may be implemented to encourage the purchase of fruits, vegetables, and locally produced food items.
6. ConnSNAP benefits shall be distributed monthly through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards and may be used at authorized grocery stores, farmers' markets, and participating local food retailers.

Justification: Food insecurity remains a serious issue in Connecticut. According to the United Way in 2023, 11% of households were classified as living in poverty based on the Federal Poverty Level, while an additional 29% of households experienced financial hardship reflected by ALICE. Many of these households struggle to afford basic necessities, including nutritious food, and rely on food banks or ConnSNAP benefits to survive. This bill directly addresses these challenges by supplementing existing food assistance while strengthening local food producers, ensuring a more resilient and equitable food system for Connecticut residents.

Fiscal Implications: The State of Connecticut shall appropriate funds to provide a state-funded ConnSNAP benefit supplement in addition to existing federal SNAP benefits. The supplement shall average $40 per eligible household per month, with increased benefit amounts for households with additional dependents to reflect higher food costs.

Households with one or two dependents may receive modest increases above the base supplement, while larger households may receive proportionally higher assistance, as determined by the Department of Social Services. This tiered structure ensures that assistance is distributed equitably based on household need. Based on an estimated 200,000 participating households, the annual cost of the supplemental benefit program would be approximately $96 million statewide, calculated at $480 per household per year. Additional appropriations may be used for outreach, program administration, and local food support initiatives as outlined in this Act.

Environmental Implications: a. Supporting local food systems reduces transportation emissions and promotes sustainable agricultural practices.
b. Expanded access to locally produced food contributes to environmental sustainability and community resilience throughout Connecticut.

Effective Date: This Act shall take effect within six months of passage.

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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 33

Sponsors: Mario Rojas

An Act To: Amend section 8-30g by adding section (l): to alleviate housing prices in rural areas.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To alleviate the cost of housing in Connecticut's rural areas, and inspire Connecticut Citizens to move to rural areas.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Rural: the total population of the town is 10,000 residents or fewer, and has a population density of less than 500 people per square mile.

Urban: a continuously built-up area with a population of 50,000 or more.

Section 8: A federal program that gives vouchers for the purpose of paying rent to families who earn less than 50% of the median family income for the county or metropolitan area in which they live.

Budget Reserve Fund: State law establishes the BRF and authorizes it to hold up to 15% of net general fund appropriations for the current fiscal year. The state treasurer must transfer to the BRF any (1) unappropriated General Fund surplus at the end of each fiscal year and (2) revenue the state receives each fiscal year from specified sources in excess of the "volatility cap" (CGS § 4-30a), which is the same as the Rainy Day Fund.

Volatility Cap: Sets limits on fluctuating or constantly changing tax rates. Essentially, any category for taxes that exceeds its limit or volatility cap is sent to the Budget Reserve Fund. Vacant Houses: Real property that is both unoccupied by human beings for an allowable use and typically entirely lacking the items ordinarily associated with habitation.

Housing: A structure for human habitation, often including the land immediately around it and attached buildings like garages.

Household: A group of individuals living together, typically a nuclear family.

Comfort Threshold: Income that is deemed to be able to suit a household comfortably, reaching all necessities, according to local sources and the local metropolitan, regional, city, or town's parliament, which varies depending on the size of the family and the family's circumstances.

Section 2: Provisions

(a): Connecticut must provide a form of financial support to a homebuyer's primary residence. Restrictions will be listed, as outlined in (b), for households that qualify for financial support if they purchase a house in a rural area.

(b): Financial support shall be included for applicants who do not qualify for the Section 8 Homeownership Program due to high-income reasons; financial support

shall not be included for households that have reached the comfort threshold in their metropolitan area or region. Qualification for this program shall be adjusted depending on the family's circumstances or family size. This financial support shall not exceed 30% of a house's cost. A physical application must be turned in within 3 months of the purchase to the household's respective city hall. The documents as follows shall be provided to ensure approval:

(1b). Two proofs of identity of the head of the family or submitter, such as (i.) birth certificate, (ii.) driver's license, (iii.) non-driver photo ID, (iv.) U.S. Passport or Passport Card, or (v.) Social Security Card.

(2b). Two proofs of residency in which the family resides, such as (i.) current lease or rent receipt, (ii.) utility bills or general house bills, (iii.) mortgage records or property tax bills, or (iv.) bank statements or official mail with one's name and address.

(3b). One proof of income from each member of the family who is employed, such as (i.) recent pay stubs from one's employer, (ii.) tax returns, specifically the W-2 Form or 1099 form, (iii.) official letters from other benefits, or (iv.) bank statements.

(c) Only citizens who have resided in a rural area for at least one year before purchasing a home are eligible to receive financial support under this program.

Justification: It must be made clear that the overall cost of housing within Connecticut's borders has gotten out of control. This is a crisis that must be addressed immediately. However, the situation has become exponentially worse for individuals and families in the middle class, who no longer qualify for Section 8 yet still cannot live peacefully with the constant worry of having to pay rent and mortgages. The cost of a house alone is far too high, as the average cost of a house, according to zillow.com, in Connecticut is $422,555. To qualify out of Section 8 in, for example, Fairfield County, one needs $95,645. While this seems like a lot of money, according to a study posted on Connecticut Insider on January 22nd, 2025, one household must make more than $146,161 to simply be able to pay a median-priced house off and $126,000 to afford necessities. While this bill may cost a lot, the State of Connecticut must take responsibility; responsibility for those who can barely afford to put food on the table, let alone a house. This bill helps those parents, the parents who can no longer keep their family safe because of economic reasons. The State of Connecticut must acknowledge that it does, in fact, have the money to afford this bill, as on average it earns a surplus of nearly $322.3 million USD without any consideration of the Rainy Day Fund. In truth, many people may not be comfortable with moving to a new town. However, they

must understand that there are more than a thousand people in the State of Connecticut who also suffer from similar issues, and will also be using this opportunity to have a possible chance to own a home.

Fiscal Implications: Approximately 4,100 vacant houses are currently being sold in Connecticut, according to a news article by Connecticut Insider on January 9, 2026. The average cost of a house as of January 2025, which is when this is currently being written, is $422,555. This indicates that the approximate maximum pricing would be $1,732,475,500. Not all houses will be sold, and houses are not being bought; this bill intends to support those who struggle to pay their rent or mortgage on time. This indicates the total funding would be less than this price; approximately $519,742,650 would be spent, as it is approximately 30% of all houses, which is the max range of all houses. Using the Rainy Day Fund (Budget Reserve Fund) would be the best option, as some houses may not be sold due to the strictness of the bill. However, it still allows Connecticut to reach the cap of what the bill must fund without worrying, and also enables Connecticut to cover the ongoing housing crisis.

Environmental Implications: The increase in sales of vacant houses through this program will create a form of demand for housing and, therefore, incentivize an increase in housing construction. The closer the State of Connecticut gets to having no housing, the more construction for new housing there shall be within the borders of the State of Connecticut due to demand for housing.

Effective Date: This bill shall take place at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

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Committee Assignment: 2 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 34

Sponsors: Gardenia Carpio, Janell Marin, and Jackie Villa Tenesaca

An Act To: Amend section §54-192h by adding subsection (i): Prohibiting all agencies from using or wearing any kind of face coverage, hiding one's identity.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect the public safety and civil rights of Connecticut citizens by holding all agencies accountable for committing unlawful actions.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

State Agency: any department, agency, or instrumentality of a State or of a political subdivision of a State, any department, agency, or agency of 2 or more States or of 2 or more political subdivisions of a State, and any person who has the authority to acquire property by distinguished domain under State law.

Local Agency: Any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, constituent unit of the state system of higher education, technical education, and career school, or other agency in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government.

Federal Agency: any department, agency, or instrumentality in the executive branch of the Government, any entirely owned Government corporation, the Architect of the Capitol, the Federal Reserve banks and branches thereof, and any person who has the authority to acquire property by distinguished domain under Federal law.

Face Coverings: anything that prevents one from being identified. Examples include masks, balaclavas, and neck gaiters.

Section 2: Provisions

(a.) Any agency shall be prohibited from wearing face coverings when in the jurisdiction of Connecticut that prevents them from being identified unless (i.) for religious reasons that the government has properly identified, (ii.) or given proper permission or reason to wear face coverings by their supervisor.

(b.) From the date of approval, failure to comply with face covering requirements shall result in a misdemeanor or infraction from the State of Connecticut dependent on the social, environmental, and fiscal effects of the face coverage.

(c.) Any law enforcement agency operating in Connecticut must maintain and publicly post a written policy limiting the use of facial coverings.

Justification: One can be detained by somebody whom he cannot necessarily identify; now, how will one who is detained with excessive force identify which officer assaulted him? Injustice is viewed throughout the United States, particularly in Minnesota, in current times. The notorious murder of Alex Pretti is prominent within our country. Pretti was murdered by a federal officer’s gunshot, simply for

protesting on the streets of Minnesota. It must be recognized that the major issue within agencies covering their face is the idea of public safety. The State of Connecticut must act now to maintain public order and safety, as masks can cause Connecticut citizens to panic and act based on their impulses. To maintain order, the State of Connecticut shall pass this bill, as it will strictly limit the use of masks and therefore bring peace to the State before the issue arises.

Fiscal Implications: There is no fiscal implication within this bill.

Environmental Implications: This bill will provide security for those who are detained without unnecessary force, while also maintaining public order. If no officer is detaining someone without a way to identify them properly, then the public shall not be as enraged as they would be if they were wrongfully or forcibly detained by somebody wearing a mask.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect immediately after passage

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Committee Assignment: 2 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 35

Sponsors: Tate Walters

An Act To: Concerning fresh meat and produce for all state and public middle schools

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To make school lunches more healthier and less money.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

All state and public schools shall purchase fresh meat and produce in bulk items from whole sell venders to save state money for all lunch items.

Bolk buying will save the state 44% percent of the total cost per year.

Justification: Connecticut state wide data shows that the average cost to produce a school lunch is $3.81 , and $1.71 of that is food cost. Food makes up about 45% of the total cost, but that $1.71 includes all food items together not the actual per-pound price schools pay for meat and produce.

Fiscal Implications: Any violation of section 1 of this act shall me considered a violation of up to 500 dollars

Environmental Implications: More Healthy students

Effective Date: Upon passage of this bill

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Committee Assignment: 3 Chamber Assignment: Senate Bill #: 36

Sponsors: Carnell Harrison

An Act To: Provide study halls for all public and state middle schools.

The People of the State of Connecticut, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To give students time to study for an exam/quiz.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

All state and public schools in the state of Connecticut shall provide study halls, during the course of the day.

All schools shall provide at 3 days of study hall per week for all students.

Justification: Providing study halls will boost student's academics, and provides students to do homework and study.

Fiscal Implications: Any state and public schools that violate sections 1 and 2 shall be considered a class A misdemeanor and a fine up to $2000 dollars for each school board member.

Environmental Implications: Wellbeing of student academics and study habits.

Effective Date: Upon passage of this bill.

The Legislative Process – How A Bill Becomes Law

The Connecticut General Assembly is formally in session once a year – February through May in even-numbered years, and January through June in odd-numbered years. While in session, state legislators consider thousands of legislative proposals, called bills. Two to three hundred of these bills will survive the process and be enacted into law, while the thousands remaining will "die." Even when the legislature is out of session, committees and individual legislators work on developing proposals – so state legislative work is a year-round job. The HBRA of Connecticut reviews every proposal and works with the legislature and state agencies in and out of session to represent our members' concerns.

Even if a bill "dies" at some point during the session, the proposal contained in the bill can be resurrected as amendments to other bills almost up until the gavel falls at midnight on the last day of the session (i.e., adjournment). **Therefore, constant communication with legislators about an issue may be necessary until the very end of the session.**

The following is an overview of the legislative process in Connecticut:

Proposing a bill: Anyone can propose an idea for a bill by passing it on to a legislator who files it with the clerk's office in the House of Representatives or Senate. The clerk's office assigns the bill a number. All House bills begin at number 5,000, while numbers 1 to 4,999 are reserved for Senate bills. The clerk's office then sends the bill to the appropriate committee having primary jurisdiction over the matter.

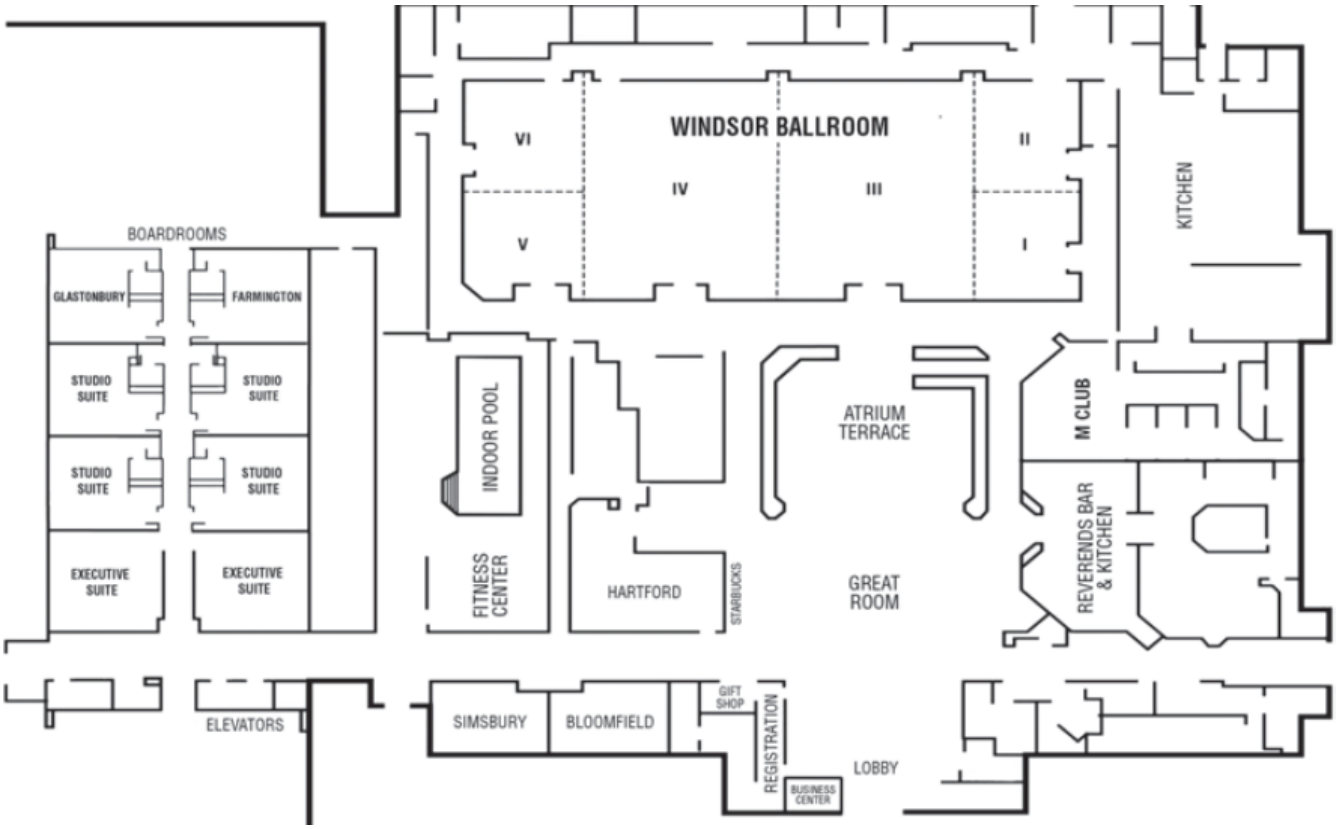
The committee/public hearing process: Unlike Congress and most other states, committees in the Connecticut General Assembly are joint House and Senate committees. They are co-chaired by a Representative and a Senator from the majority party in each chamber. The committee acts as the bill's overseer and decides if it should continue on through the legislative process. The committee's co-chairs may decide to "hold" a bill by not allowing it to receive a public hearing or a vote and thereby killing it. A bill may have to pass through several committees for approval. If even one committee rejects it, the bill is considered dead. Any committee can also change - or amend - the bill. The change can be minor or a total rewrite. This can be a way to revive a dead bill. Before the original committee to which the bill was assigned can approve or amend a bill, the committee must hold a public hearing to allow the public and government officials to comment on it. The committee can accept or reject ideas expressed during public hearings. Subsequent committees that look at the bill do not hold additional public hearings before acting on it. Whenever a bill is first referred by a committee to the House or Senate floor for further action, it receives a File #.

House and Senate votes: Each committee has a deadline for approving bills and passing them on either to other committees or to the House or the Senate floor for a vote. The House and Senate may also refer the bill to other committees or may vote on the bill and either pass, amend or reject it. If one chamber amends it, the bill goes back to the other chamber for another vote. A bill has to be passed by both the House and the Senate with the same language to be "enacted."

The Governor's role: A bill approved by both chambers (House and Senate) is sent to the governor to be signed into law. If the governor vetoes a bill, a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate is needed to override the veto. If the governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill within a certain time, it automatically becomes law.

Public Acts and general statutes: Once a bill is signed by the governor, it is referred to as a "public act" and is given a new number that includes the year of passage (e.g., PA 99-101, PA 06-217). Eventually the public act will be "codified" into state law books with yet a new number, at which point it's referred to as a section of the Connecticut General Statutes (e.g., C.G.S. section 8-25).

Regulations: After a bill has become law and if it confers authority on a state agency, the appropriate state agency will draft regulations to implement or enforce it. The agency must either hold public hearings or accept written comments on the draft regulations to give the public a chance to express their views. The agency then issues its final regulations but the final step in passing a regulation, unique to Connecticut, is approval by the legislature's Regulations Review Committee.


WINDSOR BALLROOM
VI
IV
III
II
V
I
KITCHEN
BOARDROOMS
GLASTONBURY
FARMINGTON
STUDIO SUITE
STUDIO SUITE
STUDIO SUITE
STUDIO SUITE
EXECUTIVE SUITE
EXECUTIVE SUITE
INDOOR POOL
FITNESS CENTER
HARTFORD
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