

Prepared by the Office of the Probate Court Administrator



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To: All Judges and Court Staff

From: Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas Probate Court Administrator

Re: 2024 Legislative Summary

Date: July 23, 2024

The General Assembly enacted several important pieces of legislation affecting the Connecticut Probate Court system during the 2024 session. This packet includes a summary of each bill and a link to the text of the public act. Within the public acts, bracketed text indicates deletions, and underlined text indicates additions.

These summaries are not meant to replace the public acts but are rather a basic outline of the legislation.

We will present continuing education seminars on the new legislation at the Judges Institute on October 23, 2024 and at the Fall Clerks Roundtables. Please contact us with any questions.

P.A. 24-5: An Act Concerning Changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Statutes
P.A. 24-17: An Act Concerning Nursing Home Waiting Lists
P.A. 24-18: An Act Aligning State Law with Federal Law Concerning Service Animals1
P.A. 24-19: An Act Concerning the Health and Safety of Connecticut Residents
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P.A. 24-41: An Act Concerning Educator Certification, Teachers, Paraeducators and Mandated Reporter Requirements
P.A. 24-43: An Act Concerning Firearms Background Checks
P.A. 24-68: An Act Concerning Revisions to Public Health Statutes
P.A. 24-72: An Act Concerning the Transcript Fees Charged by Official Court Reporters and Court Reporting Monitors
P.A. 24-77: An Act Concerning Coerced Debt
P.A. 24-79: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Department of Children and Families Relating to Background Checks, Certain Subsidies, Urgent Crisis Centers, Department Records and Special Police Officers
P.A. 24-81: An Act Concerning Allocations of Federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds and Provisions Related to General Government, Human Services, Education and the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025
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P.A. 24-104: An Act Concerning Adoption of the Connecticut Uniform Trust Decanting Act
P.A. 24-108: An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings
P.A. 24-114: An Act Implementing the Treasurer's Recommendations Concerning Unclaimed Property
P.A. 24-118: An Act Concerning Child Sexual Abuse
P.A. 24-122: An Act Concerning the Department of Developmental Services' Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to Developmental Services Statutes
P.A. 24-126: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Office of the Child Advocate
P.A. 24-128: An Act Defining "Dependent Child" for Purposes of the State Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Concerning the Exercise of Jurisdiction Over Nonresidents by the Office of State Ethics
P.A. 24-137: An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, the Department of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries and Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure
P.A. 24-141: An Act Promoting Nursing Home Resident Qualify of Life
P.A. 24-148: An Act Concerning Election Security and Transparency, the Counting of Absentee Ballots, Absentee Voting for Certain Patients of Nursing Homes, Security of Certain Election Workers, State Elections Enforcement Commission Complaints, Ballots Made Available in Languages Other Than English and Other Revisions Related to Election Administration
Sp.A. 24-4: An Act Concerning the Efficiency of the Department of Social Services in Determining Eligibility for Medical Assistance and Responding to Requests for Information and Assistance
Sp.A. 24-10: An Act Concerning a Universal Patient Intake Form for Recipients of Behavioral Health Services for Children

P.A. 24-5: AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE STATUTES Effective date: October 1, 2024

Summary: This Act makes various changes to Connecticut paid family and medical leave insurance (PFMLI) law, Family and Medical Leave Act (CTFMLA), and family violence leave law. Among other things, the Act clarifies who is an employer, sets forth certain reporting requirements, requires certain health care providers to display informational posters, establishes a process for the Connecticut Paid Leave Authority to recover benefit overpayments and assess penalties and allows for broader leave for certain victims of sexual assault.

P.A. 24-17: AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME WAITING LISTS *Effective date: May 14, 2024*

Summary: Amends C.G.S. § 19a-533 by (1) requiring nursing homes to accept all substantially completed applications for admission; (2) allowing nursing homes to maintain their waiting lists in electronic form; provided, however, all nursing homes must maintain their waiting list in electronic form as of July 1, 2025; (3) allow nursing homes to provide applications by mail, electronic transmission or website posting; and (4) require nursing homes to develop and implement policies and procedures related to the waiting list that address (A) what information is required for the application to be considered substantially complete, (B) what steps are taken to protect privacy, and (C) how integrity of electronic information is maintained, (i) date and time application placed on wait list and (ii) dated notification. The nursing home is not required to maintain a list of inquiries that did not result in a substantially completed application. The nursing home must make a dated notation as to why an applicant on the waiting list was not admitted and make the records available to the Department of Social Services and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

P.A. 24-18: AN ACT ALIGNING STATE LAW WITH FEDERAL LAW CONCERNING SERVICE ANIMALS Effective date: July 1, 2024

Effective date: July 1, 2024

• Section 11: Amends C.G.S. § 46a-44 to allow any person with a disability or any person training an animal as a service animal to assist with a disability to enter any place of public accommodation that offers its services or facilities to the general public, including, but not limited to, a public building, accompanied by the person's service animal and the person may keep the service animal with them at all times provided that the animal is in the direct custody and control of the person. There is no longer a requirement that the service animal be identified by

an orange-colored leash and collar. The Act also amends C.G.S. § 22-345 by defining "service animal" as having the same meaning as provided in 28 CFR § 35.104.

• Section 12: Amends C.G.S. § 46a-64 making it a discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation to refuse entry to a person with a disability who is accompanied by a service animal.

P.A. 24-19: AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS

- Section 1: (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Requires each home health care agency and home health aide agency, during intake of a prospective client who will be receiving services from the agency, to collect and provide certain information regarding the potential client, including, among other things, history of violence and psychiatric history. The agency cannot deny services based on information collected.
- Section 31: (Effective May 21, 2024) Amends C.G.S. § 19a-563h by defining "direct care" to mean hands-on care including, but not limited to, "assistance with feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, lifting, lifting and moving, administering medication, promoting socialization and personal care services, but does not include food preparation, housekeeping, laundry services, maintenance of the physical environment of the nursing home or performance of administrative tasks" as "direct care" relates to minimum staffing levels.
- Sections 38 & 39: (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Prohibits nursing homes from refusing to admit applicants for admission solely because they received mental health services at any time.

P.A. 24-30: AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS

Effective date: May 21, 2024

Summary: Enters Connecticut into the Social Work Licensure Compact. The compact creates a process for social workers to obtain a multistate license, allowing them to practice in any member state (including telehealth). Member states must grant a multistate license in one of three categories (clinical, master's or bachelor's) to social workers who meet the compact's eligibility requirements. The Social Work Licensure Compact Commission administers the compact, and Connecticut joins the commission. By its terms, the compact takes effect after seven states have adopted it. To date, two states have adopted the compact.

P.A. 24-34: AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS OF NURSING HOMES

Effective date: May 21, 2024

Summary: Amends C.G.S. § 9-150c to allow an applicant for an absentee ballot in a nursing home to designate a person to bring them their absentee ballot. The designee must be a person caring for the applicant, a family member or a police officer, registrar of voters or deputy or assistant registrar of voters in the municipality where the applicant resides.

<u>P.A. 24-39</u>: AN ACT SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT SENIORS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF NURSING AND HOME-BASED CARE Effective date: October 1, 2024, unless otherwise stated

- Section 1: Requires the Commissioner of Social Services in consultation with the Commissioners of Public Health and Consumer Protection to develop and maintain a home care provider registry and data processing system that promotes awareness of and access to qualified home care providers for persons who receive Medicaid-covered home and community-based services a link to which must be posted on the DSS website.
- Sections 4 & 5: Require DSS and DPH, respectively, to post in a prominent location on their website a link to the Medicare online reporting tool that allows the public to compare nursing homes by quality of care.
- Section 10: Requires DSS to establish a presumptive Medicaid eligibility system for people applying to the Medicaid-funded portion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE). It requires the commissioner to adopt regulations to implement and administer the system.
- Sections 15 & 16: Expands scope of State Department of Education family resource centers and Department of Children and Families parent education and support centers to include resources, programs, and services for nonparent caretaker relatives and legal guardians. It also requires these centers to make referrals for parents, nonparent caretaker relatives, and legal guardians to community programs on childhood development and positive parenting practices.
- Section 17: (Effective May 21, 2024) Amends C.G.S. § 7-127b by making the duties of the municipal agent for the elderly mandatory and expands their duties to include helping seniors accessing resources on housing opportunities, including information on accessing elderly housing waiting lists, applications, and consumer reports. It also requires the Commissioner of Aging and Disability

Services ("ADS") to create a directory of municipal agents with contact information and post on the ADS website.

- Section 19: Requires a managed residential community to provide at least 30 days' notice to residents and their legal representatives before the operator of the community changes from one business entity to another or from one agency to another.
- Section 20: (*Effective May 21, 2024*) Requires the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health to develop a managed residential community consumer guide.
- Section 26: Requires the Department of Public Health in consultation with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Long-Term Care Advisory Council to establish an online nursing home consumer dashboard that provides comprehensive information concerning the quality of care for people in need of nursing home care and their families and showcases industry leading practices.

P.A. 24-41: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION, TEACHERS, PARAEDUCATORS AND MANDATED REPORTER REQUIREMENTS Effective date: October 1, 2024

- Section 40: Amends C.G.S. § 17a-101a by authorizing a mandatory reporter to conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine whether reasonable cause exists to make a report.
- Section 41: Amends C.G.S. § 17a-101e by extending immunity from criminal or civil liability to persons that do not make a report in good faith.
- Section 43: Amends C.G.S. § 17a-101a requiring the Department of Children and Families to conduct an assessment when a mandated reporter has failed to make a report and promptly notify the Chief State's Attorney when there is reason to believe that a mandated reporter has failed to make a report. Also makes the failure to report, a class A misdemeanor with the possibility that the crime may be elevated to a felony.

P.A. 24-43: AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS Effective date: July 1, 2024

Summary: Amends C.G.S. § 46b-124 by allowing access to juvenile records to, among others, Probate Court judges and employees who, in performing their duties, require

access to the records in evaluating a proposed transfer of a firearm to a person under age 21 in this state or any other state.

P.A. 24-68: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES Effective date: October 1, 2024

- Section 1: Amends C.G.S. § 7-48 by allowing a parent of a child born outside an institution to petition the Probate Court for the district where the birth is alleged to have occurred for an order requiring the registrar of vital statistics to create and file the birth certificate for the child. The petition must be filed before the child's first birthday. The court must find the parentage and date and place of birth of the child by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Section 2: Amends C.G.S. § 7-51 by clarifying that legal guardians and legal custodians are eligible parties who may obtain a certified copy of birth and fetal death records.
- **Section 7:** Amends C.G.S. § 19a-580h by removing the requirement that a signature on a medical order for life-sustaining treatment (MOLST) be witnessed.

P.A. 24-72: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSCRIPT FEES CHARGED BY OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS AND COURT REPORTING MONITORS Effective date: October 1, 2024

Summary: Amends C.G.S. § 51-63 by increasing the amount an official court reporter and a court recording monitor may charge for transcripts.

P.A. 24-77: AN ACT CONCERNING COERCED DEBT Effective date: January 1, 2025

Summary: Act prohibits anyone from knowingly making another individual liable for "coerced debt," which the Act defines as any "debt" incurred in the name of the debtor who is a domestic violence victim in response to any duress, intimidation, threat of force, force, or undue influence used to specifically coerce the debtor into incurring the debt. The Act also imposes specific obligations and responsibilities on, and gives certain rights to, coerced debt "claimants". If a court determines that a debt is coerced debt, then the individual who knowingly caused the debt is civilly liable to the claimant for all or part of the debt amount and may be civilly liable for the debtor's reasonable attorney's fees and costs in establishing that the debt was coerced.

<u>P.A. 24-79</u>: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS, CERTAIN SUBSIDIES, URGENT CRISIS CENTERS, DEPARTMENT RECORDS AND SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS

Effective date: July 1, 2024

- Section 1: Amends C.G.S. § 17a-114 by requiring any person who is 18 or older living in the household of a person who has applied for approval to adopt or to provide foster care to submit to state and national criminal history records check before a license for foster care or a placement of a child for adoption is approved. The Commissioner of Children and Families may place a child with a relative or fictive kin caregiver who has not been issued a license or approval if placement is in the best interests of the child, there is a satisfactory home visit, and a basic assessment is completed. In these cases, the commissioner must request a federal name-based criminal history search and check the state child abuse and neglect registry. In addition, a state and national criminal history records check based on fingerprints of each person 18 years of age or older residing in the home is required within ten days of receipt of the name-based search.
- Section 2: Amends C.G.S. § 17a-126 by allowing the Commissioner of Children and Families to transfer a guardianship or adoptive parent subsidy to a successor guardian in the case of the death, severe disability or serious illness of a caregiver who is receiving a guardianship subsidy or an adoptive parent who is receiving a subsidy pursuant to C.G.S. § 17a-117 or § 17a-118.

P.A. 24-81: AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT, HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

- Section 13: (*Effective May 30, 2024*): Amends C.G.S. § 45a-82 by providing that a balance of not less than twelve million dollars shall remain in the Probate Court Administration Fund on June 30, 2024, and shall not be transferred to the General Fund.
- Section 30: (Effective July 1, 2024): Amends C.G.S. § 45a-273(e) by adding section 4a-12. In a small estate, the court must determine who is entitled to reimbursement or payment for claims, expenses, and taxes due, except if decedent received aid or care from the state or received care in a state humane institution, reimbursement shall be in accordance with C.G.S. §§ 4a-12 and 17b-

95. Section 4a-12 provides that the Department of Administrative Services may refer claims for collection to a consumer collection agency or an attorney.

- Section 31: (Effective July 1, 2024): Amends C.G.S. § 18-85a by adding a new paragraph (c) which provides that any state claim for the cost of incarceration for an inmate whose criminal record is erased shall be terminated to the extent the cost was incurred during time served, but not for claims paid before July 1, 2024.
- Section 32: (*Effective July 1, 2024*): Amends C.G.S. § 18-85b to provide that the first fifty thousand dollars inherited is exempt from any lien unless the inmate is incarcerated for certain enumerated crimes.
- Section 33: (*Effective July 1, 2024*): Amends C.G.S. § 18-85c by clarifying that any property deemed by the Probate Court to be an asset of the decedent shall be used to pay the state claim for incarceration expenses under the section.

P.A. 24-92: AN ACT CONCERNING HOME VISITS AND EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Effective date: July 1, 2024

Summary: Act requires the Department of Children and Families to conduct a visit to or an evaluation of a home pursuant to a safety plan in person unless the home is the subject of a quarantine or isolation order. A "safety plan" is a plan established by DCF to address or mitigate guardian behaviors or conditions or circumstances in a home that may render the home unsafe for a child or children.

P.A. 24-97: AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Effective date: October 1, 2024

- Section 1: Amends C.G.S. § 3-95b of the 2024 supplement by adding execution of a mutual distribution agreement under C.G.S. § 45a-434 to the list of records that cannot be acknowledged remotely.
- Section 2: Amends C.G.S. § 45a-112 to allow the Probate Courts to bill the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System for a filing fee or other probate expense rather than require upfront payment of fees.
- Section 3: Amends C.G.S. § 46b-116d of the 2024 supplement by clarifying that the Probate Court, in an adoption or termination of parental rights matter where the petitioner knows or has reason to know that an Indian child is involved, notifies the parent in accordance with C.G.S. § 45a-716 and the notice must

include notice of the right of intervention by the Indian custodian and the Indian child's tribe. If the identity or location of the custodian or tribe cannot be determined, then the court sends notice to the Secretary or Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director or the Commissioner of Children and Families as applicable.

• Section 4: Amends C.G.S. § 45a-649 to provide alternative service of process when the whereabouts of the respondent's spouse are unknown or in hand service cannot be effectuated. Specifically, the Act now allows for abode service on a spouse in a conservatorship proceeding if in hand service is not possible or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested or by publication if abode service cannot be reasonably made within the state. If the whereabouts of the spouse is unknown, notice by certified mail to the children of the respondent is also required.

P.A. 24-102: AN ACT CONCERNING CLARIFYING THE APPEALS PROCESS UNDER THE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE STATUTES Effective date: July 1, 2024

Summary: Amends C.G.S. § 31-49p by outlining the appeals process under the paid family and medical leave statutes.

P.A. 24-104: AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION OF THE CONNECTICUT UNIFORM TRUST DECANTING ACT Effective date: January 1, 2025

Summary: The Act adopts the Connecticut Uniform Trust Decanting Act. Generally, a trust decanting occurs when a trustee modifies the trust's terms or distributes property from the trust to another trust. For decanting to occur, the trustee must have the discretionary power under the trust's terms to make principal distributions. A trustee who chooses to decant must do so within their fiduciary duties and generally (1) does not need court approval, except with respect to testamentary trusts, but (2) must notify qualified beneficiaries and, in some cases, certain state officials such as the Attorney General.

Sections of the Act specifically related to probate include:

Section 7: Requires the authorized fiduciary to send notice to: (1) settlor of trust;
(2) each qualified beneficiary of first trust; (3) each holder of present exercisable power of appointment of over any part of the first trust; (4) each person that currently has the right to remove or replace the authorized fiduciary; (5) other fiduciaries of the first trust; (6) fiduciary of the second trust; (7) the Attorney

General if the first trust contains a determinable charitable interest; and (8) the Attorney General and the Department of Social Services if a trust is a Special Needs Trust.

- Section 9: Provides that upon petition by a proper petitioner (which includes those entitled to notice under section 7), the court may (1) provide instructions to the authorized fiduciary regarding whether a proposed action is consistent with fiduciary duties; (2) appoint a special fiduciary to determine whether the decanting power should be exercised and authorize the special fiduciary to exercise it; (3) approve the exercise of the decanting power; (4) determine decanting power ineffective because: (A) exercise did not comply with Act or (B) would be abuse of discretion; (5) determine to what extent Act applies to prior exercise of decanting power; or (7) other relief to carry out purposes of act.
- Section 31: Amends C.G.S. § 45a-499o to provide the Probate Courts have sole original jurisdiction to hear and decide petitions related to the exercise of a decanting power in a testamentary trust and the Probate Courts have concurrent original jurisdiction with the Superior Court to hear and decide petitions related to the exercise of a decanting power in an inter vivos trust.
- Section 32: Amends C.G.S. § 45a-106a(h) requiring a \$300 filing fee for a petition to exercise a decanting power.

P.A. 24-108: AN ACT CONCERNING COURT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

- Section 26: (*Effective October 1, 2024*): Allows commissioners of the Superior Court to take an acknowledgement remotely similar to notary publics under C.G.S. § 3-95b.
- Section 34: (Effective October 1, 2024): Amends C.G.S. § 51-14 by repealing the provision that provides that all statutes relating to pleading, practice and procedure in existence on July 1, 1957 are deemed rules of court until modified, superseded or suspended by rules promulgated by the court and requires the Chief Justice to file a report to the General Assembly. This obsolete provision is replaced by notice and hearing for the judges or a committee of judges to adopt rule changes.

P.A. 24-114: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Effective date: June 4, 2024

- Section 5: Amends C.G.S. § 3-70a by adding paragraph (g) which allows the State Treasurer to make direct payment to one or more claimants, without a probate decree or fiduciary certificate, for any solely owned unclaimed property of a deceased owner valued at less than \$500 in the aggregate at the time of the claim if:
 - no affidavit in lieu of administration has been filed or more than one year has passed since the last decree to transfer personal property has been issued and a sworn affidavit is filed with the Treasurer; or
 - no fiduciary has been appointed or the decedent's estate was closed more than one year before the discovery of the relevant unclaimed property and a sworn affidavit is filed with the Treasurer.

P.A. 24-118: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Effective date: June 5, 2024

- Section 11: Creates a task force to study the responsiveness of state agencies and the Judicial Branch to issues concerning child sexual abuse. The task force shall undertake an examination of state agency and Judicial Branch policies and practices relating to and impacting children in order to identify opportunities to detect, mitigate, prevent and effectively respond to such abuse. The task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and the judiciary by July 1, 2025.
- Section 12: Mandates the Office of the Child Advocate to review state agency practices and procedures for ensuring the care and protection of minors in Probate Court guardianship proceedings, and submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and the judiciary concerning the adequacy of such practices and procedures by January 1, 2025. The report must include an analysis of (1) statutory requirements applicable to such proceedings; (2) applicable court rules and policies and quality assurance measures; (3) practices, procedures and quality assurance framework applicable to the work of the Department of Children and Families in Probate Court matters; (4) training and contractual expectations for counsel assigned to minors and guardians ad litem in Probate Court guardianship matters; and (5) practices and procedures for providing guardianship subsidies to eligible recipients by the Department of Social Services

and the quality assurance framework applicable to the administration of such benefits.

P.A. 24-122: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUTES

- Section 8: (*Effective July 1, 2024*): Allows the Department of Developmental Services to transfer a person with intellectual disabilities who receives residential care services from one public or state-supported private residential facility to another when necessary and desirable, provided the person and their legal representative receive written notice of their right to object not less than ten days before the proposed transfer.
- Section 9: (Effective June 5, 2024): Establishes a "human rights committee" within each service region of the Department of Developmental Services and Southbury Training School to advise and make recommendations to the regional and training school directors and the commissioner on best practices and address concerns and complaints on human rights issues involving persons receiving services from DDS.
- Section 10: (*Effective June 5, 2024*): Establishes a "program review committee" within each service region of the Department of Developmental Services and Southbury Training School to advise regional and training school directors and the commissioner on best practices for reviewing plans.

P.A. 24-126: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE Effective date: June 5. 2024

- Section 9: Creates a working group to review available data and information regarding the effectiveness of the Department of Children and Families in discharging its child protection responsibilities and to develop a plan for the public dissemination of such data and information on a regular basis.
- Section 10: Creates a working group to review the delivery of legal services to children in child protection proceedings in this state. Such review shall include, but need not be limited to, models of legal service delivery previously used in this state or currently used in other states, and recommendations for improving the quality of legal representation provided to children in this state.

P.A. 24-128: AN ACT DEFINING "DEPENDENT CHILD" FOR PURPOSES OF THE STATE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CONCERNING THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION OVER NONRESIDENTS BY THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

Effective date: October 1, 2024

• Section 1: Amends C.G.S. § 1-79 by defining "dependent child" as a qualifying child as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 152 who is the son, daughter, stepson or stepdaughter of the filing individual.

P.A. 24-137: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS LAWS CONCERNING IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SALARIES AND CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

• Section 7: (Effective July 1, 2024): Amends C.G.S. § 51-49i clarifying that judges must have 10 years of service to be entitled to a pension with benefits unless they retire at age 70 due to mandatory retirement or retire early due to disability. If a judge retires at 70 or retires early due to disability without 10 years of service, their retirement benefit is reduced by 10% for each year they served less than the 10 years.

P.A. 24-141: AN ACT PROMOTING NURSING HOME RESIDENT QUALIFY OF LIFE

- Section 1: (*Effective June 4, 2024*): Amends C.G.S. § 19a-521b to prohibit a licensed chronic and convalescent nursing home or rest home with nursing supervision from placing a newly admitted resident in a room with more than two beds.
- Section 3: (*Effective June 4, 2024*): Prohibits the Department of Public Health from granting any new licenses to establish, conduct or operate a rest home with nursing supervision on or after the effective date. Existing facilities may be approved for a one-time renewal for not more than one year.

P.A. 24-148: AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY, THE COUNTING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS, ABSENTEE VOTING FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS OF NURSING HOMES, SECURITY OF CERTAIN ELECTION WORKERS, STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION COMPLAINTS, BALLOTS MADE AVAILABLE IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH AND OTHER REVISIONS RELATED TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

• Section 5: (Effective June 6, 2024): Amends C.G.S. § 9-150c to allow an applicant for an absentee ballot in a nursing home to designate a person to bring them their absentee ballot. The designee must be a person caring for the applicant, a family member or a police officer, registrar of voters or deputy or assistant registrar of voters in the municipality where the applicant resides. (See P.A. 24-34)

<u>Sp.A. 24-4</u>: AN ACT CONCERNING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE Effective date: May 30, 2024

Summary: Requires the Commissioner of Social Services to study the efficiency of the department in (1) making eligibility determinations for medical assistance; and (2) responding to telephonic requests for information or assistance.

<u>Sp.A. 24-10</u>: AN ACT CONCERNING A UNIVERSAL PATIENT INTAKE FORM FOR RECIPIENTS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN Effective date: June 5, 2024

Summary: Creates a working group to make recommendations for a universal patient intake form to be provided to and completed by patients of providers of behavioral health services for children and parents and guardians of such patients.