



# **2026 Connecticut Youth Legislature YMCA Youth and Government**

**Shepard Fisher, Governor  
Caylee Brown, Lt. Governor  
Adrianna Cabrera, Speaker of the House  
Hannah Belknap, Senate President  
Elizabeth Bubello, Secretary of the State**

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## YMCA Youth And Government Schedule

<b>Thursday, March 5th</b>		<b>Meeting</b>	
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	
	1- Hartford Room	2- Bloomfield Room	3- Simsbury Room
			4! Windsor Ballroom
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 Resume	
9:15 p.m.		Closing Session	Windsor Ballroom
9:45 p.m.		Delegation Meetings	
10:00 p.m.		Curfew (Students in Rooms)	
<b>Friday, March 6th</b>			
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.		Breakfast	Windsor Ballroom
9:00 a.m.		Gather for Bus Dismissal	Windsor Ballroom
<i>*We will depart to the Capitol from this session, bring everything you need for the day</i>			
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
		Lunch	LOB Cafeteria
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	Hartford Room
		Karaoke	Windsor Ballroom
		Games	Lobby
		Merchandise Sales & Pickup	Y Desk
		Quiet Room	Bloomfield
9:45 p.m.		Closing Session	Windsor Ballroom
10:15 p.m.		Curfew (Students in Rooms)	
<b>Saturday, March 7th</b>			
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

# 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.

## 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.

## CORE VALUES

Honesty    Respect  
Caring    Responsibility

## AREAS OF FOCUS



**Youth Development**  
Nurturing the potential of every child and teen



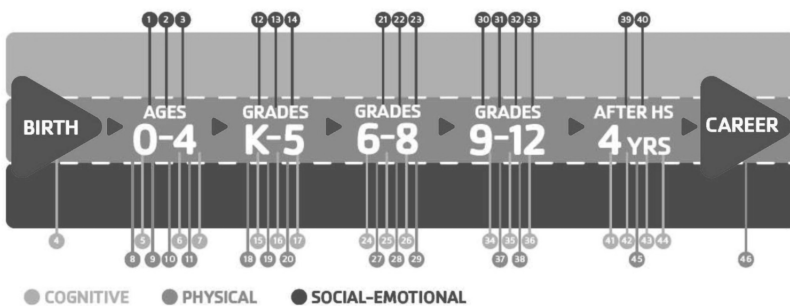
**Healthy Living**  
Improving the nation's health and well-being



**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

## Chambers

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

# **YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT Parliamentary Procedure Guide**

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**Revised January 2024**

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## **1. Introduction**

1. It is important to keep in mind that this is a CONFERENCE and not a legislative session. The major working objective is to prepare and consider in depth bills relating to crucial state concerns. The use of technical motions and restrictive parliamentary procedure are discouraged.
2. References in this document will follow the format of (area, section, subsection). If no subsection is specified, please refer to the entire section of text.
  - a. Example: "(see 2.1.a)" refers to the General Rules and Procedures, section 1, subsection a.

## **2. General Rules and Procedures**

1. The Presiding Officers of the Conference shall serve as the Chairpersons for their respective Chamber and remain neutral during debate. The Committee Chairs shall serve as the Chairpersons for their respective Committee and remain neutral during debate.
  - a. Chairpersons will choose a clerk from among the Chamber if necessary.
2. The Chairpersons for the session shall have the right to call a delegate out of order if that delegate is being disruptive in nature or is breaking any other rule of procedure. This shall be done by the sole discretion of the Chairperson.
3. The Chairpersons for the session shall be the interpreter of these rules, and in such will rule upon any motion presented upon the floor. The Chairperson shall have complete discretion when choosing to recognize a motion.
4. Absolutely no clapping is permitted after the defeat of a bill or after any speaker. Spirt fingers are in order to show appreciation for the bill sponsors work towards the bill.
5. Controlled applause or spirit fingers will be allowed following the passage of a bill, but delegates may not leave their seats to congratulate the author.
6. Referencing of other bills is not in order.
7. Refer to another speaker as "a previous delegate," or "previous speaker" during debate.
8. Face and hand gestures are not permitted during another delegate's speech.
9. Remain seated and quiet during an author's opening and closing statements.
10. A delegate seeking to be recognized should remain seated and raise their placard. They should not call out.
11. Do not raise your placard or hand while a speaker is addressing the chamber.
12. The use of false debate will be called out of order during all sessions. A "False debate" shall be defined as a sarcastic speech, or being recognized to speak during debate but deliberately presenting arguments in favor of the opposing side. An example of false debate is a delegate being recognized to speak a pro statement but calling for the defeat of the bill. Agreeing with the intentions of the bill are not considered false debate.

13. The use of any prop while speaking will be called out of order during all sessions. A "Prop" shall be defined as any external, non-verbal element which is used during a recognition to demonstrate a point. Examples of props are, but are not limited to charts, pictures, magazines, printed research, etc. Brief gestures with a bill book or a notebook are not considered use of a prop.

### **3. Committee and Chamber Procedure**

1. Each bill in Committee and Chamber shall be considered in the following manner:
  - a. Opening remarks by the bill author (4 minutes). The author may only reserve unused time to the author's summation.
  - b. Non-debatable, technical questions; (see 4.3 and 4.4).
  - c. Chairperson opens debate. Con and pro speakers will alternate; Debate must start and end with a con speaker. Upon recognition, the delegate shall thank the Chair, state their name, and delegation. A delegate may exercise up to three (3) of these actions without further impediment:
    - i. Address The Chamber.
    - ii. Ask a series of questions of the bill author, provided the author's permission is sought through and granted by the Chair (see 4.5).
    - iii. Make one motion, provided this intention is declared upon taking the floor. A motion shall preempt yielding the floor.
  - d. Delegates must continue to seek permission, through the chair, to pose a series of questions to the bill author.
  - e. A delegate must reserve their right to make a motion.
  - f. Yielding to another delegate is not in order during Committee or Chamber.
  - g. The floor is not relinquished by a speaker unless the delegate yields their time to the Chair, or their time has elapsed.
  - h. Author's summation (time reserved from opening statement).
  - i. Appropriate voting or ranking procedures will take place (see 6.1 or 6.2).
2. Previous question is in order after the first round of debate and must be approved by 2/3 of the assembly. For previous question to be moved prior to the time limit, all Presiding Officers in that Chamber must agree.
3. If a delegate is called out of order prior to addressing the floor, the chair shall seek a different, replacement, speaker of the same intent (con or pro) rather than a speaker of the opposing intent.

### **4. Technical Questions**

1. During the period for technical questions, all questions must remain non-debatable.
2. Technical questions asked during debate may be debatable and non-debatable.
3. A non-debatable technical question shall consist of:
  - a. Questions that call for a factual response.

4. A debatable technical question shall consist of:
  - a. Questions that are hypothetical in nature.
  - b. Questions that call for an opinion or assumption of the bill author.
  - c. Questions that are not germane to the topic of the bill.
5. A series shall be defined as follows:
  - a. Three (3) technical questions during a period of technical questions.
  - b. Two (2) technical questions during a period of debate.

## **5. Motions during Committee and Chamber Sessions**

1. The following motions are in order during a Committee Session:
  - a. Point of information, to ask for clarification on a rule of procedure.
  - b. Point of order, to object to a rule of procedure that is not being followed correctly.
2. The following motions are not in order during a Committee Session:
  - a. Motion to extend debate, to extend the period of debate.
  - b. Motion to move to the previous question, to end debate on a bill (refer to 3.2).
3. The following motions are in order during a Chamber Session:
  - a. Motion for a division, to request a vote by standing vote.
  - b. Motion to expel the Governor, to remove the Governor from the legislative chamber.
  - c. Motion to extend debate, to extend the period of debate.
  - d. Motion to move to the previous question, to end debate on a bill (refer to 3.2).
  - e. Point of information, to ask for clarification on a rule of procedure.
  - f. Point of order, to object to a rule of procedure that is not being followed correctly.

## **6. Voting & Ranking Procedures**

1. Committee Procedure:
  - a. Delegates will rank their top bills after Committee using the voting criteria.
  - b. The top 4 bills in each chamber specific committee will heard in joint session.
  - c. All remaining bills will move on to Chamber Session.
2. Joint Session & Chamber Session Procedure:
  - a. Delegates will vote on the passage of each bill. This will occur after each bill has been presented.
  - b. Passage of a bill requires a simple majority, greater than half of the chamber (1/2).
  - c. Approval of a bill in the Chamber shall be recorded by delegates raising their placard in conjunction with a voice vote unless division of the chamber is called and recognized. In such a case, the vote shall be recorded by a standing vote. The Presiding Officers may call for a division if there is any doubt about the voice vote.

- d. Passed bills will be sent to the Youth Governor, to be either passed or vetoed.
  - e. Absolutely no clapping is permitted after the defeat of a bill or after any speaker. Spirt fingers are in order to show appreciation for the bill sponsors work towards the bill.
  - f. Controlled applause or spirit fingers will be allowed following the passage of a bill, but delegates may not leave their seats to congratulate the author.
3. Veto Override Procedure:
- a. Delegates will vote on whether the veto of the bill should be overridden. This will occur after each bill has been presented.
  - b. Passage of a bill requires a super majority, two-thirds of the chamber (2/3).
  - c. Approval of a bill during veto overrides shall be recorded by delegates raising their placard in conjunction with a voice vote unless division of the chamber is called and recognized. In such a case, the vote shall be recorded by a standing vote. The Presiding Officers may call for a division if there is any doubt about the voice vote.

## **7. Veto Override Procedure**

1. Each bill passed in Chamber, which was vetoed by the Governor, shall have the right to be considered in the following manner:
  - a. A Motion to override the veto will be made by the bill author.
  - b. Cabinet member statement (1 minute). The cabinet member will explain why the bill was vetoed.
  - c. Opening remarks by the bill author (1 minute). The author may only yield unused time to the Chair.
  - d. Chairperson opens debate. One (1) con speaker and one (1) pro speaker will be recognized; Upon recognition, the delegate shall thank the Chair, state their name, and delegation. A delegate may exercise up to three (3) of these actions without further impediment:
    - i. Address The Chamber.
    - ii. Ask a series of questions of the bill author, provided the author's permission is sought through and granted by the Chair.
    - iii. Make one motion, provided this intention is declared upon taking the floor. A motion shall preempt yielding the floor.
  - e. Appropriate voting procedures will take place ([see 7.3](#)).

## **8. Changes to the Rules**

1. Rules may be changed by submitting the proposed change in writing to the Presiding Officers at any time. The Presiding Officer will present the proposed change for a vote among all Presiding Officers. A simple majority is required for approval. Upon approval, the Presiding Officers shall recommend the rule change to the State Director for the next Conference. No changes to the rules will occur for the current conference.

## **9. Conclusion**

1. While the Rules and Procedures of the Legislature provide a structured framework for conducting the conference, it is important to remember that the primary objective of the conference is to engage in meaningful discussions, develop critical thinking skills, and have a positive learning experience. It is essential for participants to approach the procedures with a sense of enthusiasm and a willingness to engage in constructive debate. The rules are designed to facilitate the process, but it is equally important to maintain a spirit of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility throughout the conference. Ultimately, the goal is to create an environment where delegates can learn, grow, and have fun while participating in the legislative process.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE SCRIPT

1. Chair: It is now time for bill (#). Are the bill sponsors for bill (#) present?
  - a. Bill Sponsors thank the chair and say they are present
2. Chair: Will the Clerk read the An act to/title of the bill
  - a. Clerk will read the An act to/title
3. Chair: Thank you. The Bill Sponsors will have 4 minutes to divide between their opening and closing statements and may begin when ready.
  - a. Bill Sponsors give their Opening Statement
4. Chair: Thank you. The Bill Sponsors have reserved (time) to their closing statements. Now that the time for Opening Statements has elapsed, we will now move into a period of Non-Debatable Technical Questions. Is there a technical question on the floor?
  - a. The chair will choose delegate with a raise placard
  - b. Delegates will continue asking questions until the chair announces for a final technical question.
5. Chair: Thank you. Now that the time for non-debatable technical questions has elapsed, we will move into a period of Con/Pro debate. Since the Bill Sponsors Opening statement was a speech in favor, I will now be looking for a speech in opposition. Is there a Con speech on the floor?
  - a. Chair will Alternate speeches in favor and in opposition, ending with a Con speech.
6. Chair: Seeing that the time for Con/Pro debate has elapsed, we will now move onto a period of closing statements. The Bill Sponsors have reserved (time) for their closing statements and may begin when ready.
  - a. The bill sponsors will give their closing statement
7. Chair (In Committees): Thank you Bill Sponsors. We will now move into a period of ranking.
8. Chair (In Chambers): Thank you Bill Sponsors. We will now move on to a period of voting. All those in favor of the bill, please say “aye” in your normal speaking voice. \*Give a beat before doing opposition vote\* All those in opposition please say “nay” in your normal speaking voice.
9. Chair (In Chambers): In the eyes of the chair, this bill has (passed/defeated).

## **Youth and Government Veto Override Script**

Chair: Will the bill sponsors for bill # please come forward?

Chair: Will the Clerk please read the An Act to

Chair: The designated cabinet member can come forward. You will have one minute to give an explanation as to why the bill was vetoed and you may begin when ready.

Chair: Thank you cabinet member. Seeing that the time for the cabinet member has elapsed we will move into a period of opening statements. The bill sponsors have 1 minute to prove why the veto should be overturned. Bill sponsors you may begin when ready.

Chair: Thank you bill sponsors. Now that the time for opening statements have elapsed, we will now move into a period of con/pro debate. (1 pro and 1 con)

Chair: Is there a pro statement on the floor?

Chair: Is there a con statement on the floor?

Chair: Thank you. Now that the time for con/pro debate has elapsed we will move into a period of voting.

Chair: All those in favor of the override of the veto please raise your placard and say aye (I) in your normal speaking voice. All those in opposition of the override please raise your placard and say nay in your normal speaking voice.

Chair: (If the Veto is overridden) Due to the consensus of the chamber this veto has been overridden and will be signed in law.

Chair: (If the Veto Stands) Due to the consensus of the chamber, this veto stands



**Connecticut YMCA**  
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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

1 **Sponsors:** Carissa Fox, Victoria Gonzalez, and Lyndsey Smith

2 **An Act To:** Concerning homeschooling regulations in Connecticut

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

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

8 **Summary of Provisions**

9 **Section 1: Definitions**

10 A SUPERINTENDENT is known as

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

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

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

16 1. Measure of students performance and academic abilities

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

19 The DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES is known as

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

22 The HOME SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR will be defined as

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

25 The LETTER OF INTENT TO HOMESCHOOL is known as

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

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

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

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

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



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

38 2. Every 6 (six) months for students aged 2 (two) to 4 (four), at least annually  
39 (mid-year) for school-aged children.

40 3. The end of the school year for high school students.

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

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

53 **Fiscal Implications:** General education funds.

54 **Effective Date:** October 1, 2026



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

1 **Sponsors:** Ameera Burch

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 **Section 1: Definitions**

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

10 Negligence-Failure to take proper care in doing something .

11 Homeowner-A person who owns their home.

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

13 Liability-The state of being responsible for something.

14 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 1. The water department shall pay for all damages caused, no matter the cost.

33 2. If the water department does not have efficient funds, then the homeowner has  
34 the full right to sue the town or water department.

35 3. The department shall ensure compliance within 60 days of the incident.

36 4. Municipalities must maintain insurance policies against these claims.

37 **Effective Date:** October 1,2026



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

1 **Sponsors:** Kaiis Maha and Kaiera Maha

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 Section 1: Definitions

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

10 Unhoused - without accommodation or shelter.

11 Section 2: Provisions

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

15 1. Reallocate state funds intended for other social programs to building and staffing  
16 the shelters.

17 2. Open 75 beds per planning region.

18 3. Provide dwellers with two meals per day.

19 4. Provide referrals to low-skilled jobs that will help people get over the poverty  
20 line.

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

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

28 **Effective Date:** October 1st



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

1 **Sponsors:** Amelia Loayza, Luis Perez-Rosario, and Sophia Chen

2 **An Act To:** Concerning transportation for students involved in extracurricular  
3 activities.

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

5 **Purpose:** To ensure that students have access to safe and reliable transportation  
6 during after school hours so they can participate in extracurriculars such as clubs,  
7 sports, and other programs, especially when their families are unable to provide  
8 transportation and bus shortages limit students' access to transportation.

9 **Summary of Provisions**

10 Section 1: Definitions

11 Extracurricular Activities - Programs taking place after school, such as sports,  
12 theater, and clubs.

13 Section 2: Provisions

14 All public secondary schools will provide transportation for students who participate  
15 in after school extracurricular activities.

16 **Justification:** Not every child wishing to participate in after school activities may  
17 have access to a form of transportation, obligating a transportation-less child to  
18 walk alone, exposing them to inclement weather as well as potential criminal  
19 activity. This initiative will not only lower kidnapping rates and improve child  
20 security, but will also boost extracurricular participation statistics for Connecticut  
21 students.

22 **Fiscal Implications:** The funding for this program will come from the state  
23 education budget for student services and the Safe Routes to School (SRTS).

24 The main cost of the program:

25 - Vehicles: by purchasing or renting buses or vans that are safe and reliable for  
26 students to ride in them.

27 - Drivers: by hiring trained drivers to safely transport students after school.

28 - Maintenance: having routine checks on the vehicle, keeping the vehicle in good  
29 working conditions, and covering the cost of fuel.

30 **Effective Date:** This Act shall take effect on October 1 of the year it is passed.



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Committee Assignment: 2      Chamber Assignment: House      Bill #: 5

1 **Sponsors:** Peighton O’Hara, Lorcan Hayes, and Liv Kingsland

2 **An Act To:** Increase Connecticut's sales tax on firearms, firearm accessories, and  
3 ammunition from 6.53% to 10%.

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

5 **Purpose:** To reduce acts of gun violence by decreasing firearm and ammunition  
6 sales due to higher prices and further limit accessibility and gun ownership and to  
7 fund gun violence prevention programs to further decrease mass murders and  
8 support mental health programs to help uphold citizens and promote strengthening  
9 of emotional/psychological fitness and well-being.

10 **Summary of Provisions**

11 Section 1: Definitions

12 Firearms: A rifle, pistol, shotgun, revolver, or other portable gun.

13 Firearm Accessories: Any items used with firearms that aren't essential for basic  
14 operation, enhancing functionality, safety, or carrying; including but not limited to  
15 scopes, lights, lasers, magazines, stocks, grips, holsters, slings, and suppressors.

16 Ammunition: A supply or quantity of bullets and shells.

17 Mental Health Programs: A targeted intervention, usually short-term, with a highly  
18 focused objective for the promotion of mental health, the prevention of mental  
19 disorders, and treatment and rehabilitation.

20 Gun Violence Prevention: Programs seeking to engage communities in planning and  
21 developing interventions in communities that experience gun violence.

22 Section 2: Provisions

23 (1) Silencers and mufflers will be removed from items covered by the National  
24 Firearms Act and subject them to the 10% excise tax.

25 (2) The tax will be imposed on a lower frame or receiver for a firearm, whether for  
26 a semiautomatic pistol, rifle, or shotgun that is designed to accommodate  
27 interchangeable upper receivers.

28 (3) An additional 10% excise tax will be imposed on large capacity ammunition  
29 feeding devices and semi-automatic assault weapons.

30 (4) Sales to the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard, state and local  
31 governments, nonprofit educational organizations, and for use in vessels and  
32 aircraft are exempt from the Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax.

33 (5) Producers of fewer than 50 guns a year are exempt from the Firearms and  
34 Ammunition Excise Tax along with manufacturers, importers, or producers who  
35 incidentally produce firearms and ammunition for their own personal use.

36 (6) Does not include occupational taxes or transfers collected under the National  
37 Firearms Act (such as machine guns, short-barreled shotguns, and silencers).



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Committee Assignment: 2      Chamber Assignment: House      Bill #: 5

38 **Justification:** The money gained from the increased tax goes to better gun  
39 violence prevention programs and mental health programs including but not limited  
40 to: Access Line and Transportation, Advocacy & Support Groups, Recovery  
41 Programs, Behavioral Health & Certified Sober Living Homes, Housing and  
42 Homeless Services, Disability Services, Military & Veterans Services, LGBTQIA+  
43 Services, Women & Children Services, Alcohol & Drug Addiction & Overdose  
44 Prevention Services, Gambling Services, Psychosocial Rehab, Suicide Prevention  
45 Resources, and Second Chance Re-Entry Programs at Connecticut Mental Health  
46 Center in New Haven among other communities.

47 **Fiscal Implications:** An increase in savings and investment to financing and  
48 causing a rise of greater funds for gun violence prevention and mental health  
49 support programs without forcing additional expenses on irrelevant parties to  
50 contribute to the solution of a problem they do not take part of. These higher tax  
51 rates can discourage work, saving, investment, and innovation, while specific tax  
52 preferences can affect the allocation of economic resources which will potentially  
53 decrease the sale of firearms and limit access to gun ownership which can possibly  
54 decrease some state revenue but benefit the public health, peace and safety of our  
55 citizens and communities.

56 **Environmental Implications:** In hopes of reducing random acts of gun violence  
57 the production of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and carbon  
58 monoxide given off from the firing of guns/firearms would also be reduced, backing  
59 the repair of our atmosphere . Additionally, this would aim to aid the welfare of  
60 wildlife ecosystems as it has the prospects to decrease hunting and help the  
61 organisms and species thrive, flourish, and prosper alongside and within their  
62 environment.

63 **Effective Date:** September 1st, 2026



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Committee Assignment: 3      Chamber Assignment: House      Bill #: 6

1 **Sponsors:** Rebeca Morales Soto and Madison Lionello

2 **An Act To:** Concerning maternity leave reform

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

4 **Purpose:** To extend the period of job-protected maternity leave from 12 weeks to  
5 26 weeks to support maternal health and infant bonding.

6 **Summary of Provisions**

7 **Section 1: Definitions**

8 "Maternity Leave" shall refer to a period of absence from work granted to a mother  
9 before and after the birth of her child.

10 "Paid Leave" shall refer to the income replacement benefits provided through the  
11 Connecticut Paid Leave Authority (CTPLA).

12 "Job-Protected Leave" shall refer to the legal requirement that an employer must  
13 return an employee to their original position, or an equivalent position, upon the  
14 conclusion of the leave period.

15 "Unpaid Leave" shall refer to any portion of the 26-week period not covered by the  
16 12 weeks of financial compensation provided by the CT Paid Leave Program.

17 **Section 2: Provisions**

18 1. In accordance with the CT Paid Leave Program, mothers shall continue to receive  
19 up to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave benefits.

20 2. This Act expands the total duration of maternity leave to 26 weeks.

21 3. The additional 14 weeks following the initial 12-week paid period shall be unpaid  
22 but shall remain fully job-protected.

23 4. Employers shall not terminate, demote, or otherwise discriminate against an  
24 employee for exercising their right to the full 26-week leave period.

25 **Justification:** Ensuring extended, job-protected maternity leave enables mothers  
26 to establish essential maternal bonds with their newborn children while  
27 safeguarding their continued participation in the workforce.

28 **Fiscal Implications:** Administrative costs for the enforcement of this expansion  
29 shall be funded through the existing budget of the Connecticut Department of Labor  
30 (DOL). No additional payroll tax increase shall be required, as the additional 14  
31 weeks are unpaid and do not draw from the CT Paid Leave Trust Fund.

32 **Effective Date:** This Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.



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Committee Assignment: 2 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 7

1 **Sponsors:** Alanzo Sargeant-Keen and Brandon Gibbs

2 **An Act To:** Establish stricter regulations on the distribution and usage of nicotine  
3 products.

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

5 **Purpose:** The purpose of this act is to reduce the consumption of nicotine products  
6 by teens, and to take action against nicotine dependency

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 **Section 1: Definitions**

9 Stricter laws on who can get a permit to sell nicotine, and a ban from selling it  
10 within 3000 feet of schools, along with needing a drivers license to purchase.

11 **Section 2: Provisions**

12 Provisions on distribution of nicotine products

13 a. Nicotine cannot be distributed within 3,000 feet of a school, park, houses of  
14 worship, or other retailers b. A quota of 5,000 pounds of nicotine products annually  
15 will be set for nicotine distribution c. Tobacco and Smoking Products Retail License  
16 age requirement will be set at 25 d. Persons who cannot present a ID/License when  
17 entering a smoke shop must be refused service

18 2. Punishments a. Distributing nicotine products to minor causes for a fine of  
19 \$5,000 b. For second offense of disturbing to a minor, distribution license will be  
20 revoked and there will be cause of jail time (minimum 3 year sentence ) i. A license  
21 can be regained by taking 60 hours of distribution safety courses, and paying a  
22 \$1,000 fine ii. If after regaining license a distributor again merchandises nicotine  
23 products to minor persons will face a minimum of 5 year sentence 1. There will be  
24 no chance to regain licensing c. Usage of nicotine products on smoke free zones (   
25 Federally funded schools, parks, healthcare facilities , and transportation will be  
26 cause for fine i. First offense: \$100 fine ii. Second offense \$150 fine iii. Third  
27 offense \$500 fine iv. 4+ offenses \$1000 fine and one month sentence

28 3. Provisions a. All money collected from fines will be allocated to help nicotine  
29 abusers through; i. Youth prevention programs ii. Addiction recovery services

30 **Justification:** With less teens vaping, they can spend more time in class learning,  
31 and they will not recklessly endanger their own health, or the health of others from  
32 secondhand smoke.

33 **Fiscal Implications:** Tax on vapes and other nicotine products will be raised  
34 slightly to provide greater funding for programs that help to deal with the ongoing  
35 vaping problem.

36 **Environmental Implications:** With less teens vaping, less smoke and residue will  
37 be transferred into the air, resulting in a cleaner atmosphere.

38 **Effective Date:** 1/10/2029



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Committee Assignment: 1      Chamber Assignment: House      Bill #: 8

1 **Sponsors:** Natalee Reid and Maggie Flynn

2 **An Act To:** Concerning enhanced sanitation standards for portable toilet facilities at  
3 public gatherings.

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

5 **Purpose:** To ensure public health and safety by establishing clear, enforceable  
6 standards for the maintenance and supply of portable toilet facilities at large public  
7 events.

8 **Summary of Provisions**

9 **Section 2: Provisions**

10 For any public gathering exceeding 5 hours with more than 500 attendees, the  
11 person in control of the premises shall ensure all portable toilets are inspected and  
12 restocked every two hours.

13 Every portable toilet provided for public use shall be equipped with toilet paper, a  
14 functional and filled hand sanitizing station or a hand-washing station with soap and  
15 running water.

16 A visible maintenance log shall be displayed on the exterior of each unit,  
17 documenting the time of the last inspection and the initials of the staff member  
18 responsible for the inspection.

19 **Justification:** To ensure public health and safety by establishing clear, enforceable  
20 standards for the maintenance and supply of portable toilet facilities at large public  
21 events.

22 **Fiscal Implications:** 300 to 400 dollars for each porta potty per week.

23 **Effective Date:** 9/1/2026



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Committee Assignment: 1 Chamber Assignment: House Bill #: 9

1 **Sponsors:** Claire Cassella and Elizabeth Bubello

2 **An Act To:** Increase the accessibility of English language learner (ells) student  
3 healthcare in k-12 public schools

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

5 **Purpose:** To improve ELL students' communication with healthcare providers  
6 present at their schools through implementing training and translation devices.

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 Section 1: Definitions

9 English Language Learners: individuals whose first language is not English, that  
10 possess limited, or no, proficiency in English, and who are in the process of  
11 acquiring the English language through specialized instruction that strengthens  
12 their speaking, reading, and writing abilities. ELLs account for approximately 10.5%  
13 to 10.6% of Connecticut's public school student population, totaling over 54,000  
14 students in the 2023-24 school year.

15 Section 2: Provisions

16 In every public school that assesses their ELL population as 10% or higher, the  
17 school is required to purchase a language translation device with funding allocated  
18 by the state of Connecticut and add healthcare staff to their established teacher  
19 development programs about working with ELLs.

20 The punishment will be classified as a misdemeanor. A school system may face  
21 financial penalties equal to \$1,500 if this law is not followed and will be required to  
22 implement the program.

23 **Justification:** English Language Learners require equal access to care and comfort  
24 from the healthcare staff present at their school compared to their peers that have  
25 English as their first language.

26 **Fiscal Implications:** The average price of specialized language translation systems  
27 that allow for accurate two way communication ranges from \$300 to \$2000.

28 Qualifying school districts will receive a \$1,500 grant to purchase a recommended  
29 translation device. The state of Connecticut will fund this program through the  
30 Education Cost Sharing program.

31 **Effective Date:** The bill will enact August of 2027 as to allow time for districts to  
32 purchase select devices and train healthcare staff.



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

1 **Sponsors:** Emma Courtright, Brooke Garvey, and Michele Sapozhnikov

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

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

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

11 **Summary of Provisions**

12 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

62 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no apparent Fiscal Implications.

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Scarlett Moreno

2 **An Act To:** Limit book censorship in all public libraries

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

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

6 **Summary of Provisions**

7 **Section 1: Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 **Section 2: Provisions**

20 1. Sec. 4-38c. Departments within the executive branch: is amended to include:  
21 Connecticut, shall create a state agency to investigate book challenges and bans.  
22 This agency shall determine whether book challenges are valid or invalid.

23 2. This state agency shall be part time and meet once a month.

24 3. The Governor shall appoint members of the Department of Education, Children  
25 and Families, and the Connecticut State Library to work on this new agency.

26 4. The agency shall consist of an agency head and ten people.

27 5. All book challenge requests submitted to public libraries in the state shall be  
28 directed to the newly formed state agency.

29 6. To request a book challenge, the applicant must identify themselves to the  
30 agency, identify the book requested for review, and provide an explanation for the  
31 challenge.

32 7. Individuals who do not have a child in the school system are limited to one book  
33 challenge every 6 months.

34 8. Content warning tags shall be placed on all books in municipal public libraries  
35 that contain mature content or content that may be distressing or harmful to  
36 certain individuals.

37 9. No book should be removed from a public library for not aligning with an  
38 individual's ideology or religion.



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

39 10. The state agency overseeing the book challenges shall follow the criteria below  
40 when evaluating whether a public school library book challenge is valid or invalid:  
41 - Elementary: Books in elementary schools must follow the school curriculum. An  
42 elementary school book's mission is to educate and improve kids' reading skills  
43 while entertaining them with fun stories, educating about behavior, or light-hearted  
44 topics. Should a book in an elementary book contain profanities, violence/gore,  
45 sexual content, or encourage hateful actions or risky behaviors, said book may be  
46 removed from the library.

47 - Middle school: Books in a middle school must follow the school curriculum. Middle  
48 school books should be relatable to the students, meaning that complex topics  
49 should be explored, such as self-discovery, real experiences kids in middle school  
50 undergo, and mild mature themes as well. Should a book in a middle school contain  
51 excessive profanities, sexually explicit content, graphic gore/violence, or glorified  
52 risky behavior or hateful actions, said book may be removed from the library.

53 - High school: Books in high school must follow the school curriculum. High  
54 schoolers should be reading books they can relate to, as well as books discussing  
55 real-world issues. High school students may read books with mature themes,  
56 moderate violence, moderate profanities, and moderate physical intimacy as long  
57 as the content is not highly graphic and adds to or serves a purpose in the book to  
58 deepen the plot or message.

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

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



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

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

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

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

84 **Effective Date:** One year after passage



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

1 **Sponsors:** Lori Huaman and Emily Reinoso Vasquez

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

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

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

5 **Summary of Provisions**

6 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 **Effective Date:** March 2027



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

1 **Sponsors:** Melissa Saquinaula and Adrianna Cabrera

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

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

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

9 **Summary of Provisions**

10 Section 1: Definitions

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

13 Section 2: Provisions

14 1. Drivers shall be prohibited from making a right-hand turn at a red traffic signal  
15 unless explicitly directed by a traffic officer.

16 2. Drivers must wait until the signal turns green before proceeding through an  
17 intersection.

18 3. Violators shall be subject to fines and penalties consistent with running a stop  
19 sign: in Connecticut, the typical ticket for running a stop sign is approximately \$139  
20 plus fees, and two demerit points on a driver's license. Total costs may range from  
21 \$35 to over \$181 depending on court fees.

22 4. This law shall apply statewide unless emergency conditions require temporary  
23 exceptions.

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

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

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



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

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

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

45 **Fiscal Implications:** State costs will be modest. Primary expenses involve  
46 updating traffic signage at intersections and funding public safety awareness  
47 campaigns. These can be integrated into the Department of Transportation's  
48 regular maintenance budget. Reducing intersection crashes may also reduce state  
49 spending on emergency response, insurance costs, and roadway repair.  
50 Fines collected from violations, similar to stop-sign infractions, will help offset  
51 administrative and enforcement costs. In Connecticut, running a stop sign carries  
52 an average fine of about \$139 plus fees and adds two demerit points to the driver's  
53 license, with total costs sometimes exceeding \$180. Courts may also assess  
54 additional surcharges (CT.gov).

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

15 **Summary of Provisions**

16 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

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

25 Section 2: Provisions

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

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



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

39 climate disasters, averaging about one billion-dollar event per year between 1980  
40 and 2024, with flooding and severe storms among those events. State climate  
41 science reports also note that annual precipitation and the number of intense  
42 precipitation events have risen, which can disrupt transportation and agriculture,  
43 and pose challenges for water management. Educational surveys in the region show  
44 knowledge gaps in local environmental systems: a 2024 survey found that including  
45 environmental education as a graduation requirement can help ensure students  
46 across all districts receive consistent information about environmental systems,  
47 data interpretation, and community planning priorities. ly 37 percent of residents in  
48 the Long Island Sound watershed knew they lived in it, despite the area’s  
49 importance for local water resources and coastal ecosystems.

50 Administratively, the Northeast has experienced a 55% increase in extreme  
51 precipitation events since the mid twentieth century contributing to flooding, erosion  
52 and strain on the transportation system. In connection specifically, the Department  
53 of Energy and Environmental Protection reports that average annual temperature  
54 has increased by nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900, which has implications for  
55 agriculture, energy use, and public health. This bill would affect students, educators  
56 and communities by establishing a consistent expectation for environment  
57 education statewide. Teacher and school districts would be impacted as the  
58 curriculum alignment would ensure students meet gratin stander without requiring  
59 new scours structure. In addition to this students benefit by gaining skills in data  
60 interpretation, scientific reasoning, and civic understanding that apply to many  
61 careers, including emerging fields in environmental science, energy, and public  
62 health. Families and communities will be better equipped to understand and  
63 respond to local environmental changes, such as storm resilience and water quality  
64 issues, when graduates have a foundational understanding of these topics. Over  
65 time, a more environmentally literate population can contribute to informed  
66 decision making in local planning, risk management, and workforce development  
67 without prescribing specific policy choices.

68 **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of this act would be relatively low, as  
69 environmental education could be incorporated into existing courses within  
70 Connecticut public schools. While there may be short-term costs for curriculum  
71 development, instructional materials, and teacher training, these expenses  
72 represent an investment in the state’s future. By promoting environmentally  
73 responsible behavior, this act could help reduce future environmental damage and  
74 lower long-term costs related to cleanup, public health, and resource management.



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

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

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



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

1    **Sponsors:** Aisha Etemi

2    **An Act To:** Amend School Bus Exterior Camera Systems.

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

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

6    **Summary of Provisions**

7    **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

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

21   **Effective Date:** Upon passage of this amendment.



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

1    **Sponsors:** Alexander Nieves

2    **An Act To:** Concerning

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

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

7    **Summary of Provisions**

8    **Section 1: Definitions**

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

12    **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

26 **Effective Date:** This bill will take effect upon approval.



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

1 **Sponsors:** Samiah Brunette

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

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

4 **Purpose:** To protect citizens of major cities

5 **Summary of Provisions**

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

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

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

14 Hartford's overall tree canopy is around 25%

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

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

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

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

22 New Haven (16–38% canopy, 10 sq mi urban area in low-income zones): roughly  
23 5,000–7,000 new trees Total: 30,000–40,000 trees statewide

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

26 -Lower heat-related health costs

27 -Reduced energy costs from shade cooling

28 -Less infrastructure damage from stormwater / erosion

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

32 Trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, ozone, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter.

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

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

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

38 **Effective Date:** October 20th 2028



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

1    **Sponsors:** Isaac Diaz

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

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

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

7    **Summary of Provisions**

8    **Section 1: Definitions**

9    **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

26   **Effective Date:** Effective upon passage of this bill.



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

1    **Sponsors:** Stella Stinziani

2    **An Act To:** Make Students Healthier with Gardens

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

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

7    **Summary of Provisions**

8    **Section 1: Definitions**

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

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

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

15 **Section 2: Provisions**

16 1. Set up community gardens (potted, in ground, raised beds or vertical  
17 growing systems)

18 2. Create Green Teams to organize students to manage gardens.

19 3. The program's yearly goal is to grow at least 3 different fruits and/or  
20 vegetables and have a minimum of 50% of their student body try them. The  
21 students will report their garden tasting to their teacher who will submit it to  
22 the Green Team. The team will compile the survey data and submit it to the  
23 Bureau of Health, Family Services, Nutrition and Adult Education.

24 4. If the goal of trying 3 fruits and vegetables by 50% of the student body is  
25 met; the school will receive funding for the next school year to expand fruit  
26 and vegetable options in school lunches as overseen and decided by the  
27 Bureau of Health, Family Services, Nutrition and Adult Education.

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

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

34 **Effective Date:** Effective in the following school year



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

1 **Sponsors:** Zoe Castrogiovanni, Julia Graham, and Aliyah Silva

2 **An Act To:** Concerning voter registration education

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

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

6 **Summary of Provisions**

7 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

11 Youth voting - graduating seniors getting ready to vote

12 Section 2: Provisions

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

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

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

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

23 **Fiscal Implications:** Non applicable

24 **Effective Date:** 7/1/26



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

1 **Sponsors:** Lucy Fisher and Caylee Brown

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 **Section 1: Definitions**

9 A 'GHOST JOB' is known as a job that

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

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

14 3. Does not offer follow-up communication to applicants

15 A ghost job typically intends to

16 1. Not be filled

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

19 The 'DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTIONS' is

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

22 'VALUATION' is known as

23 1. The financial worth of a company

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

25 1. Has had an annual revenue under the amount of ONE MILLION DOLLARS  
26 (\$1,000,000) of the most recent completed accounting year

27 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

53 **Effective Date:** October 1st, 2026



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

1 **Sponsors:** Carolyn Caldas and Leo Martinez

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

14 Section 2: Provisions

15 1. \$5 million shall be allocated to the Department of Mental Health and Additional  
16 Services (DHMAS) for the construction, mental health services, staffing and cost of  
17 operation of per new mental health group home created through this bill.

18 2. Mental health group homes will be dispersed based on regional demand and  
19 population density to ensure their accessibility in both urban and rural areas.

20 a. Information to determine the location shall be found through the Health  
21 Professional Shortage Area Find from the Health Resources and Services  
22 Administration.

23 3. Group homes created under this bill must follow state licensing and accreditation  
24 requirements in the Facility Licensing and Investigations Section (FLIS) from the  
25 Department of Public Health.

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



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

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

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

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

53 **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

1 **Sponsors:** Alexandra Curtis

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 **Section 1: Definitions**

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

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

13 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

30 **Effective Date:** Before the 2028 election cycle in districts.



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

1 **Sponsors:** Chael Baijnauth, Amir Glenn, and Ari Bartolomei

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

13 Section 2: Provisions

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Ethan Ricciardi and Edward Ramirez-Medina

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 **Section 1: Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Sarah Kuch, Madeleine Kingsland, and Isla Peacock

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Section 2: Provisions

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Sydney Quicquaro and Gisella Zelesky

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

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

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

12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

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

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

23 Section 2: Provisions

24 1. All public high schools within the state shall establish a Mental Health Resource  
25 Center (MHRC) on school premises by the start of the 2027–2028 academic year.

26 2. Each MHRC shall provide the following services free of charge to enrolled  
27 students:

- 28 a. confidential individual counseling;
- 29 b. group support sessions;
- 30 c. crisis intervention;
- 31 d. referrals to community mental health providers.

32 3. Staffing Requirements:

33 a. Each MHRC shall be staffed every school day during school hours by at least  
34 one qualified mental health professional for every 330 enrolled students.

35 b. Schools may partner with community mental health organizations to meet  
36 staffing requirements.

37 4. Annual Reporting:



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Brayden Mauro

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

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

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

8 **Summary of Provisions**

9 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

14 **Reduction and Restructuring of Personal Income Tax Rates**

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

17 For Single Filers and Married Filing Separately:

- 18 - 1.75% on taxable income up to \$15,000
- 19 - 4.00% on taxable income from \$15,001 to \$60,000
- 20 - 5.00% on taxable income from \$60,001 to \$125,000
- 21 - 5.75% on taxable income from \$125,001 to \$250,000
- 22 - 6.45% on taxable income over \$250,001 to \$450,000
- 23 - 6.69% on taxable income over \$450,001 to \$700,000
- 24 - 6.90% of taxable income over \$700,001

25 For Married Filing Jointly:

- 26 - 1.75% on taxable income up to \$30,000
- 27 - 4.00% on taxable income from \$30,001 to \$120,000
- 28 - 5.00% on taxable income from \$120,001 to \$250,000
- 29 - 5.75% on taxable income from \$250,001 to \$500,000
- 30 - 6.25% on taxable income over \$500,000 to \$750,000
- 31 - 6.56% on taxable income over \$750,001 to 1,000,000
- 32 - 6.91% on taxable income over \$1,000,001

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

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

36 **Expansion of Middle-Class Tax Relief**



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

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

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

42 Fiscal Safeguards and Revenue Neutrality Measures

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

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

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

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

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

51 **Justification:** To give money back to the residents of Connecticut

52 **Fiscal Implications:**

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Nico Sokolowski and Olive Egbert

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 **Section 1: Definitions**

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

12 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

22 **Environmental Implications:** This bill has no significant environmental impact.

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Hannah Belknap, Yisel Serrano, and Azemina Cecunjanin

2 **An Act To:** Protect the rights of all Connecticut citizens

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

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

6 **Summary of Provisions**

7 Section 1: Definitions

8 CHRO- Connecticut Commission on Humans Rights and Opportunities

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

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

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

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

18 Section 2: Provisions

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

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

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

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

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

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



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39 currently the knowledge of rights granted by the government that citizens possess  
40 is staggeringly low. According to the Annenberg Public Policy Center, less than 1 of  
41 4 individuals (24%) could name the Freedom of Religion as a Constitutional right,  
42 demonstrating the lack of knowledge that the majority of citizens nationwide  
43 possess. Thus, the advertising campaign proposed within, will serve as a means to  
44 solve this issue, and create a more informed and protected citizenry. Knowing one's  
45 rights serves as protection against unlawful conduct such as searches, seizures and  
46 detention. This type of conflict has become more prevalent in recent years, aided  
47 by the large number of ICE arrests in the U.S. which have risen from around  
48 300/day in 2024 to more than 1,000 in October 2025 (Prison Policy Initiative).  
49 Many ICE officials or other federal officers have often utilized state information or  
50 information within states, to further their agendas. This had led to officials' usage of  
51 detention center logs and ALPRs. The addition of new policies to the Trust Bill,  
52 which limit the sharing of detention logs with the federal government, are essential  
53 to further protections for inmates. Moreover, the elimination of ALPRs to further  
54 federal immigration policy, is a crucial measure to prevent government misuse of  
55 data, protect civil liberties, and protect privacy. To the ACLU, "ALPR  
56 technology...poses an immense threat to civil liberties", which is why it is necessary  
57 for Connecticut to take action. Overall, Connecticut needs to work to protect the  
58 rights of its citizens and inform citizens of their rights, as is established in this bill.

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

66 **Environmental Implications:** There are no environmental implications.

67 **Effective Date:** Immediately.



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

1 **Sponsors:** Casey DeAngelo, Brandan Beaudoin, and Josh Roslonek

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

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

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

8 **Summary of Provisions**

9 Section 1: Definitions

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

14 Public Act 17-42, Section 10-221a (c) states, "no local or regional board of  
15 education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma  
16 to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five  
17 credits, including not fewer than... one credit in physical education and wellness."  
18 In the Connecticut Board of Education Required Public School Program of Study, the  
19 distinction separating "physical" from "health" education class is made. With  
20 "Health" education including but not limited to hygiene, nutrition, relationships,  
21 sexual safety, mental health, and substance abuse this requirement still must be  
22 met in the classroom.

23 Section 2: Provisions

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

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

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



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

39 **Fiscal Implications:** \$0

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Makayla Conley, Samantha Samaniego, and Matt Cruz

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

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

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

12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 ALICE — Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed

30 Section 2: Provisions

31 1. The State of Connecticut shall establish a state-funded ConnSNAP benefit  
32 supplement to provide additional food assistance to eligible households, in addition  
33 to federal SNAP benefits.

34 2. The Department of Social Services shall conduct outreach efforts to increase  
35 awareness of ConnSNAP and improve enrollment among eligible households.

36 3. The Department of Agriculture shall administer a Local Food Support Program  
37 providing grants and low-interest loans to local food producers affected by rising  
38 operational costs.



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

39 4. Competitive grants shall be awarded to community food partnerships to expand  
40 access to fresh and affordable food in underserved communities.

41 5. Nutrition incentive programs may be implemented to encourage the purchase of  
42 fruits, vegetables, and locally produced food items.

43 6. ConnSNAP benefits shall be distributed monthly through Electronic Benefit  
44 Transfer (EBT) cards and may be used at authorized grocery stores, farmers'  
45 markets, and participating local food retailers.

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

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

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

68 **Environmental Implications:** a. Supporting local food systems reduces  
69 transportation emissions and promotes sustainable agricultural practices.

70 b. Expanded access to locally produced food contributes to environmental  
71 sustainability and community resilience throughout Connecticut.

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



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

1 **Sponsors:** Mario Rojas

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 **Section 1: Definitions**

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

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

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

15 Budget Reserve Fund: State law establishes the BRF and authorizes it to hold up to  
16 15% of net general fund appropriations for the current fiscal year. The state  
17 treasurer must transfer to the BRF any (1) unappropriated General Fund surplus at  
18 the end of each fiscal year and (2) revenue the state receives each fiscal year from  
19 specified sources in excess of the "volatility cap" (CGS § 4-30a), which is the same  
20 as the Rainy Day Fund.

21 Volatility Cap: Sets limits on fluctuating or constantly changing tax rates.

22 Essentially, any category for taxes that exceeds its limit or volatility cap is sent to  
23 the Budget Reserve Fund. Vacant Houses: Real property that is both unoccupied by  
24 human beings for an allowable use and typically entirely lacking the items ordinarily  
25 associated with habitation.

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

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

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

33 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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



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

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

45 (1b). Two proofs of identity of the head of the family or submitter, such as (i.) birth  
46 certificate, (ii.) driver's license, (iii.) non-driver photo ID, (iv.) U.S. Passport or  
47 Passport Card, or (v.) Social Security Card.

48 (2b). Two proofs of residency in which the family resides, such as (i.) current lease  
49 or rent receipt, (ii.) utility bills or general house bills, (iii.) mortgage records or  
50 property tax bills, or (iv.) bank statements or official mail with one's name and  
51 address.

52 (3b). One proof of income from each member of the family who is employed, such  
53 as (i.) recent pay stubs from one's employer, (ii.) tax returns, specifically the W-2  
54 Form or 1099 form, (iii.) official letters from other benefits, or (iv.) bank  
55 statements.

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

58 **Justification:** It must be made clear that the overall cost of housing within  
59 Connecticut's borders has gotten out of control. This is a crisis that must be  
60 addressed immediately. However, the situation has become exponentially worse for  
61 individuals and families in the middle class, who no longer qualify for Section 8 yet  
62 still cannot live peacefully with the constant worry of having to pay rent and  
63 mortgages. The cost of a house alone is far too high, as the average cost of a  
64 house, according to zillow.com, in Connecticut is \$422,555. To qualify out of  
65 Section 8 in, for example, Fairfield County, one needs \$95,645. While this seems  
66 like a lot of money, according to a study posted on Connecticut Insider on January  
67 22nd, 2025, one household must make more than \$146,161 to simply be able to  
68 pay a median-priced house off and \$126,000 to afford necessities. While this bill  
69 may cost a lot, the State of Connecticut must take responsibility; responsibility for  
70 those who can barely afford to put food on the table, let alone a house. This bill  
71 helps those parents, the parents who can no longer keep their family safe because  
72 of economic reasons. The State of Connecticut must acknowledge that it does, in  
73 fact, have the money to afford this bill, as on average it earns a surplus of nearly  
74 \$322.3 million USD without any consideration of the Rainy Day Fund. In truth,  
75 many people may not be comfortable with moving to a new town. However, they



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

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

79 **Fiscal Implications:** Approximately 4,100 vacant houses are currently being sold  
80 in Connecticut, according to a news article by Connecticut Insider on January 9,  
81 2026. The average cost of a house as of January 2025, which is when this is  
82 currently being written, is \$422,555. This indicates that the approximate maximum  
83 pricing would be \$1,732,475,500. Not all houses will be sold, and houses are not  
84 being bought; this bill intends to support those who struggle to pay their rent or  
85 mortgage on time. This indicates the total funding would be less than this price;  
86 approximately \$519,742,650 would be spent, as it is approximately 30% of all  
87 houses, which is the max range of all houses. Using the Rainy Day Fund (Budget  
88 Reserve Fund) would be the best option, as some houses may not be sold due to  
89 the strictness of the bill. However, it still allows Connecticut to reach the cap of  
90 what the bill must fund without worrying, and also enables Connecticut to cover the  
91 ongoing housing crisis.

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

97 **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

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

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

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

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

7 **Summary of Provisions**

8 Section 1: Definitions

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

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

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

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

24 Section 2: Provisions

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

51 **Effective Date:** This bill will take effect immediately after passage



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

1 **Sponsors:** Tate Walters

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

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

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

6 **Summary of Provisions**

7 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

17 **Environmental Implications:** More Healthy students

18 **Effective Date:** Upon passage of this bill



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

1 **Sponsors:** Carnell Harrison

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

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

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

5 **Summary of Provisions**

6 **Section 2: Provisions**

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

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

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

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

15 **Environmental Implications:** Wellbeing of student academics and study habits.

16 **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.

