

Brief description of other key bills

HB 6688: An Act Concerning A Highway Use Fee.

The bill enacts a new per-mile highway user fee on large trucks traveling in this state. This new fee will be based on the number of miles travelled in CT multiplied by the tax rate. The bill sets a graduated tax rate structure with the highest tax rate of 17.5 cents per mile on the heaviest of trucks. The bill requires revenues from this new tax to be deposited into the Special Transportation Fund. This tax is expected to generate over \$90M per year. The bill also establishes procedures for revoking or suspending a carrier's permit if they do not comply with the bill's provisions. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

HB 6417: An Act Requiring Background Checks for Certain Employees of Youth Camps and Youth Sports Coaches, Trainers and Instructors.

After an incident in Texas where twelve children were targets of sexual abuse in day camps over a ten-year period, the Committee on Children decided to make this subject one of the central issues they would take up during the 2021 Session. The bill requires youth camps licensed by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), starting October 1, 2022, to require prospective employees age 18 or older to submit to comprehensive background checks if they apply for positions that provide care or involve unsupervised access to any child in the youth camp. The bill establishes specifications for these background checks. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

HB 6462: An Act Concerning Use of Force by a Peace Officer

This marks the first revision to 2020's Act Concerning Police Accountability, which created a state-level cause of action against a police officer for a constitutional violation. One such violation is for an unjustified use of deadly force. The Police Officer Standards and Training Council was not able to update and implement training protocols on the new standard in advance of the April 1, 2021 effective date, so this bill both extended the effective date and revised the standard to align with the standard used in federal court. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

SB 1093: An Act Concerning Civilian Police Review Boards, Security Guards, Body-Worn Recording Equipment, Searches by Police, Limitations on Offenses Subject to Automatic Erasure, Enticing a Juvenile to Commit a Crime, Lawful Orders by Police Officers and Notice to a Victim Concerning Automatic Erasure of Criminal Record History.

This legislation marked the second major initiative in making necessary modifications to 2020's Act Concerning Police Accountability. In addition to procedural changes regarding subpoenas issued by civilian police review boards, officer review of body-worn and dashboard camera footage, this bill made necessary corrections to allow officers to conduct consent searches outside the motor vehicle setting. Further, this legislation created a new crime of enticing a minor to commit a criminal offense, such as stealing a motor vehicle. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

HJ 58: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to remove the constitution's current restrictions on absentee voting. Under these restrictions, the General Assembly may pass a law allowing electors to cast their vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place because of absence from the town where they reside, because of sickness or physical disability, or because the tenets of their religion prohibit secular activity on election day (Article VI, § 7). The General Assembly exercised this authority and passed provisions codified at CGS § 9-135.

HJ 59: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow Early Voting

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for in-person, early voting before an election or referendum. The ballot designation to be used when the amendment is presented at the general election is: *"Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?"* It will appear on the 2022 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting on the amendment in the general election approves it, the amendment will become part of the state constitution.

SB 1037: An Act Concerning Solid Waste.

This new bottle bill legislation expands the bottle bill to include hard seltzer, hard cider, plant water, juice, juice drinks, tea, coffee, kombucha, plant infused drinks, sports drinks and energy drinks while increasing the redemption fee to \$0.10 by January 1, 2024 . Under this bill, certain chain retailers with ten or more units in-state and more than 7,000 square feet dedicated to the display of merchandise for sale to the public would be required to install a minimum of two reverse vending machines or dedicate an area of their business and staff to the redemption of these beverage containers. Lastly, when it comes to alcoholic nip bottles, a \$0.05 tax will be imposed on each container sold. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

SB 1019: An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Erasure of Criminal Records for Certain Misdemeanor and Felony Offenses, Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Erased Criminal History Record Information and Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Misdemeanor Sentences.

In light of past efforts from advocates on both the so-called "Clean Slate" proposal to erase criminal records and also removing class A misdemeanors from the list of offenses that may trigger deportation proceedings for illegal immigrants, this bill combines the two proposals. Under this bill, all misdemeanor records are erased seven years after conviction and class D and E felonies are erased ten years post-conviction. This bill was amended by a secondary piece of legislation, SB 1093, which removed a number of offenses from eligibility for erasure, including domestic violence crimes, crimes for which registration as a sex offender is necessary, and some lower-level violent offense. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

HB 6633: An Act Restructuring Unemployment Insurance Benefits and Improving Fund Solvency.

This bill reflects the bi-partisan agreement between Legislative Leaders, the Governor's Office, and business and labor organizations on a long-standing proposal to address the solvency of the state's unemployment trust fund. During the 2008 recession and most recently, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the state borrowed from the federal government in order to keep up with unemployment claims. In turn, businesses must bear the cost of the borrowing.

Specifically, this bill increases the taxable wage base to \$25,000, increases the minimum base period earnings required to qualify for unemployment benefits, delays scheduled increases for the maximum unemployment benefits allowed, and ensures that benefits are paid out only after all severance payments are made to an employee. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

HB 6423: An Act Concerning Immunizations.

This legislation eliminates the religious exemption from immunization requirements for students attending public and private schools, higher education institutions, child care centers and group and family day care homes. The bill was ultimately amended in the House, and it grandfathered in students enrolled in grades kindergarten or higher who submitted a religious exemption prior to the bill's passage. It continues to grandfather these students if they transfer to another public or private school in the state. Under the bill, those with prior religious exemptions who are enrolled in pre-kindergarten or other preschool programs must comply with immunization requirements by September 1, 2022, or within 14 days after transferring to a different public/ private program, whichever is later. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

HB 6687: An Act Concerning Medical Assistance for Children and Adults Without Health Care Coverage.

This bill includes an expansion of HUSKY B coverage for undocumented immigrant children by expanding the eligibility to any child eight years old or younger, regardless of immigration status. The bill also explicitly gives undocumented immigrant women coverage by expanding coverage to before and after birth within a certain time frame. It requires DSS to develop a four-year plan to phase-in coverage for undocumented children ages nine through eighteen. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)

SB 1091: An Act Concerning the Definition of Domestic Violence, Revising Statutes Concerning Domestic Violence, Child Custody, Family Relations Matter Filings and Bigotry or Bias Crimes and Creating a Program to Provide Legal Counsel to Indigents in Restraining Order Case

The disappearance and alleged murder of Jennifer Dulos in 2019 sparked a call to reexamine our domestic violence laws and to include conduct detrimental to women that was previously not classified as domestic violence. This bill, creates a new subcategory of domestic violence called "coercive control," which covers behavior that may stop short of physical violence but still manipulates, intimidates, or threatens a family member. This bill additionally makes a number of revisions to civil procedure in family relations cases, including remote hearings for victims and the creation of a grant program to fund legal counsel for indigent victims. [OLR Summary](#), [Full Text](#)