



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

***Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division***

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division is providing municipal officials an overview document outlining 2023 Connecticut General Assembly legislative changes that affect assessment, taxation, land use and municipalities. This is not a full comprehensive listing and municipalities should review all bills approved for any potential municipal impact.

The information is provided as a summary and, if there are any additional questions or concerns relative to any of the bills, do not hesitate to reach out to your legislators or contact us.

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**Please refer to the Connecticut General Assembly website for additional information on session items**

[C G A - Connecticut General Assembly](http://www.cga.ct.gov)

## **BUDGET AND BOND**

### **PA 23-204 /HB 6941: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIAL ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET**

- Section 1 - Funding for Renters Rebate, Totally Disabled, Distressed Municipalities, Elderly Freeze and Additional Veterans
- Section 3 - Funding for Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund
- Section 13 - Funding for Motor Vehicle Tax Grants, Supplemental Revenue Sharing Grants and Tiered PILOT
- Section 38 - Payment list for Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund
- Section 69 - Working group to review State Historic Preservation Office review process
- Section 71 - Data report on existing federal and state housing programs by January 1, 2024
- Section 75 - Established Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund to provide payments to Motor Vehicle Property Tax Grants, Tiered PILOT, Supplemental Revenue Sharing Grants and Municipal Revenue Sharing Grants
- Sections 76 - 78 - Changes to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for State-Owned, College and Hospital, and Tiered
- Section 93 - Establishes new Regional Service Grant formula and removes i-lottery provisions
- Section 138 - Provides funding to The Schaghticoke, the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot and the Golden Hill Paugussett through the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund
- Section 139 - Increases the Tiered PILOT percentages by three percent
- Section 156 - Municipal option, by ordinance, abatement in part or in whole the real property taxes on any new grocery store established in a food desert.
- Section 158 - Develop a strategic plan to provide incentives for the construction of a grocery store in a food desert and expand opportunities for residents of food deserts to gain access to nutritionally adequate food.
- Section 173 - Warehousing and distribution facility municipal limitations
- Section 200 - OPM to conduct study of real property owned by the state to identify surplus and suitable for development for housing by January 1, 2024
- Sections 210 - 219 - Delays the motor vehicle assessment change implementation of PA 22-118 Sections 497-509 until October 1, 2024
- Section 359 - Creates a working group to review taxation of reservation land held in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes by January 1, 2024
- Section 386 - Establishes a task force to review boards of assessment appeals proceedings by January 1, 2024
- Section 387 - Establishes a task force to study the timeliness of required inspections of work performed pursuant to a building permit issued by a building official by January 1, 2024

**PA 23-205 /HB 6942: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING GRANT PROGRAMS, STATE CONSTRUCTION RELATED THRESHOLDS, SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS, ELECTIONS, AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET**

- Sections 2 and 32 – funding for various flood control improvements, flood repair, erosion damage repairs and municipal dam repairs.
- Sections 13 and 32 – \$7 million for Distressed Municipalities grant program for capital projects each fiscal year
- Section 52 – \$35 million for Small Town Economic Assistance Program each fiscal year
- Section 54 - \$45 million for Local Capital Improvement Program each fiscal year
- Section 55 - \$91 million for Municipal Grants in Aid program each fiscal year
- Section 101 - No later than July 31, 2023, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall compile a list of high poverty-low opportunity census tracts in the state and the municipalities in which such census tracts are located and shall, submit such list to the General Assembly.
- Sections 140-147 and 157- Grand List exemption filing provision for Berlin, Bloomfield, East Hampton, Meriden, Middletown, Thomaston, Thompson, West Hartford, and West Haven
- Section 148 – Consolidation between town of Manchester and Eighth Utilities District
- Section 149 – Norwalk validation mailing of assessment notices
- Section 150 – Windham authorization to update CGS 12-9 reporting for Fiscal year 2023
- Section 152 – Hartford fix of assessments authority
- Section 155 – Regional Service Grants for Regional Council of Governments formula
- Section 158 – Modification of municipal charter for planning and zoning or zoning boards of appeals
- Sections 166-169 – Regional Election Advisor provisions and grant
- Section 170 - Taskforce to study election administration, function, and efficiency of a shared service.

## **PUBLIC ACTS**

### **PA 23-5 / HB 5004 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING**

- Establishes a framework for early, in-person voting for all general elections, primaries, and special elections, held on or after January 1, 2024.
- Every municipality must establish at least one early voting location and may establish more.
- Sets various requirements and procedures for early voting including voter eligibility, ballot custody, staffing and training, and materials.

### **PA 23-33 / HB 6892: AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL BLIGHT ORDINANCES AND THE FINE FOR LITTERING**

- Makes several changes in laws related to blight, littering, and related conditions, generally expanding the options for penalizing people who litter or create or maintain blighted or unsafe conditions.

### **PA 23-34 / SB 634: AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL VETERANS SERVICES**

- Reorganizes the laws requiring municipalities to establish veterans representative programs and makes various changes to them, including allowing municipalities to jointly carry out their program-related duties.

### **PA 23-40 / SB 994: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, STUDYING AN EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION DATABASE OR REVISIONS TO MOTOR VEHICLE RECORDS AND CONCERNING THE SAFETY DRIVING COURSE, MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS AND REPAIRERS, MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY RECALLS, THE KNOWLEDGE TEST FOR AN OPERATOR'S LICENSE, RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF DRIVER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, TRESPASS ON WATERSHED LAND, EMERGENCY LIGHTS, REMOVABLE WINDSHIELD PLACARDS, SCHOOL BUSES, REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES AND MINOR REVISIONS TO MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES**

- Shifts the approvals of motor vehicle dealer repairers from Zoning Board of Appeals to Zoning Enforcement Officers

### **PA 23-46 / HB 6874: AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS, THE SHARING OF JUDICIAL BRANCH RECORDS AND THE AWARD OF DAMAGES IN CERTAIN CIVIL MATTERS**

- Makes a change in juvenile detention center definition for PILOT

### **PA 23-71 / HB 5510: AN ACT INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE IN REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**

- Expands the general definitions of "armed forces" and "members of armed forces" under state law to include the U.S. Space Force (USSF).

**PA 23-74 / SB 100: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO TOWNS THAT NEED PFAS TESTING AND REMEDIATION**

- Establishes a separate, non-lapsing account for grants or reimbursements for municipalities to test for and remediate PFAS contamination in drinking water supplies (the “PFAS Testing account”). Program under DEEP.

**PA 23-79 / HB 6699: AN ACT CONCERNING CANNABIS REGULATION**

- Makes various changes to the laws around adult-use cannabis, hemp, and medical marijuana.

**PA 23-114 / HB 5317: AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

- Authorizes municipalities to accept electronically submitted building permit applications from contractors.

**PA 23-124 / HB 6807: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANTS**

- Eliminates certain application and approval requirements concerning the issuance of local capital improvement project grants.
- Establishes an annual reporting due September 1<sup>st</sup> to Office of Policy and Management.

**PA 23-132 / HB 6891: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL TAXES**

- Expands the allowable payment methods for paying tax bills to include charge cards, debit cards or other electronic payment services.

**PA 23-142 / HB 6590: AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROTECTIONS FOR GROUP AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

- Starting by December 1, 2023, the bill requires each municipality’s chief executive officer to annually submit to the Office of Policy and Management a sworn statement confirming that no registered family childcare home or group child care home, located in a residence and licensed by the Office of Early Childhood are treated in a manner different from single or multifamily dwellings the municipality’s zoning ordinances. Or are required to identify the specific timeframe within which the municipality will bring its zoning ordinances into compliance.
- Extends to group childcare homes located in a residence certain requirements, which apply only to family childcare homes under current law.

**PA 23-152 / HB 6801: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF INCOME AND EXPENSE INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-PRODUCING REAL PROPERTY**

- Creates more flexible deadlines, beginning with the statements due June 1, 2024, by (1) extending the deadline to request an extension to June 1 and (2) allowing filings and extension requests that are postmarked on or by that date to qualify as timely, regardless of when the municipality receives them.

**PA 23-170 / HB 6664 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE AND ESTABLISHING THE MIRA DISSOLUTION AUTHORITY**

- Makes various changes to the state's solid waste management laws.
  - Creates a successor to the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) and establishes a winddown for the authority;
  - Establishes a post-consumer recycled content requirement for certain plastic beverage containers;
  - Allows municipalities to identify additional recyclable solid wastes for diversion (e.g., food scraps);
  - Expands the state's organics recycling law to include certain institutions (e.g., correctional and educational facilities);
  - Increases funding for the state's sustainable materials management account and expands use of the account's fund

**PA 23-173 / SB 1002: AN ACT CONCERNING ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

- Clarifies a requirement in existing law requiring zoning enforcement officers (ZEOs) to obtain certification from the Connecticut Association of ZEO.
- Generally, allows zoning commission or zoning board of appeals (ZBA) members to serve as alternates on a municipality's planning commission.
- Exempts certain individuals with practical land use experience from training requirements applicable to land use board members and reduce the frequency of the training for non-exempt members.

**PA 23-190 / SB 965: AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS OR DEAD TREES BY MUNICIPALITIES**

- Allows for LOCIP fund utilization for the removal of hazardous or dead tree projects.

**PA 23-207 / SB 998: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND ADDRESSING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTS IN THE STATE**

- Allows municipalities to adopt an ordinance establishing a program to abate property taxes for qualifying portions of a taxpayer's land that are subject to a conservation easement preserving its use as a recreational trail.

- Allows (1) municipalities to set civil penalties of up to \$2,000 per day against landlords for each violation of their rules on maintaining safe and sanitary housing and (2) landlords to appeal these fines to the municipality's legislative body or board of selectmen, under certain circumstances.
- Statutorily establishes the Office of Responsible Growth within OPM and assigns it various responsibilities.
- Requires OPM, by December 1, 2024, to establish a methodology meeting certain requirements for each municipality's fair share allocation by (1) assessing the affordable housing need in each of the state's planning regions and (2) fairly allocating a portion of this need to each of the region's municipalities; requires each chamber of the General Assembly to approve the methodology.
- Transfers from DEEP to DPH regulatory authority over certain small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial subsurface sewerage disposal systems and requires the agencies to adopt regulations on them.
- Establishes various state and local financial incentives for individuals and businesses investing in, and developing rental units set aside for, designated workforce populations under these programs.
- Establishes the majority leaders' roundtable group on affordable housing, consisting of 24 members, to study various topics related to promoting and developing affordable housing in the state.
- Makes boards of education located in an "inclusive municipality" eligible for a five-percentage point increase to their state grant reimbursement rate for school building projects.

## **SPECIAL ACTS**

### **SA 23-1 / SB 1017: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON THE SHORTAGE OF FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL IN THE STATE**

- Establishes a task force to study the shortage of firefighters and emergency medical services personnel in the state by January 1, 2024.

### **SA 23-9 / HB 6648: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ONLINE RECORDING, INDEXING AND SEARCHING OF MUNICIPAL LAND RECORDS AND MAPS**

- Establishes a task force for the online recording, indexing and searching of municipal land records and maps by February 1, 2024.

**SA 23-10 / HB 6651: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED REAL PROPERTY ON MUNICIPALITIES**

- Establishes a task force to study the possible financial and legal consequences incurred by municipalities relating to unclaimed or abandoned real property located in such municipalities by January 1, 2024.

**SA 23-13 / HB 6670: AN ACT STUDYING THE CONSOLIDATION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS**

- Requires the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in consultation with the Department of Transportation to study and make recommendations regarding the consolidation of metropolitan planning organizations by January 1, 2024.

**SA 23-14 / HB 1209: AN ACT REPEALING THE NEW HARTFORD FIRE ASSOCIATION AND VALIDATING THE ACTIONS OF THE NEW HARTFORD VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT AND PINE MEADOW FIRE DISTRICT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SAID DISTRICTS**

- Consolidates the Pine Meadow Fire District into the New Hartford Fire Association.

**SA 23-18 / SB 917: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL TITLE IX PROTECTIONS FOR ALL MUNICIPAL RECREATION AREAS AND SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES**

- Establishes a working group to study the feasibility of a federal Title IX assessment of all municipal recreation areas and facilities used for the organized playing of sports and public-school sports facilities by January 1, 2024.

**SA 23-24 / SB 497: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE REPEAL OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY TAX**

- Establishes a task force to study the feasibility of repealing the motor vehicle property tax resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because the task force has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill by February 1, 2024.

## **GOVERNOR VETOED**

### **PA 23-179 / SB 1213: AN ACT CONCERNING THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND - Governor Vetoed**

- Increases the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan grant by approximately \$87.9 million for a new total of \$139.38 million beginning in FY 26.

### **PA 23-181 / HB 6893 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS TO GROSS ASSESSMENTS OF TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY - Governor Vetoed**

- Prevents an assessor from changing a gross assessment prior to the next revaluation unless it falls under certain reasons listed in statute.