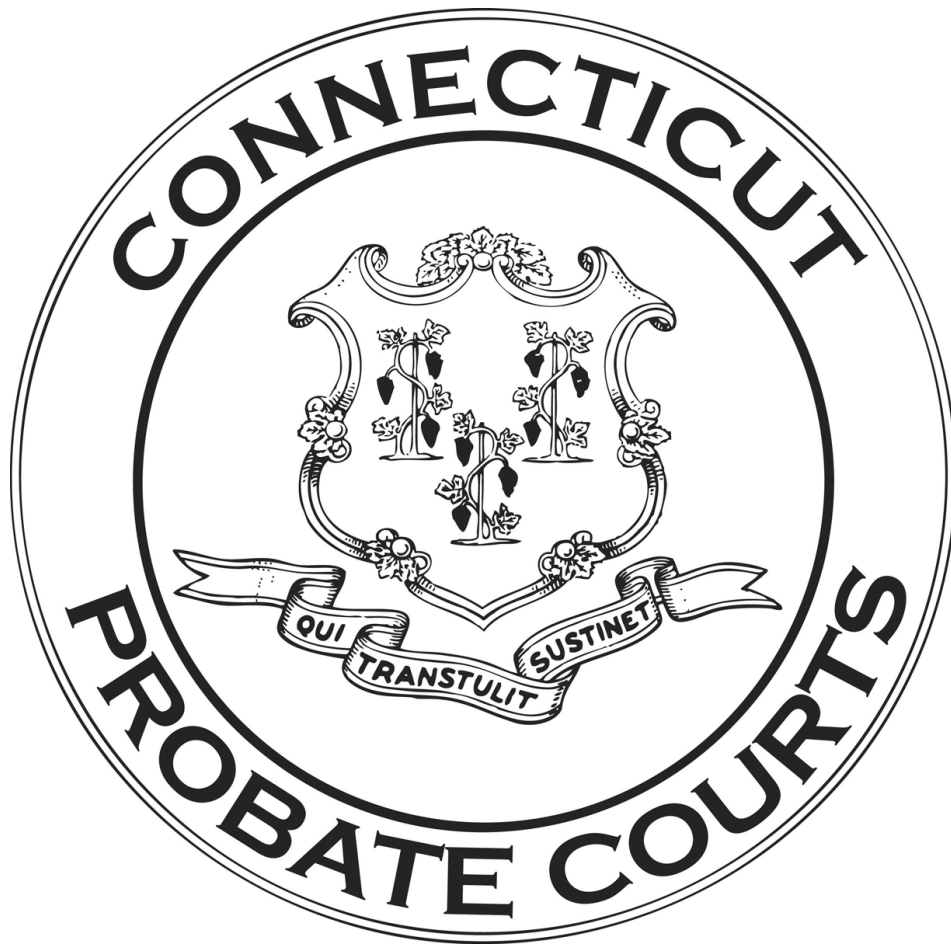
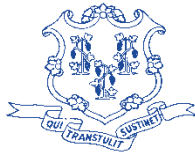


2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



**Prepared
by the
Office of the Probate Court Administrator**



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

BEVERLY K. STREIT
Probate Court Administrator
HEATHER L. DOSTALER
Chief Counsel
ERIC H. ROTHAUER
Attorney
ZACHARY T. KING
Attorney

186 NEWINGTON ROAD
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110

TEL (860) 231-2442
FAX (860) 231-1055
ctprobate.gov

To: All Judges and Court Staff
From: Beverly K. Streit
Probate Court Administrator
Re: 2026 Legislative Summary
Date: July 15, 2026

The General Assembly enacted several important pieces of legislation affecting the Connecticut Probate Court system during the 2026 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 Probate Judges Institute and the Clerks Roundtables currently scheduled for the fall of 2026.

Please contact us with any questions.

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P.A. 26-11: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISOR'S TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES.

Effective date: upon passage unless otherwise stated (May 7, 2026)

Summary: Makes technical changes to various statutes. Relevant sections include:

- **Section 9** (*Effective October 1, 2026*): Amends C.G.S. § 47-36aa to capitalize "Probate Court."

P.A. 26-12: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE STATE.

Effective date: October 1, 2026

Summary: Makes various changes to employment related statutes. Relevant sections include:

- **Section 2:** Amends C.G.S. § 31-40z to require all Connecticut employers, including government entities, to make various disclosures when advertising publicly or internally for an available position. More specifically, the act requires disclosure of:
 - A position's wage or wage range. Moreover, the employers are also required to set a wage range for a position in good faith.
 - A general description of the position's benefits including (1) health insurance; (2) retirement; (3) fringe; (4) paid leave; and (5) any other compensation, other than wages, offered with a position.

The act further requires employers to give job applicants and employees benefit information whenever they are required to give them wage information. The act also prohibits employers from retaliating or discriminating against a job applicant or employee for exercising their rights under the wage disclosure law, including by refusing to hire or interview an applicant or refusing to promote or terminating an employee because they requested wage or benefit information.

- **Section 30 through 31:** Requires all Connecticut employers, including government entities, to display information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in both English and Spanish at their place of business. The information will be provided by the Department of Labor via its website. The information must be in a form available to download by an employer to display in both English and Spanish. It further requires all Connecticut employers, including government entities, to provide written notice of employee's rights to reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Notice must be provided (1) to new employees at the time of commencement of their employment; (2) to all existing employees by February 1, 2027; and (3) to any employee who notifies the employer of a disability within ten days of the notification. The employer may comply with these requirements by displaying the

poster provided by the Department of Labor in a conspicuous place, accessible to employees at the employer's place of business.

- **Section 32:** Amends C.G.S. § 31-40w by requiring an employer to provide reasonable break times for an employee to express breast milk in addition to the employee's scheduled breaks.

P.A. 26-14: AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE USE AND RETENTION OF DATA DERIVED FROM AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS.

Effective date: upon passage unless otherwise stated (May 4, 2026)

Summary: This act makes various changes to civil rights laws and enforceability including creating certain causes of actions in Superior Court. Relevant sections include:

- **Sections 6, 7, and 8 (Effective October 1, 2026):** Establishes "protected areas" that restricts peace officers from detaining, arresting, or taking someone into custody based on a civil offense in certain locations unless the officer (1) is acting in his or her official capacity, (2) has notified a judicial marshal within the courthouse of intent to detain, arrest, or otherwise take an individual into custody, and (3) has a judicial warrant for the person. As defined, "protected areas" include state or municipal facilities, certain other locations such as hospitals/urgent care centers, schools/colleges/universities, social service establishments (such as crisis centers, shelters, food banks), disaster relief centers, cemeteries, playgrounds, and houses of worship. As defined, a "peace officer" includes broader applicability to federal law enforcement. As defined a "civil offense" is any local, state, or federal civil proceeding for a charged person to offer a defense. The law does not include the following civil offenses:
 - State infractions
 - Motor vehicle violation
 - An arrest that for an alleged criminal violation of (a) a state law or that of any other jurisdiction in the United States that could result in imprisonment as part of the sentence or (b) federal law that could result in imprisonment as part of the sentence and would require an initial appearance before a federal judge, magistrate, or judicial officer;
 - Contempt of court, a judge-issued capias (warrant), or a warrant for parole or probation violation; or
 - Emergency commitment or an arrest under the psychiatric disability-related statutes.

P.A. 26-19: AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS DAYS AND MONTHS.

Effective date: upon passage unless otherwise stated (May 19, 2026)

Summary: The yearly designations of significant dates to the State of Connecticut, which include: re-designating the last Friday in September as Indigenous Peoples' Day; designating January 11 as Hartford Whalers Day; designating March 4 as 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day; designating September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and others.

P.A. 26-26: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

Effective date: upon passage unless otherwise stated (May 26, 2026)

Summary: Makes changes related to child welfare laws including changes to relative or fictive kin caregiver grants, after school program grants, expansion of the Department of Children and Families ("DCF") public online informational dashboard, creation of a new Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee, information sharing between agencies, and more.

- **Section 2** (*Effective October 1, 2026*): Amends C.G.S. § 46b-129 to now affirmatively require consideration of relative or fictive kin availability when considering DCF placement options. Moreover, it increases the priority of relative or fictive kind placements over other placements. Prior law would allow but not require consideration of such care alternatives.
- **Section 3** (*Effective July 1, 2026*): Creates new law establishing a grant program for caregivers of children placed by DCF for basic necessities such as food, clothing, and other safety related purchases. The new program will be comparable to payments under DCF foster programs and available to relatives or fictive kin caregivers who have accepted DCF emergency placement of a child. According to the new law, DCF has until January 1, 2027 to develop program guidelines and implement the program.
- **Section 13** (*Effective October 1, 2026*): Requires the parent or guardian of a child who (1) is the subject of a DCF investigation, (2) is under protective supervision or receiving protective services, or (3) residing with a child who meets at least one of these two criteria to notify DCF if the child will be taken out of the state for more than 14 consecutive days. Furthermore, section 13 allows DCF to require the parent or guardian to notify DCF if the child will be taken out of state 14 or fewer days and requires DCF to give written notice of these provisions to the parents or guardians of each eligible child. Failure to notify DCF may trigger a follow up investigation or coordination with the child welfare or law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the child is located.

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- **Section 15** (*Effective October 1, 2026*): Requires DCF to consider any opinions expressed by the child or other children living in the household during home visits when investigating abuse or neglect allegations of children from birth to three years of age.
- **Section 18** (*Effective October 1, 2026*): Establishes a 32-member Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee charged with evaluating and making recommendations about the operation, policies, and service outcomes of state agencies providing services relating to and supporting child welfare in the state and the efficacy and continued operation of existing statewide boards, committees, and councils charged with oversight and evaluation of child welfare services. The Probate Court Administrator or their designee are named as a member of the Committee.

P.A. 26-41: AN ACT CONCERNING CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS, UNFINISHED FRAMES OR UNFINISHED LOWER RECEIVERS, VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION AND REFUNDABILITY OF PERMITS FOR SALE AT RETAIL OF FIREARMS AND FOR CARRYING OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS.

Effective date: October 1, 2026

Summary: Makes various changes to Connecticut firearms laws by making it a crime to knowingly import into Connecticut or knowingly advertise, sell, offer, or expose for sale any “convertible pistol” manufactured on or after October 1, 2026. In plain terms, a “convertible pistol” is any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that may be readily converted into a “machine gun” as defined under preexisting law. Similarly, the act prohibits anyone without a local dealer permit from (a) advertising, selling, or delivering; (b) offering or exposing for sale or delivery, or (c) possessing with the intent to deliver or sell them at retail any unfinished firearm frame or unfinished lower firearm receiver. Lastly, the act expands the voluntary delivery or surrender of any firearm or ammunition to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection (state police) with local police departments authorized to accept such firearm or ammunition on behalf of the Commissioner.

P.A. 26-57: AN ACT CONCERNING UNLAWFUL FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTICES.

Effective date: upon passage unless otherwise stated (May 19, 2026)

Summary: Makes various changes regarding funeral service laws, including establishing a funeral service guaranty account within the Department of Consumer Protection and establishing a working group to study and make recommendations for improving laws, policies, and procedures related prepaid funeral service contracts.

- **Section 3:** Establishes a 12-member working group under the General Law Committee of the General Assembly charged with studying issues related to prepaid funeral service contracts, the creation of consumer protections for these

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contracts, and the establishment and implementation of the guaranty fund for these consumers. The Probate Court Administrator or their designee serves on the working group.

P.A. 26-67: AN ACT DESIGNATING THE STATE AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB MOVEMENT, THE STATE AMPHIBIAN AND THE STATE ROCK.

Effective date: October 1, 2026

Summary: The yearly designations of significance to the State of Connecticut, which include: designating Connecticut as the birthplace of the Boys and Girls Club movement; designates the spring peeper, *Pseudacris crucifer*, as the state amphibian; and Housatonic marble as the state rock.

P.A. 26-68: AN ACT CONCERNING AFFORDABILITY.

***Retitled* AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET.**

Effective date: upon passage, unless otherwise stated (May 26, 2026)

Summary: This act was the result of a “strike all” amendment which now makes adjustments necessary for the state budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2027. Relevant sections include:

- **Section 1:** (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Appropriates to the Probate Courts from the General Fund \$455,812 for FY 2027.
- **Section 10:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-82(j) suspending the automatic sweep of the Probate Court Administration Fund (“PCAF”) on June 30, 2026, allowing the full balance to remain in the PCAF rather than be swept into the General Fund.
- **Section 186:** Clarifies and permits the Department of Public Health may appoint a licensed embalmer to take custody and dispose of abandoned human remains.
- **Section 187:** Expands the time-period and medium (electronic format) that the Department of Public Health may provide death certificate information to the public, certain persons, and/or agencies.

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- **Section 192:** Makes modifications to the Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (“MOLST”) statutes. In essence, expands the list of who may determine a patient qualifies under MOLST and clarifies the required use of a state issued form.
- **Section 393:** Creates an account known as the “Temporary Education Aid for School Districts Account” under the Department of Education. These funds are to be used for educational purposes only and prohibits towns from using them to supplant local education funding. They provide specific school district relief and compensatory use learning aid grants.
- **Section 395:** Requires the Probate Court Administrator to transfer \$10,945,502 from the PCAF established under C.G.S. § 45a-82 to the Department of Education for the Temporary Aid for School Districts Account established under Section 393. The transfer is required on or before June 15, 2026.

P.A. 26-76: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS, A MUNICIPAL OPTION TO ABATE DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES ON CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND, ALLOCATIONS OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Summary: This act was the result of a “strike all” amendment which makes technical corrections and conforming changes to the adjustments necessary for the state budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2027. Relevant sections include:

- **Section 15:** Amends C.G.S. § 51-47 permitting a 4.35% increase in salary for superior court judges to \$217,109, which thus results in changes in salaries of probate judges under C.G.S. § 45a-95a.

P.A. 26-86: AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES DUE TO THE DEATH OF CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS.

Effective date: October 1, 2026

Summary: Delays the time frame for when the governor may issue a writ calling for a special election when the vacancy was created due to the death of the elected official. The intent is to provide a mourning period after the sudden or unexpected death of the elected official by extending the time for issuing a writ of special election to not less than 7 and not more than 17 days after the death occurred. For probate judge vacancies created due to the judge’s death, the act requires the governor to wait at least seven days after the death before issuing the writ. The act preserves the governor’s discretion to call a special election to fill a probate court vacancy.

P.A. 26-87: AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS.

Effective date: October 1, 2026, unless otherwise stated

Summary: Makes various changes in statutes affecting the Probate Court procedures and operations. Sections include:

- **Section 1:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-8a allowing petitions seeking the change of the name of a minor under C.G.S. § 45a-99 to be adjudicated by a Regional Children's Probate Court.
- **Section 2** (*Effective January 1, 2027*): Amends C.G.S. § 45a-100 to permit filing of petitions for relief from federal firearms disability in probate districts where *either* the petitioner resides, or if the person does not reside in Connecticut, the probate district that rendered the adjudication or commitment.
- **Section 3** (*Effective June 6, 2026*): Amends C.G.S. § 45a-754 to clarify and expressly provide that records related to appointment of a guardian are included as confidential proceedings.
- **Section 4:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-186 to clarify that all matters concerning parental and guardianship rights of children are appealed to the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters. More specifically, requires that appeals of probate matters on termination of parental rights, removal of a parent as guardian, appointment of a guardian of the person of a minor, appointment of a statutory parent, adoption of a minor, temporary guardianship and emancipation of a minor, be filed in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters.

The act further clarifies that a copy of any appeal of a Probate Court decision must be sent to the Probate Court at the time the appeal is filed with the Superior Court to ensure timely notice.

- **Section 5:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-649(a)(1) to clarify the timing for conservatorship hearings and notice requirements. More specifically, it plainly states that notice of the hearing is sent to the parties not less than ten days before the hearing, and the hearing itself must be held not more than thirty days after receipt of the petition. The clarification in the amendment provides a consistent approach to articulating the timing of notice and hearings as other areas of statute.
- **Section 6:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-27 to clarify training of newly-elected judges through observing Probate Court hearings and proceedings, includes confidential matters, and to provide mentorship.

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- **Section 7:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-181 to clarify that the random audit of conservators process includes audits beyond a specific account or financial report held for an audit and to permit the random audit of an estate, as so defined. The act allows the Probate Court Administrator to provide for an audit of a conservator of the estate's financial management generally, not just the conservator's account.
- **Section 8:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-111(d) to allow waiver of payment of filing fees or other fees or expenses due under C.G.S. §§ 45a-106a to 45a-112, inclusive, if the court has determined such fees or expenses are 1) uncollectable and 2) are no more than five dollars.
- **Section 9:** Amends C.G.S. § 45a-113a to eliminate the requirement for Probate Courts to issue refunds for overpayments if the amount due is under five dollars.
- **Section 10** (*Effective June 6, 2026*): Repeals Special Act No. 25-18 that established a working group to study statutes, policies and procedures relating to Probate Court guardianship proceedings.

P.A. 26-94: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY PROGRAM AND SECOND INJURY FUND.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Summary: This act makes adjustments to the Unclaimed Property Program maintained by the Treasurer for the State of Connecticut. It expands what property and what time frame the property may be subject to the unclaimed property program, for example now including military medals, funds held by craftspeople (jewelers, watchmakers, silversmiths, service dealers, etc.), certain insurance policies, interest in accounts held in financial institutions or business associations.

P.A. 26-118: AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL AND MINOR REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION STATUTES.

Effective date: upon passage unless otherwise stated (June 11, 2026)

Summary: Makes various technical changes to various statutes. Relevant sections include:

- **Section 3** (*Effective October 1, 2026*): Amends C.G.S § 45a-594 to capitalize the spelling of "Probate Court."
- **Section 4** (*Effective October 1, 2026*): Amends C.G.S § 45a-649 to correct punctuation inserting two commas.

P.A. 26-119: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF DIGITAL DEFRAUDING.

Effective date: October 1, 2026

Summary: This act creates a new crime of digital defrauding, which is when someone, intending to financially injure someone else, makes and disseminates a visual representation or audio recording that he or she knows or should have known is a digitally forged likeness. Such likeness is a visual representation, photo, film, or videotape, or an audio recording, created without consent from the person whose image or voice is included, that is (1) not entirely recorded by a camera or audio recorder or (2) generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It appears the same as what a reasonable person would think is the actual image or sound of the person involved.

P.A. 26-141: AN ACT CONCERNING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Effective date: October 1, 2026

Summary: This act makes revisions to statutes governing justices of the peace, their conduct and accountability under the oversight of the Secretary of the State. It also creates a working group to study and make recommendations for modernizing the office and appointment, such as education and training requirements and other issues such as forced marriages, human trafficking, and marriage fraud. Relevant sections include:

- **Section 7:** Amends C.G.S. § 46b-24 by providing that the marriage ceremony is performed not sooner than forty-eight hours after the date of the application for the marriage license and not later than sixty days after the date of issuance of the license.

P.A. 26-150: AN ACT ADOPTING THE INTEGRATED SETTING STANDARD OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT FOR PUBLIC ENTITIES.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Summary: This act requires all state agencies, legislative, Judicial Branch, municipalities, and other public entities to administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities who are eligible to receive them. An integrated setting is one that enables people with disabilities to interact with nondisabled people as described in federal regulations that set similar requirements. Violations are a discriminatory practice and anyone aggrieved by an alleged violation may file a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO).

P.A. 26-151: AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

***Retitled* AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS ON AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT.**

Effective date: June 2, 2026

Summary: This act was the result of a “strike all” amendment which now requires three studies to be conducted. The first study requires the Department of Developmental Services to study, make recommendations, and develop an implementation plan for creating a standard definition of “intellectual disability” that meets specific criteria. The definition must be characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, including, but not limited to, conceptual, social, and practical skills. Moreover, the new definition must not rely on any single test score or single measure and must be based on the totality of relevant clinical, education and functional evidence.

The second study in the act requires the Department of Education to establish a working group to study American Sign Language education and make recommendations regarding uniform curriculum, teacher certification standards and reciprocity with certifications from other states, and guidance for educator preparation programs.

The third study in the act requires the Department of Social Services to study and make recommendations regarding Medicaid reimbursement and availability for nonemergency medical transportation services to make improvements regarding access and non-emergency medical transportation services, including options permitting home care providers to provide transportation to and from medical appointments for Medicaid beneficiaries.

S.A. 26-12: AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING STUDY.

Effective date: June 2, 2026

Summary: Requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to appoint a working group to study and make recommendations on supported decision-making, which is a process of helping decision-makers (generally people with disabilities and older adults) understand the nature and consequences of personal and financial decisions and communicate them.

More specifically, the act provides a series of definitions outlining working group terminology such as “decision-maker” and “supported decision-making agreement”. This 11-member working group is required to provide recommendations on:

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- 1) Documentation needed for a decision-maker to conduct financial transactions with a supporter's help;
- 2) How a supporter can best help along with other legally recognized decision-making authorities who are commonly present in long-term care and other health-care settings;
- 3) How to protect health information and educational records under federal law (for example, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA));
- 4) Ways to protect a decision-maker against a supporter's financial or ethical conflicts of interest; and
- 5) How supported decision-making agreements can be used as an alternative to a conservatorship or guardianship.

The Probate Court Administrator, or their designee serves on the working group along with representatives of stakeholders such as advocates, financial institutions, and healthcare providers. It further requires the working group to report to the Banking, Government Oversight, Human Services, Judiciary, and Public Health Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly by December 31, 2026.