AN ACT CONCERNING ACIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Sec. Section 1-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Notice Requirements

(a) Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter of any town, city or borough which requires the insertion of an advertisement of a legal notice in a daily newspaper shall be construed to permit such advertisement to be inserted in a weekly newspaper or to allow a single notice to be published electronically on a municipality's or agency's website; but this section shall not be construed to reduce or otherwise affect the time required by law for giving such notice. [Whenever notice of any action or other proceeding is required to be given by publication in a newspaper, either by statute or order of court, the newspaper selected for that purpose, unless otherwise expressly prescribed, shall be one having a substantial circulation in the town in which at least one of the parties, for whose benefit such notice is given, resides.]

(b) (NEW) Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter of any town, city or borough which requires any notice to be filed in the office of any municipal clerk may be posted electronically on a municipality's website.

(C) (NEW) Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter of any town, city or borough requiring any notice to be filed in the office of any municipal clerk, including any town, city, borough, or district clerk, may be posted electronically on a municipality's website.

(d) (NEW) Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter of any town, city or borough prescribing the procedure for any petition, including petition of a decision, to an agency or legislative body, may be signed electronically.

(e) (NEW) Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter of any town, city or borough prescribing the procedure for commencement of an appeal of a decision to the Superior Court and associated service of process and any such appeal may be commenced by a proper officer by electronic mail notice.

(f) (NEW) Each provision of the general statutes, the special acts or the charter of any town, city or borough prescribing the procedure for any petition, including petition of a decision, to an agency or legislative body, may be signed electronically.

Sec. Section 1-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation and Hybrid Meeting

(a) The meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 1-200, shall be open to the public and any such public agencies may hold a public meeting that provides for remote participation in its entirety, or for remote participation in conjunction with an in-person meeting, which shall be referred to herein as a "hybrid meeting." Remote participation shall include the opportunity to offer public comment, if otherwise generally permitted at such meetings, and the ability of electors or qualified voters to vote, if eligible pursuant to state statute, municipal charter, or other applicable legal authority, at any meeting, annual town meeting or special town meeting. Officials conducting hybrid meetings shall make provisions to allow at

least some members of the public and press to attend in the same location as the officials conducting the meeting in a manner consistent with public health guidance. Remote and hybrid meetings shall proceed in a manner as closely consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, town charters, municipal ordinances, resolutions or procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meeting provisions set forth Section 1 of the General Statutes.

(b) No member of any municipal agency, board, commission, council or local legislative body shall be denied the opportunity to participate and vote in any meeting or proceeding using remote technology if such member requests to do so, and a member of any such body may request to participate remotely in all meetings and shall not be required to file an individual request for each meeting.

~~(b)~~ (c) Either in person or remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time, by telephone, video, or other technology by electronic means. The votes of each member of any such public agency upon any issue before such public agency shall be reduced to writing as well as any video or audio of such meeting and made available for public inspection within forty-eight hours and shall also be recorded in the minutes of the session at which taken. Not later than seven days after the date of the session to which such minutes refer, such minutes and and such recording or transcript of such meeting shall be available for public inspection and posted on such public agency's Internet web site, if available, except that no public agency of a political subdivision of the state shall be required to post such minutes and such recording or transcript of such meeting on an Internet web site. Each public agency shall make, keep and maintain a record and such recording or transcript of the proceedings of its meetings.

~~(c)~~ (d) Each such public agency of the state shall file not later than January thirty-first of each year in the office of the Secretary of the State the schedule of the regular meetings of such public agency for the ensuing year and shall post such schedule on such public agency's Internet web site, if available, except that such requirements shall not apply to the General Assembly, either house thereof or to any committee thereof. Any other provision of the Freedom of Information Act notwithstanding, the General Assembly at the commencement of each regular session in the odd-numbered years, shall adopt, as part of its joint rules, rules to provide notice to the public of its regular, special, emergency or interim committee meetings. The chairperson or secretary of any such public agency of any political subdivision of the state shall file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with the clerk of such subdivision the schedule of regular meetings of such public agency for the ensuing year, and no such meeting of any such public agency shall be held sooner than thirty days after such schedule has been filed. The chief executive officer of any multitown district or agency shall file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with the clerk of each municipal member of such district or agency, the schedule of regular meetings of such public agency for the ensuing year, and no such meeting of any such public agency shall be held sooner than thirty days after such schedule has been filed.

~~(d)~~ (e) The agenda of the regular meetings of every public agency, except for the General Assembly, shall be available to the public and shall be filed, not less than twenty-four hours before the meetings to which they refer, (1) in such agency's regular office or place of business, and (2) in the office of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of the state or in the office of the clerk of each municipal member of any multitown district or agency. For any such public agency of the state, such agenda shall be posted on the public agency's and the Secretary of the State's web sites. the required notice and agenda for each meeting or proceeding is posted on the agency's website and shall include information about how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can access it. Upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of a public agency present and voting, any subsequent business not included in such filed agendas may be considered and acted upon at such meetings.

~~(e)~~ (f) Notice, including instructions to observe, listen or participate remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology of each special meeting of every public agency, except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee thereof, shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting to which such notice refers on the public agency's Internet web site, if available, and given not less than

twenty-four hours prior to the time of such meeting by filing a notice of the time and place thereof in the office of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of the state and in the office of the clerk of each municipal member for any multitown district or agency. The secretary or clerk shall cause any notice received under this section to be posted in his office. Such notice shall be given not less than twenty-four hours prior to the time of the special meeting; provided, in case of emergency, except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee thereof, any such special meeting may be held without complying with the foregoing requirement for the filing of notice but a copy of the minutes of every such emergency special meeting adequately setting forth the nature of the emergency and the proceedings occurring at such meeting shall be filed with the Secretary of the State, the clerk of such political subdivision, or the clerk of each municipal member of such multitown district or agency, as the case may be, not later than seventy-two hours following the holding of such meeting. The notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting, information about how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can access it either in person or remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time, by telephone, video, or other technology by electronic means and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be considered at such meetings by such public agency. In addition, such written notice shall be delivered either in person or by electronic means to the usual place of abode or electronic address of each member of the public agency so that the same is received prior to such special meeting. The requirement of delivery of such written or electronic notice may be dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the clerk or secretary of the public agency a written waiver of delivery of such notice. Such waiver may be given by [telegram] email. The requirement of delivery of such written or electronic notice may also be dispensed with as to any member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any agency from adopting more stringent notice requirements.

~~(f)~~ (g) No member of the public shall be required, as a condition to attendance at a meeting of any such body, to register the member's name, or furnish other information, or complete a questionnaire or otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to the member's attendance. All speakers taking part in any such meeting or proceeding shall clearly state their name and title, if applicable, before speaking on each occasion that they speak.

~~(g)~~ (h) A public agency may hold an executive session, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 1-200, upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of such body present and voting, taken at a public meeting and stating the reasons for such executive session, as defined in section 1-200.

~~(h)~~ (i) In determining the time within which or by when a notice, agenda, record of votes or minutes of a special meeting or an emergency special meeting are required to be filed under this section, Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and any day on which the office of the agency, the Secretary of the State or the clerk of the applicable political subdivision or the clerk of each municipal member of any multitown district or agency, as the case may be, is closed, shall be excluded.

Sec. . Section 3-94a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Notarization

The following terms, when used in sections 3-94a to 3-95, inclusive, shall have the following meanings unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) “Acknowledgment” means a notarial act in which a notary public certifies that a signatory, whose identity is personally known to the notary public or proven on the basis of satisfactory evidence, has admitted, in the notary public's presence or while connected to communication during such notarial act, to having voluntarily signed a document for its stated purpose.

(2) "Copy certification" means a notarial act in which a notary public: (A) Is presented with an original document, (B) copies or supervises the copying of such document using a photographic or electronic copying process, (C) compares the original document presented to the copy, and (D) certifies that the copy is an accurate and complete reproduction of the original document presented, except that a notary public may not complete a copy certification if the original document presented is: (i) A vital record, as defined in section 7-36, (ii) a document that is required to be recorded by an agent or employee of the state or any political subdivision thereof, or (iii) issued by a federal agency and federal law prohibits the copying of such document.

(3) "Communication Technology" means a device capable of recording the complete notarial act that can be made and retained by the notary public for a period of not less than ten (10) years from the date of a notarial act.

(4) "Remote notarization" means a process that does not require a signature on any document witnessed by a third party, except in the case of a last will and testament. (a) The person seeking the notarial act, if not personally known to the Notary Public or Commissioner, shall present satisfactory evidence of identity, as defined by subsection 12 of this Section, while connected to a communication technology, not merely transmit it prior to or after the transaction; (b) The communication technology must be capable of recording the complete notarial act and such recording shall be made and retained by the Notary Public for a period of not less than ten (10) years; (c) The signatory must affirmatively represent via the communication technology that he or she is physically situated in the State of Connecticut; (d) The signatory must transmit by fax or electronic means a legible copy of the signed document directly to the notary public on the same date it was executed; (e) The notary public may notarize the transmitted copy of the document and transmit the same back to the signatory by fax or electronic means; (f) The notary public may repeat the notarization of the original signed document as of the date of execution, provided the notary public receives such original signed document, together with the electronically notarized copy, within thirty days after the date of execution.

([3] 5) "Jurat" means a notarial act in which a notary public certifies that a signatory, whose identity is personally known to the notary public or proven on the basis of satisfactory evidence, has made, in the notary public's presence or while connected to communication during such notarial act, a voluntary signature and taken an oath or affirmation vouching for the truthfulness of the signed document.

([4] 6) "Notarial act" or "notarization" means any act that a notary public is empowered to perform under the general statutes and includes taking an acknowledgment, administering an oath or affirmation, witnessing or attesting a signature and completing a copy certification.

([5] 7) "Notarial certificate" or "certificate" means the part of, or attachment to, a notarized document to be completed and signed by the notary public.

([6] 8) "Notary public" or "notary" means any person appointed by the Secretary of the State to perform notarial acts.

([7] 9) "Oath" or "affirmation" means a notarial act or part thereof in which a notary public certifies that a person has made a vow in the presence of the notary public on penalty of perjury. In the case of an oath, the vow shall include reference to a Supreme Being unless an affirmation is administered as provided by section 1-23.

([8] 10) "Official misconduct" means (A) a notary public's performance of an act prohibited by the general statutes or failure to perform an act mandated by the general statutes, or (B) a notary public's performance of a notarial act in a manner found to be negligent, illegal or against the public interest.

([9] 11) "Personal knowledge of identity" means familiarity with an individual resulting from interaction with that individual over a period of time sufficient to eliminate any reasonable doubt that the individual has the identity claimed.

([10] 12) "Satisfactory evidence of identity" means identification of an individual based on (A) at least two current documents, one issued by a federal or state government and containing the individual's signature and either a photograph or physical description, and the other by an institution, business entity or state government or the federal government and containing at least the individual's signature, or (B) the oath or affirmation of a credible person who is personally known to the notary public and who personally knows the individual.

([11] 13 "Secretary" means the Secretary of the State.

Sec. Section 7-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Hybrid Meeting for Annual Town Meeting Option

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, there shall be held in each town, annually, a town meeting for the transaction of business proper to come before such meeting, which meeting shall be designated as the annual town meeting. A annual town may be Special town meetings may be convened when the selectmen deem it necessary, and they shall warn a special town meeting on application of twenty inhabitants qualified to vote in town meetings, such meeting to be held within twenty-one days after receiving such application. Any town meeting may be adjourned from time to time as the interest of the town requires. A annual town meeting or special meetings may be held with remote participation in its entirety, or for remote participation in conjunction with an in-person meeting, which shall be referred to herein as a "hybrid meeting." Remote participation shall include the opportunity to offer public comment, if otherwise generally permitted at such meetings, and the ability of electors or qualified voters to vote, if eligible pursuant to state statute, municipal charter, or other applicable legal authority, at any meeting, annual town meeting or special town meeting. Officials conducting hybrid meetings shall make provisions to allow at least some members of the public and press to attend in the same location as the officials conducting the meeting in a manner consistent with public health guidance. Remote and hybrid meetings shall proceed in a manner as closely consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, town charters, municipal ordinances, resolutions or procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meeting provisions set forth in Section 2 of this act.

(b) Where any town's public buildings do not contain adequate space for holding annual or special town meetings, any such town may hold any such meeting outside the boundaries of the town, provided such meetings are held at the nearest practical locations to the town.

Sec. Section 7-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Notice Requirements using websites rather than newspapers

The warning of each town meeting, and of each meeting of a city, borough, school district or other public community or of an ecclesiastical society, shall specify the objects for which such meeting is to be held. Notice of a town meeting shall be given by posting, upon a signpost or other exterior place near the office of the town clerk of such town and at such other place or places as may be designated as hereinafter provided, a printed or written warning signed by the selectmen, or a majority of them, and by publishing a like warning [in a newspaper published in such town or having a circulation therein] on the towns website, such posting and such publication to be at least five days previous to holding the meeting, including the day that notice is given and any Sunday and any legal holiday which may intervene between such posting [and such publication] and the day of holding such meeting, but not including the day of holding such meeting; but any town may, at an annual meeting, designate any other place or places, in addition to the signpost or other exterior place, including other web-based locations at which such warnings shall be set up. The selectmen shall, on or before the day of such meeting, cause a copy of each such warning to be left with the town clerk, who shall record the same. Notice of a meeting of a city or borough shall be given by posting, upon a signpost or other exterior place nearest to the office of the clerk of such city or borough, the towns website, or at such place or places as may be designated by special charter provision, a written or printed warning signed by the mayor or clerk in the case of a city or by the warden or clerk in the case of a borough, and by publishing a like warning [in a newspaper published within the limits of such city or borough, or having a circulation

therein,] on the towns' website at least five days previous to holding the meeting, including the day that notice is given and any Sunday and any legal holiday which may intervene between such posting [and such publication] and the day of holding such meeting, but not including the day of holding such meeting.

Sec. Section 7-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation

At any town meeting other than a regular or special town election or at any meeting of any fire, sewer or school district or any other municipal subdivision of any town incorporated by any special act, any person who is an elector of such town may vote and any citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the town, district or subdivision for taxes assessed against him on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on the last-completed grand list of such town, district or subdivision, or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivision (17), (19), (22), (23), (25) or (26) of section 12-81, may vote, unless restricted by the provisions of any special act relating to such town, district or subdivision. Any meeting held remotely or as a hybrid meeting shall include the ability of electors or qualified voters to vote, if eligible pursuant to state statute, municipal charter, or other applicable legal authority, at any annual town meeting or special town meeting.

Sec. Section 7-8 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation

The moderator of any town meeting, and of any meeting of any society or other community lawfully assembled either in person or remotely, may, when any disorder arises in the meeting and the offender refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order any proper officer to take the offender into custody and, if necessary, to remove the offender from such meeting until the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such meeting is closed, and thereupon such officer shall have power to command all necessary assistance. Any person refusing to assist when commanded shall be liable to the same penalties as for refusing to assist constables in the execution of their duties; but no person commanded to assist shall be deprived of such person's right to act in the meeting, nor shall the offender be so deprived any longer than the offender refuses to conform to order.

Sec. . Section 7-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Notorization

(a) Each town clerk who is charged with the custody of any public record shall provide suitable books, files or systems, acceptable to the Public Records Administrator, for the keeping of such records and may purchase such stationery and other office supplies as are necessary for the proper maintenance of the town clerk's office. Such books, files or systems, and such stationery and supplies shall be paid for by the town, and the selectmen of the town, on presentation of the bill for such books, files, systems, stationery and supplies properly certified to by the town clerk, shall draw their order on the treasurer in payment for the same. Each person who has the custody of any public record books of any town, city or borough shall, at the expense of such town, city or borough, cause them to be properly and substantially bound. Such person shall have any such records which have been left incomplete made up and completed from the usual files and memoranda, so far as practicable. Such person shall cause fair and legible copies to be seasonably made of any records which are worn, mutilated or becoming illegible, and shall cause the originals to be repaired, rebound or renovated, or such person may cause any such records to be placed

in the custody of the Public Records Administrator, who may have them repaired, renovated or rebound at the expense of the town, city or borough to which they belong. Any custodian of public records who so causes such records to be completed or copied shall attest such records and shall certify, under the seal of such custodian's office, that such records have been made from such files and memoranda or are copies of the original records. Such records and all copies of records made and certified to as provided in this section and on file in the office of the legal custodian of such records shall have the force of the original records. All work done under the authority of this section shall be paid for by the town, city or borough responsible for the safekeeping of such records, but in no case shall expenditures exceeding three hundred dollars be made for repairs or copying records in any one year in any town, city or borough.

(b) There shall be kept in each town proper books, or in lieu thereof a recording system approved by the Public Records Administrator, in which all instruments required by law to be recorded shall be recorded at length by the town clerk within thirty days from the time they are left for record.

(c) The town clerk shall, on receipt of any instrument for record, write thereon the day, month, year and time of day when the town clerk received it, and the record shall bear the same date and time of day; but the town clerk shall not be required to receive any instrument for record unless the fee for recording it is paid to the town clerk in advance, except instruments received from the state or any political subdivision thereof. When the town clerk has received any instrument for record, the town clerk shall not deliver it up to the parties or either of them until it has been recorded. When any town clerk has, upon receiving any instrument for record, written thereon the time of day when the town clerk received it and the day and year of such receipt, and when any town clerk has noted with the record of any instrument the time of day when the town clerk received the record, such entries of the time of day shall have the same effect as other entries that are required by law to be made.

(d) Each town clerk shall also, within twenty-four hours of the receipt for record of any such instrument, enter in chronological order according to the time of its receipt as endorsed thereon, (1) the names of sufficient parties thereto to enable reasonable identification of the instrument, (2) the nature of the instrument, and (3) the time of its receipt.

(e) If the town clerk receives an instrument for record which the town clerk deems to be illegible, the town clerk shall record such instrument, write thereon that it is being recorded as an illegible instrument and, if there is a return address appearing on such illegible instrument, give notice to the return addressee that a legible instrument should be submitted for rerecording forthwith. The fact that the town clerk records the instrument as an illegible instrument shall not affect its priority or validity.

(f) Each instrument for record shall have a blank margin, that shall be not less than three-fourths of an inch in width, surrounding each page of the instrument. Each such instrument that is to be recorded in the land records shall have a return address and addressee appearing at the top of the front side of the first page of the instrument. The town clerk shall not refuse to receive an instrument for record that does not conform to any requirement set forth in this subsection, and the fact that the town clerk records an instrument that does not conform to any requirement set forth in this subsection shall not affect its priority or validity.

(G) All Remotely notarized documents pertaining to real property shall be accepted for recording on the land records by all Connecticut Town or City Clerks. A one-page certification confirming the use of remote notarization procedures shall be attached to each remotely notarized document submitted for recording on the land records in Connecticut.

Sec. . Section 7-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote filings and Payments to Town Clerks

(a)(1) Town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means, for recording any document, ten dollars for the first page and five dollars for each subsequent page or fractional part thereof, a page being not more than eight and one-half by fourteen inches. Town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means, for recording the information contained in a certificate of registration for the practice of any of the healing arts, five dollars. Town clerks

shall receive in person or by electronic means, for recording documents conforming to, or substantially similar to, section 47-36c, which are clearly entitled "statutory form" in the heading of such documents, as follows: For the first page of a warranty deed, a quitclaim deed, a mortgage deed, or an assignment of mortgage, ten dollars; for each additional page of such documents, five dollars; and for each assignment of mortgage, subsequent to the first two assignments, two dollars. Town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means, for recording any document with respect to which certain data must be submitted by each town clerk to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with section 10-261b, two dollars in addition to the regular recording fee. Any person who offers any written document either in person or by electronic means for recording in the office of any town clerk, which document fails to have legibly typed, printed or stamped directly beneath the signatures the names of the persons who executed such document, the names of any witnesses thereto and the name of the officer before whom the same was acknowledged, shall pay one dollar in addition to the regular recording fee. Town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means, for recording any deed, except a mortgage deed, conveying title to real estate, which deed does not contain the current mailing address of the grantee, five dollars in addition to the regular recording fee. Town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means, for filing any document, ten dollars; for receiving and keeping a survey or map, legally filed in the town clerk's office, ten dollars; and for indexing such survey or map, in accordance with section 7-32, ten dollars, except with respect to indexing any such survey or map pertaining to a subdivision of land as defined in section 8-18, in which event town clerks shall receive twenty dollars for each such indexing. Town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means, for a copy, in any format, of any document either recorded or filed in their offices, one dollar for each page or fractional part thereof, as the case may be; for certifying any copy of the same, two dollars; for making a copy of any survey or map, the actual cost thereof; and for certifying such copy of a survey or map, two dollars. Town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means, for recording the commission and oath of a notary public, twenty dollars; and for certifying under seal to the official character of a notary, five dollars.

(2) (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection and in accordance with subsection (h) of section 49-10, town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means from a nominee of a mortgagee for the recording of any document, including, but not limited to, a warranty deed, a quitclaim deed, a mortgage deed, or an assignment of mortgage, except (i) an assignment of mortgage in which the nominee of a mortgagee appears as assignor, and (ii) a release of mortgage, as described in section 49-8, by a nominee of a mortgagee, as follows: For the first page of such warranty deed, quitclaim deed, mortgage deed, or assignment of mortgage, one hundred sixteen dollars; for each additional page of such deed or assignment, five dollars; and for each assignment of mortgage, subsequent to the first two assignments, two dollars.

(B) In accordance with subsection (h) of section 49-10, and in addition to any fees received pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for the recording of (i) an assignment of mortgage in which a nominee of a mortgagee appears as assignor, or (ii) a release of mortgage by the nominee of a mortgagee, town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means from a nominee of a mortgagee for the recording of such an assignment, as follows: For the entire such assignment of mortgage or release, one hundred fifty-nine dollars. No other fees shall be collected from the nominee for such recording.

(C) For purposes of this subdivision, "nominee of a mortgagee" means any person who (i) serves as mortgagee in the land records for a mortgage loan registered on a national electronic database that tracks changes in mortgage servicing and beneficial ownership interests in residential mortgage loans on behalf of its members, and (ii) is a nominee or agent for the owner of the promissory note or the subsequent buyer, transferee or beneficial owner of such note.

(b) The fees set forth in subsection (a) of this section received in person or by electronic means by town clerks for recording documents include therein payment for the return of each document which shall be made by the town clerk to the designated addressee.

(c) Compensation for all services other than those enumerated in subsection (a) of this section which town clerks are required by the general statutes to perform and for which compensation is not fixed by statute shall be fixed and paid by the selectmen or other governing body of the town or city in which such services are performed.

(d) In addition to the fees for recording a document under subsection (a) of this section, town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means a fee of ten dollars for each document recorded in the land records of the municipality. Not later than the fifteenth day of each month, town clerks shall remit two-fifths of the fees paid pursuant

to this subsection during the previous calendar month to the State Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund and two-fifths of the fees paid pursuant to this subsection during the previous calendar month to the State Librarian for deposit in a bank account of the State Treasurer and crediting to the historic documents preservation account established under section 11-8i. One-fifth of the amount paid for fees pursuant to this subsection shall be retained by town clerks and used for the preservation and management of historic documents. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any document recorded on the land records by an employee of the state or of a municipality in conjunction with the employee's official duties. As used in this section "municipality" includes each town, consolidated town and city, city, consolidated town and borough, borough, district, as defined in chapter 105 or chapter 105a, and each municipal board, commission and taxing district not previously mentioned.

(e) In addition to the fees for recording a document under subsection (a) of this section, town clerks shall receive in person or by electronic means a fee of forty dollars for each document recorded in the land records of the municipality. The town clerk shall retain one dollar of any fee paid pursuant to this subsection and three dollars of such fee shall become part of the general revenue of the municipality and be used to pay for local capital improvement projects, as defined in section 7-536. Not later than the fifteenth day of each month, town clerks shall remit thirty-six dollars of the fees paid pursuant to this subsection during the previous calendar month to the State Treasurer. Upon deposit in the General Fund, such amount shall be credited to the community investment account established pursuant to section 4-66aa. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any document recorded on the land records by an employee of the state or of a municipality in conjunction with such employee's official duties. As used in this subsection, "municipality" includes each town, consolidated town and city, city, consolidated town and borough, borough, and district, as defined in chapter 105 or 105a, any municipal corporation or department thereof created by a special act of the General Assembly, and each municipal board, commission and taxing district not previously mentioned.

Sec. Section 7-51a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Purchase of Records

(a) Any person eighteen years of age or older may purchase either in person or remotely by electronic means certified copies of marriage and death records, and certified copies of records of births or fetal deaths which are at least one hundred years old, in the custody of any registrar of vital statistics. The department may issue uncertified copies of death certificates for deaths occurring less than one hundred years ago, and uncertified copies of birth, marriage, death and fetal death certificates for births, marriages, deaths and fetal deaths that occurred at least one hundred years ago, to researchers approved by the department pursuant to section 19a-25, and to state and federal agencies approved by the department. During all normal business hours, members of genealogical societies incorporated or authorized by the Secretary of the State to do business or conduct affairs in this state shall (1) have full access to all vital records in the custody of any registrar of vital statistics, including certificates, ledgers, record books, card files, indexes and database printouts, except for those records containing Social Security numbers protected pursuant to 42 USC 405 (c)(2)(C), and confidential files on adoptions, gender change, gestational agreements and paternity, (2) be permitted to make notes from such records, (3) be permitted to purchase certified copies of such records, and (4) be permitted to incorporate statistics derived from such records in the publications of such genealogical societies. For all vital records containing Social Security numbers that are protected from disclosure pursuant to federal law, the Social Security numbers contained on such records shall be redacted from any certified copy of such records issued to a genealogist by a registrar of vital statistics.

(b) For marriage and civil union licenses, the Social Security numbers of the parties to the marriage or civil union shall be recorded in the "administrative purposes" section of the marriage or civil union license and the application for such license. All persons specified on the license, including the parties to the marriage or civil union, officiator and local registrar shall have access to the Social Security numbers specified on the marriage or civil union license and the application for such license for the purpose of processing the license. Only the parties to a marriage or civil union, or entities authorized by state or federal law, may receive a certified copy of a marriage or civil union license with the Social Security numbers included on the license. Any other individual, researcher or state or federal agency requesting a certified or uncertified copy of any marriage or civil union license in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be provided such copy with such Social Security numbers removed or redacted, or with the "administrative purposes" section omitted.

(c) For deaths occurring on or after July 1, 1997, the Social Security number of the deceased person shall be recorded in the "administrative purposes" section of the death certificate. Such administrative purposes section, and the Social Security number contained therein, shall be restricted and disclosed only to the following eligible parties: (1) All parties specified on the death certificate, including the informant, licensed funeral director, licensed embalmer, conservator, surviving spouse, physician or advanced practice registered nurse and town clerk, for the purpose of processing the certificate, (2) the surviving spouse, (3) the next of kin, or (4) any state and federal agencies authorized by federal law. The department shall provide any other individual, researcher or state or federal agency requesting a certified or uncertified death certificate, or the information contained within such certificate, for a death occurring on or after July 1, 1997, such certificate or information. The decedent's Social Security number shall be removed or redacted from such certificate or information or the administrative purposes section shall be omitted from such certificate.

(d) The registrar of vital statistics of any town or city in this state that has access to an electronic vital records system, as authorized by the department, may use such system to issue certified copies of birth, death, fetal death or marriage certificates that are electronically filed in such system.

Sec. Section 7-148j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Hearings

Any board, commission, council, committee or other agency established or designated pursuant to sections 7-148i to 7-148n, inclusive, and subparagraph (B) of subdivision (9) of subsection (c) of section 7-148, may be given the following powers: (1) The power to issue subpoenas or subpoenas duces tecum, enforceable upon application to the Superior Court, to compel the attendance of persons either in person or by remote electronic means at hearings and the production of books, documents, records and papers; (2) the power to issue written interrogatories and require written answers under oath thereto, enforceable upon application to the Superior Court; (3) the power to hold hearings relating to any allegation of discriminatory practice which it has found reasonable cause to believe has occurred and to issue any appropriate orders including those authorized by section 46a-86; and (4) the power to petition the Superior Court for enforcement of any order issued by it upon a finding that a violation of the local code of prohibited discriminatory practices has occurred, including the power to petition the Superior Court for temporary injunctive relief upon a finding that irreparable harm to the complainant will otherwise occur or for any other relief authorized by sections 46a-89 and 46a-90a.

Sec. Section 7-148k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Hearings

Any complaint filed pursuant to sections 7-148i to 7-148n, inclusive, and subparagraph (B) of subdivision (9) of subsection (c) of section 7-148 shall be made under oath. No finding of a violation of a local code of prohibited discriminatory practices shall be made except after a hearing, which made be held by remote electronic means. The respondent at any such hearing shall be given reasonable advance written notice of the hearing, shall be entitled to be represented by counsel, and shall be permitted to testify in person or by remote means and present and cross-examine witnesses. The decision resulting from the hearing shall be in writing and shall include written findings of the facts upon which the decision is based.

Sec. Section 7-148bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation

Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, municipal charter or home rule ordinance, the chief elected officials of two or more municipalities may initiate a process for such municipalities to enter into an agreement to share revenues received for payment of real and personal property taxes. The agreement shall be prepared pursuant to negotiations and shall contain all provisions on which there is mutual agreement between the municipalities, including, but not limited to, specification of the tax revenues to be shared, collection and uses of such shared revenue. The agreement shall establish procedures for amendment, termination and withdrawal. The negotiations shall include an opportunity for in person, written or electronic public participation. The agreement shall be approved by each municipality that is a party to the agreement by resolution of the legislative body. As used in this section "legislative body" means the council, commission, board, body or town meeting, by whatever name it may be known, having or exercising the general legislative powers and functions of a municipality and "municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough.

Sec. Section 7-148ii of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation

(a) Any person who, on or after October 1, 2011, commences an action to foreclose a mortgage on residential property shall register either in person or electronically such property with the town clerk of the municipality in which the property is located at the time and place of the recording of the notice of lis pendens as to the residential property being foreclosed in accordance with section 52-325. Such registration shall be maintained by the municipality separate and apart from the land records.

(b) Registration made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall contain (1) the name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of the plaintiff in the foreclosure action and, if such plaintiff is an entity or an individual who resides out-of-state, the name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of a direct contact in the state, provided such a direct contact is available; (2) the name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of the person, local property maintenance company or other entity serving as such plaintiff's contact with the municipality for any matters concerning the residential property; and (3) the following heading in at least ten-point boldface capital letters: NOTICE TO MUNICIPALITY: REGISTRATION OF PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED. The plaintiff in the foreclosure action shall indicate on such registration whether it prefers to be contacted by first class mail or electronic mail and the preferred addresses for such communications. Such plaintiff shall report to the town clerk of the municipality in which the property is located, by mail, electronic mail or other form of delivery, any change in the information provided on the registration not later than thirty days following the date of the change of information. At the time of registration, such plaintiff shall pay a land record filing fee to the municipality as specified in section 7-34a.

(c) Any person in whom title to a residential property has vested on or after October 1, 2011, through a foreclosure action pursuant to sections 49-16 to 49-21, inclusive, or 49-26, shall register such property, in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, with the municipality in which such property is located not later than fifteen days after absolute title vests in such person. If such person is the plaintiff in the foreclosure action, such person shall, prior to the expiration of such fifteen-day period, update the registration with any change in registration information for purposes of complying with said subsection (d). The updated registration shall include the following heading in at least ten-point boldface capital letters: NOTICE TO MUNICIPALITY: UPDATED REGISTRATION FOR PROPERTY ACQUIRED THROUGH FORECLOSURE.

(d) Registration made pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be mailed, sent by electronic mail or delivered to the town clerk of the municipality in which the residential property is located and include (1) the name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of the registrant and, if the registrant is an entity or an

individual who resides out-of-state, the name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of a direct contact in the state, provided such a direct contact is available; (2) the date on which absolute title vested in the registrant; (3) the name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of the person, local property maintenance company or other entity responsible for the security and maintenance of the residential property; and (4) the following heading in at least ten-point boldface capital letters: NOTICE TO MUNICIPALITY: REGISTRATION OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED THROUGH FORECLOSURE. The registration, or updated registration, shall be accompanied by a land record filing fee payable to the municipality as specified in section 7-34a. The registrant shall report to the town clerk by mail, electronic mail or other form of delivery any change in the information provided on the registration not later than thirty days from the date of the change in information.

(e) If a registrant required to register pursuant to subsection (c) of this section fails to comply with any provision of the general statutes or of any municipal ordinance concerning the repair or maintenance of real estate, including, without limitation, an ordinance relating to the prevention of housing blight pursuant to subparagraph (H)(xv) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 7-148, the maintenance of safe and sanitary housing as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 7-148, or the abatement of nuisances as provided in subparagraph (E) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 7-148, the municipality may issue a notice to the registrant citing the conditions on such property that violate such provisions. Such notice shall be sent by either first class or electronic mail, or both, and shall be sent to the address or addresses of the registrant identified on the registration. A copy of such notice shall be sent by first class mail or electronic mail to the person, property maintenance company or other entity responsible for the security and maintenance of the residential property designated on the registration. Such notice shall comply with section 7-148gg.

(f) The notice described in subsection (e) of this section shall provide a date, reasonable under the circumstances, by which the registrant shall remedy the condition or conditions on such registrant's property. If the registrant, registrant's contact or registrant's agent does not remedy the condition or conditions on such registrant's property before the date following the date specified in such notice, the municipality may enforce its rights under the relevant provisions of the general statutes or of any municipal ordinance.

(g) A municipality shall only impose registration requirements upon registrants and plaintiffs in foreclosure actions in accordance with this section, except that any municipal registration requirements effective on or before October 1, 2009, shall remain effective.

(h) Any plaintiff in a foreclosure action who fails to register in accordance with this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of one hundred dollars for each violation, up to a maximum of five thousand dollars. Each property for which there has been a failure to register shall constitute a separate violation.

(i) Any person in whom title to a residential property has vested on or after October 1, 2011, through a foreclosure action pursuant to sections 49-16 to 49-21, inclusive, or 49-26, and who has not registered in accordance with subsection (c) of this section within thirty days of absolute title vesting in such owner shall be subject to a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars for each violation, up to a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars. Each property for which there has been a failure to register shall constitute a separate violation.

(j) An authorized official of the municipality may file a civil action in Superior Court to collect the penalties imposed pursuant to subsections (h) and (i) of this section, which penalties shall be payable to the treasurer of such municipality. Such penalties shall not create or constitute a lien against the residential property.

(k) Neither the registration by a foreclosing party nor the failure to register in accordance with subsection (a) of this section shall imply or create any legal obligations on the part of the foreclosing party to repair, maintain or secure the residential property for which a registration is required prior to the time that title passes to the foreclosing party.

Sec. Section 7-152b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation

(a) Any town, city or borough may establish by ordinance a parking violation hearing procedure in accordance with this section. The Superior Court shall be authorized to enforce the assessments and judgments provided for under this section.

(b) The chief executive officer of the town, city or borough shall appoint one or more parking violation hearing officers, other than policemen or persons who issue parking tickets or work in the police department, to conduct the hearings authorized by this section.

(c) A town, city or borough may, at any time within two years from the expiration of the final period for the uncontested payment of fines, penalties, costs or fees for any alleged violation under any ordinance adopted pursuant to section 7-148 or sections 14-305 to 14-308, inclusive, send notice to the motor vehicle operator, if known, or the registered owner of the motor vehicle by first class mail at his address according to the registration records of the Department of Motor Vehicles and by electronic mail, if known. Such notice shall inform the operator or owner: (1) Of the allegations against him and the amount of the fines, penalties, costs or fees due; (2) that he may contest his liability before either in person or by concurrent electronic means a parking violations hearing officer by delivering in person, electronic mail or by mail written notice within ten days of the date thereof; (3) that if he does not demand such a hearing, an assessment and judgment shall enter against him; and (4) that such judgment may issue without further notice. Whenever a violation of such an ordinance occurs, proof of the registration number of the motor vehicle involved shall be prima facie evidence in all proceedings provided for in this section that the owner of such vehicle was the operator thereof; provided, the liability of a lessee under section 14-107 shall apply.

(d) If the person who is sent notice pursuant to subsection (c) of this section wishes to admit liability for any alleged violation, such person may, without requesting a hearing, pay the full amount of the fines, penalties, costs or fees admitted to in person, by electronic mail or by written mail to an official designated by the town, city or borough. Such payment shall be inadmissible in any proceeding, civil or criminal, to establish the conduct of such person or other person making the payment. Any person who does not deliver, electronic or mail written demand for a hearing within ten days of the date of the first notice provided for in subsection (c) of this section shall be deemed to have admitted liability, and the designated town official shall certify such person's failure to respond to the hearing officer. The hearing officer shall thereupon enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees provided for by the applicable ordinances and shall follow the procedures set forth in subsection (f) of this section.

(e) Any person who requests a hearing shall be given written notice of the date, time and place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be held not less than fifteen days nor more than thirty days from the date of the mailing of notice, provided the hearing officer shall grant upon good cause shown any reasonable request by any interested party for postponement or continuance. An original or certified copy of the initial notice of violation issued by a policeman or other issuing officer shall be filed and retained by the town, city or borough, be deemed to be a business record within the scope of section 52-180 and be evidence of the facts contained therein. The presence of the policeman or issuing officer shall be required at the hearing if such person so requests. A person wishing to contest his liability shall appear in person or by concurrent electronic means acceptable to the hearing officer at the hearing and may present evidence in his behalf. A designated town official, other than the hearing officer, may present evidence on behalf of the town. If such person fails to appear, the hearing officer may enter an assessment by default against him upon a finding of proper notice and liability under the applicable statutes or ordinances. The hearing officer may accept from such person copies of police reports, Department of Motor Vehicles documents and other official documents by mail and may determine thereby that the appearance of such person is unnecessary. The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing in the order and form and with such methods of proof as he deems fair and appropriate. The rules regarding the admissibility of evidence shall not be strictly applied, but all testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. The hearing officer shall announce his decision at the end of the hearing. If he determines that the person is not liable, he shall dismiss the matter and enter his determination in writing accordingly. If he determines that the person is liable for the violation, he shall forthwith enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees against such person as provided by the applicable ordinances of that town, city or borough.

(f) If such assessment is not paid on the date of its entry, the hearing officer shall send by first class mail a notice of the assessment to the person found liable and shall file, not less than thirty days or more than twelve months after such mailing, a certified copy of the notice of assessment with the clerk of a superior court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator together with an entry fee of eight dollars. The certified copy of the notice of assessment shall constitute a record of assessment. Within such twelve-month period, assessments against the same person may be accrued and filed as one record of assessment. The clerk shall enter judgment, in the amount of such record of assessment and court costs of eight dollars, against such person in favor of the town, city or borough. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the hearing officer's assessment, when so entered as a judgment, shall have the effect of a civil money judgment and a levy of execution on such judgment may issue without further notice to such person.

(g) A person against whom an assessment has been entered pursuant to this section is entitled to judicial review by way of appeal. An appeal shall be instituted within thirty days of the mailing of notice of such assessment by filing a petition to reopen assessment, together with an entry fee in an amount equal to the entry fee for a small claims case pursuant to section 52-259, at the Superior Court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator, which shall entitle such person to a hearing in accordance with the rules of the judges of the Superior Court.

Sec. Section 7-255. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation and Notice Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper

(a) The water pollution control authority may establish and revise fair and reasonable charges for connection with and for the use of a sewerage system. The owner of property against which any such connection or use charge is levied shall be liable for the payment thereof. Municipally-owned and other tax-exempt property which uses the sewerage system shall be subject to such charges under the same conditions as are the owners of other property, but nothing herein shall be deemed to authorize the levying of any property tax by any municipality against any property exempt by the general statutes from property taxation. No charge for connection with or for the use of a sewerage system shall be established or revised until after a public hearing before the water pollution control authority at which the owner of property against which the charges are to be levied shall have an opportunity to be heard either in person or by concurrent electronic means concerning the proposed charges. Notice of the time, place and purpose of such hearing shall be [published at least ten days before the date thereof in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality] posted electronically on the municipalities website. A copy of the proposed charges shall be on file in the office of the clerk of the municipality, posted electronically on the municipalities website and available for inspection by the public for at least ten days before the date of such hearing. When the water pollution control authority has established or revised such charges, it shall file a copy thereof in the office of the clerk of the municipality and, not later than five days after such filing, shall cause the same to be [published at least ten days before the date thereof in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality] posted electronically on the municipalities website. Such [publication] posting shall state the date on which such charges were filed and the time and manner of paying such charges and shall state that any appeals from such charges must be taken within twenty-one days after such filing. In establishing or revising such charges the water pollution control authority may classify the property connected or to be connected with the sewer system and the users of such system, including categories of industrial users, and may give consideration to any factors relating to the kind, quality or extent of use of any such property or classification of property or users including, but not limited to, (1) the volume of water discharged to the sewerage system, (2) the type or size of building connected with the sewerage system, (3) the number of plumbing fixtures connected with the sewerage system, (4) the number of persons customarily using the property served by the sewerage system, (5) in the case of commercial or industrial property, the average number of employees and guests using the property and (6) the quality and character of the material discharged into the sewerage system. The water pollution control authority may establish minimum charges for connection with and for the use of a sewerage system. Any person aggrieved by any charge for connection with or for the use of a sewerage system may appeal to the superior court for the judicial district wherein the municipality is located and shall bring any such appeal to a return day of said court not less than twelve or more than thirty days after service thereof. The judgment of the court shall be final.

(b) Any municipality may, by ordinance, provide for the payment to the water pollution control authority by such municipality of the whole or a portion of such charges for specified classifications of property or users, provided such

classifications are established by the water pollution control authority in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section and meet the requirements of the federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, P.L. 92-500, as from time to time amended.

(c) Any municipality may, by ordinance, provide for optional methods of payment of sewer use charges to the water pollution control authority by (1) elderly taxpayers who are eligible for tax relief under the provisions of section 12-129b, section 12-170aa or a plan of tax relief for elderly taxpayers provided by such municipality in accordance with section 12-129n or (2) any taxpayer under the age of sixty-five who is eligible for tax relief under the provisions of a plan for tax relief provided by such municipality in accordance with subdivision (2) of section 12-129n.

Sec. Section 7-257. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation

The water pollution control authority may order the owner of any building to which a sewerage system is available to connect such building with the system or order the owner to construct and connect the building to an alternative sewage treatment system. No such order shall be issued until after a public hearing either in person or by concurrent electronic means with respect thereto after due notice in writing to such property owner. Any owner aggrieved by such an order may, within twenty-one days, appeal to the superior court for the judicial district wherein the municipality is located. Such appeal shall be brought to a return day of said court not less than twelve or more than thirty days after service thereof. The judgment of the court shall be final. If any owner fails to comply with an order to connect, the water pollution control authority shall cause the connection to be made and shall assess the expense thereof against such owner.

Sec. Section 7-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Participation

(a) Not less than two weeks before the annual town meeting, the board shall hold a public hearing, at which itemized estimates of the expenditures of the town for the ensuing fiscal year shall be presented and at which all persons shall be heard in regard to any appropriation which they are desirous that the board should recommend or reject. Any such public hearing may be held with remote participation in its entirety, or for remote participation in conjunction with an in-person meeting, which shall be referred to herein as a "hybrid meeting." Remote participation shall include the opportunity to offer public comment, if otherwise generally permitted at such meetings, and the ability of electors or qualified voters to vote, if eligible pursuant to state statute, municipal charter, or other applicable legal authority, at any meeting, annual town meeting or special town meeting. Officials conducting hybrid meetings shall make provisions to allow at least some members of the public and press to attend in the same location as the officials conducting the meeting in a manner consistent with public health guidance. Remote and hybrid meetings shall proceed in a manner as closely consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, town charters, municipal ordinances, resolutions or procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meeting provisions set forth in Section 2 of this act. The board shall, after such public hearing, hold a public meeting at which it shall consider the estimates so presented and any other matters brought to its attention and shall thereupon prepare and cause to be published on the town's website and in a newspaper in such town, if any, otherwise in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in such town, a report in a form prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management containing: (1) An itemized statement of all actual receipts from all sources of such town during its last fiscal year; (2) an itemized statement by classification of all actual expenditures during the same year; (3) an itemized estimate of anticipated revenues during the ensuing fiscal year from each source other than from local property taxes and an estimate of the amount which should be raised by local property taxation for such ensuing fiscal year; (4) an itemized estimate of expenditures of such town for such ensuing fiscal year; and (5) the amount of revenue surplus or deficit of the town at the beginning of the fiscal year for which

estimates are being prepared; provided any town which, according to the most recent federal census, has a population of less than five thousand may, by ordinance, waive such publication requirement, in which case the board shall provide for the printing or mimeographing of copies of such report in a number equal to ten per cent of the population of such town according to such federal census, which copies shall be available for distribution five days before the annual budget meeting of such town. Any such public meeting may be held with remote participation in its entirety, or for remote participation in conjunction with an in-person meeting, which shall be referred to herein as a "hybrid meeting." Officials conducting hybrid meetings shall make provisions to allow at least some members of the public and press to attend in the same location as the officials conducting the meeting in a manner consistent with public health guidance. Remote and hybrid meetings shall proceed in a manner as closely consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, town charters, municipal ordinances, resolutions or procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meeting provisions set forth in Section 2 of this act. The board shall submit such estimate with its recommendations to the annual town meeting next ensuing, and such meeting shall take action upon such estimate and recommendations, and make such specific appropriations as appear advisable, but no appropriation shall be made exceeding in amount that for the same purpose recommended by the board and no appropriation shall be made for any purpose not recommended by the board. Such estimate and recommendations may include, if submitted to a vote by voting tabulator, questions to indicate whether the budget is too high or too low. The vote on such questions shall be for advisory purposes only, and not binding upon the board. Immediately after the board of assessment appeals has finished its duties and the grand list has been completed, the board of finance shall meet and, with due provision for estimated uncollectible taxes, abatements and corrections, shall lay such tax on such list as shall be sufficient, in addition to the other estimated yearly income of such town and in addition to such revenue surplus, if any, as may be appropriated, not only to pay the expenses of the town for such current year, but also to absorb the revenue deficit of such town, if any, at the beginning of such current year. The board shall prescribe the method by which and the place where all records and books of accounts of the town, or of any department or subdivision thereof, shall be kept. The provisions of this section shall not be construed as preventing a town from making further appropriations upon the recommendation of its board of finance at a special town meeting held after the annual town meeting and prior to the laying of the tax for the current year, and any appropriations made at such special town meeting shall be included in the amount to be raised by the tax laid by the board of finance under the provisions of this section.

(b) (NEW) The board and the municipalities's legislative body, may jointly authorize certain actions by a majority vote of each body to include additional time sensitive and essential actions among which such bodies may authorize, including, but not limited to: (1) the application for or acceptance of any grants, funding, or gifts; the approval of collective bargaining agreements and legal settlements; the the transfer of funds to or from capital or reserve accounts, the investment of funds pertaining to pensions, trusts, retirement programs or other post-employment benefit funds; or any financial actions required by (a) a contract or agreement or (b) a court order or consent decree that require approval, provided that such legislative body (or board of selectmen, where applicable) and budget-making authority have each approved such action and have made specific findings that such action is necessary to permit the orderly operation of the municipality and that there is a need to act immediately during the public health and civil preparedness emergency in order to avoid endangering public health and welfare, prevent significant financial loss, or that action is otherwise necessary for the protection of persons and property within the municipality.

Sec. Section 7-406b. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Budget Certifications

Beginning with the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1992, and annually thereafter, the chief executive officer of each town, city, borough, consolidated town and city and consolidated town and borough shall submit one copy of the municipality's annual operating budget, as adopted in accordance with the local budget adoption process, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and such related, reasonably available, budgetary information as

the secretary may request pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. The budget shall be submitted by July first of each year or within thirty days after the adoption of the budget, whichever is later.

(NEW) For the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 all municipal budgets shall be accepted by the secretary as presented.

Sec. Section 8-2a. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posting Change

The secretary or clerk of each regulatory board of a political subdivision of the state, adopting subdivision or zoning regulations pursuant to the general statutes or a special act, shall make printed copies of such regulations available to the public at a reasonable price upon request and shall post the most recent recent regulations on the municipalities website.

Sec. Section 8-3. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posing Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper

(c) All petitions requesting a change in the regulations or the boundaries of zoning districts shall be submitted in writing or by electronic mail by and in a form prescribed by the commission and shall be considered at a public hearing within the period of time permitted under section 8-7d. The commission shall act upon the changes requested in such petition. Whenever such commission makes any change in a regulation or boundary it shall state upon its records the reason why such change is made. No such commission shall be required to hear any petition or petitions relating to the same changes, or substantially the same changes, more than once in a period of twelve months.

(d) Zoning regulations or boundaries or changes therein shall become effective at such time as is fixed by the zoning commission, provided a copy of such regulation, boundary or change shall be filed in the office of the town, city or borough clerk, as the case may be, but, in the case of a district, in the office of both the district clerk and the town clerk of the town in which such district is located, and notice of the decision of such commission shall have been [published in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the municipality] posted electronically on the municipalities website before such effective date. In any case in which such notice is not [published] posted within the fifteen-day period after a decision has been rendered, any applicant or petitioner may provide for the [publication] posting of such notice within ten days thereafter.

(e) The zoning commission shall provide for the manner in which the zoning regulations shall be enforced.

(f) No building permit or certificate of occupancy shall be issued for a building, use or structure subject to the zoning regulations of a municipality without certification in writing by the official charged with the enforcement of such regulations that such building, use or structure is in conformity with such regulations or is a valid nonconforming use under such regulations. Such official shall inform the applicant for any such certification that such applicant may provide notice of such certification by either (1) [publication in a newspaper having substantial circulation in such municipality stating that the certification has been issued] posted electronically on the municipalities website, or (2) any other method provided for by local ordinance. Any such notice shall contain (A) a description of the building, use or structure, (B) the location of the building, use or structure, (C) the identity of the applicant, and (D) a statement

that an aggrieved person may appeal to the zoning board of appeals in accordance with the provisions of section 8-7.

(g) (1) The zoning regulations may require that a site plan be filed with the commission or other municipal agency or official to aid in determining the conformity of a proposed building, use or structure with specific provisions of such regulations. If a site plan application involves an activity regulated pursuant to sections 22a-36 to 22a-45, inclusive, the applicant shall submit an application for a permit to the agency responsible for administration of the inland wetlands regulations not later than the day such application is filed with the zoning commission. The commission shall, within the period of time established in section 8-7d, accept the filing of and shall process, pursuant to section 8-7d, any site plan application involving land regulated as an inland wetland or watercourse under chapter 440. The decision of the zoning commission shall not be rendered on the site plan application until the inland wetlands agency has submitted a report with its final decision. In making its decision, the commission shall give due consideration to the report of the inland wetlands agency and if the commission establishes terms and conditions for approval that are not consistent with the final decision of the inland wetlands agency, the commission shall state on the record the reason for such terms and conditions. A site plan may be modified or denied only if it fails to comply with requirements already set forth in the zoning or inland wetlands regulations. Approval of a site plan shall be presumed unless a decision to deny or modify it is rendered within the period specified in section 8-7d. A certificate of approval of any plan for which the period for approval has expired and on which no action has been taken shall be sent to the applicant within fifteen days of the date on which the period for approval has expired. A decision to deny or modify a site plan shall set forth the reasons for such denial or modification. A copy of any decision shall be sent by certified mail to the person who submitted such plan within fifteen days after such decision is rendered. The zoning commission may, as a condition of approval of a site plan or modified site plan, require a financial guarantee in the form of a bond, a bond with surety or similar instrument to ensure (A) the timely and adequate completion of any site improvements that will be conveyed to or controlled by the municipality, and (B) the implementation of any erosion and sediment controls required during construction activities. The amount of such financial guarantee shall be calculated so as not to exceed the anticipated actual costs for the completion of such site improvements or the implementation of such erosion and sediment controls plus a contingency amount not to exceed ten per cent of such costs. At any time, the commission may grant an extension of time to complete any site improvements. The commission shall [publish] post notice of the approval or denial of site plans [in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality] electronically on the municipalities website. In any case in which such notice is not [published] posted within the fifteen-day period after a decision has been rendered, the person who submitted such plan may provide for the [publication] posting of such notice within ten days thereafter. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all zoning commissions or other final zoning authority of each municipality whether or not such municipality has adopted the provisions of this chapter or the charter of such municipality or special act establishing zoning in the municipality contains similar provisions.

(2) To satisfy any financial guarantee requirement, the commission may accept surety bonds and shall accept cash bonds, passbook or statement savings accounts and other financial guarantees other than surety bonds including, but not limited to, letters of credit, provided such other financial guarantee is in a form acceptable to the commission and the financial institution or other entity issuing any letter of credit is acceptable to the commission. Such financial guarantee may, at the discretion of the person posting such financial guarantee, be posted at any time before all approved site improvements are completed, except that the commission may require a financial guarantee for erosion and sediment controls prior to the commencement of any such site improvements. No certificate of occupancy shall be issued before a required financial guarantee is posted or the approved site improvements are completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the commission or its agent. For any site plan that is approved for development in phases, the financial guarantee provisions of this section shall apply as if each phase was approved as a separate site plan. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, no commission shall (A) require a financial guarantee or payment to finance the maintenance of roads, streets, retention or detention basins or other improvements approved with such site plan for more than one year after the date on which such improvements have been completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the commission or its agent or accepted by the municipality, or (B) require the establishment of a homeowners association or the placement of a deed restriction, easement or similar burden on property for the maintenance of approved public site improvements

to be owned, operated or maintained by the municipality, except that the prohibition of this subparagraph shall not apply to the placement of a deed restriction, easement or similar burden necessary to grant a municipality access to such approved site improvements. (3) If the person posting a financial guarantee under this section requests a release of all or a portion of such financial guarantee, the commission or its agent shall, not later than sixty-five days after receiving such request, (A) release or authorize the release of any such financial guarantee or portion thereof, provided the commission or its agent is reasonably satisfied that the site improvements for which such financial guarantee or portion thereof was posted have been completed, or (B) provide the person posting such financial guarantee with a written explanation as to the additional site improvements that must be completed before such financial guarantee or portion thereof may be released.

Sec. Section 8-3c. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posing Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper

(a) If an application for a special permit or special exception involves an activity regulated pursuant to sections 22a-36 to 22a-45, inclusive, the applicant shall submit an application to the agency responsible for administration of the inland wetlands regulations no later than the day the application is filed for a special permit or special exception.

(b) The zoning commission or combined planning and zoning commission of any municipality shall hold a public hearing on an application or request for a special permit or special exception, as provided in section 8-2, and on an application for a special exemption under section 8-2g. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of section 8-7d. The commission shall not render a decision on the application until the inland wetlands agency has submitted a report with its final decision to such commission. In making its decision the zoning commission shall give due consideration to the report of the inland wetlands agency. Such commission shall decide upon such application or request within the period of time permitted under section 8-7d. Whenever a commission grants or denies a special permit or special exception, it shall state upon its records the reason for its decision. Notice of the decision of the commission shall be [published in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the municipality] posted electronically on the municipalities website and addressed by certified mail to the person who requested or applied for a special permit or special exception, by its secretary or clerk, under his signature in any written, printed, typewritten or stamped form, within fifteen days after such decision has been rendered. In any case in which such notice is not [published] posted within such fifteen-day period, the person who requested or applied for such special permit or special exception may provide for the [publication] posting of such notice within ten days thereafter. Such permit or exception shall become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof (1) in the office of the town, city or borough clerk, as the case may be, but, in the case of a district, in the offices of both the district clerk and the town clerk of the town in which such district is located, and (2) in the land records of the town in which the affected premises are located, in accordance with the provisions of section 8-3d.

Sec. Section 8-7. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posing Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper

The concurring vote of four members of the zoning board of appeals shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement or decision of the official charged with the enforcement of the zoning regulations or to decide in favor of the applicant any matter upon which it is required to pass under any bylaw, ordinance, rule or regulation or to vary the application of the zoning bylaw, ordinance, rule or regulation. An appeal may be taken, by regular mail or by electronic mail, to the zoning board of appeals by any person aggrieved or by any officer, department, board or bureau of any municipality aggrieved and shall be taken within such time as is prescribed by a rule adopted by said

board, or, if no such rule is adopted by the board, within thirty days, by filing with the zoning commission or the officer from whom the appeal has been taken and with said board a notice of appeal specifying the grounds thereof. Such appeal period shall commence for an aggrieved person at the earliest of the following: (1) Upon receipt of the order, requirement or decision from which such person may appeal, (2) upon the [publication] posting of a notice in accordance with subsection (f) of section 8-3, or (3) upon actual or constructive notice of such order, requirement or decision. The officer from whom the appeal has been taken shall forthwith transmit to said board all the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken. An appeal shall not stay any such order, requirement or decision which prohibits further construction or expansion of a use in violation of such zoning regulations except to such extent that the board grants a stay thereof. An appeal from any other order, requirement or decision shall stay all proceedings in the action appealed from unless the zoning commission or the officer from whom the appeal has been taken certifies to the zoning board of appeals after the notice of appeal has been filed that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would cause imminent peril to life or property, in which case proceedings shall not be stayed, except by a restraining order which may be granted by a court of record on application, on notice to the zoning commission or the officer from whom the appeal has been taken and on due cause shown. The board shall hold a public hearing on such appeal in accordance with the provisions of section 8-7d. Such board may reverse or affirm wholly or partly or may modify any order, requirement or decision appealed from and shall make such order, requirement or decision as in its opinion should be made in the premises and shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal has been taken but only in accordance with the provisions of this section. Whenever a zoning board of appeals grants or denies any special exception or variance in the zoning regulations applicable to any property or sustains or reverses wholly or partly any order, requirement or decision appealed from, it shall state upon its records the reason for its decision and the zoning bylaw, ordinance or regulation which is varied in its application or to which an exception is granted and, when a variance is granted, describe specifically the exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship on which its decision is based. [published in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the municipality] posted electronically on the municipalities website and addressed by certified mail to any person who appeals to the board, by its secretary or clerk, under his signature in any written, printed, typewritten or stamped form, within fifteen days after such decision has been rendered. In any case in which such notice is not [published] posted within such fifteen-day period, the person who requested or applied for such special exception or variance or took such appeal may provide for the publication of such notice within ten days thereafter. Such exception or variance shall become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof (A) in the office of the town, city or borough clerk, as the case may be, but, in the case of a district, in the offices of both the district clerk and the town clerk of the town in which such district is located, and (B) in the land records of the town in which the affected premises are located, in accordance with the provisions of section 8-3d.

Sec. Section 8-7d. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posing Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper and Remote Actions

(a) In all matters wherein a formal petition, application, request or appeal must be submitted, in writing or by electronic mail, to a zoning commission, planning and zoning commission or zoning board of appeals under this chapter, a planning commission under chapter 126 or an inland wetlands agency under chapter 440 or an aquifer protection agency under chapter 446i and a hearing is required or otherwise held on such petition, application, request or appeal, such hearing shall commence within sixty-five days after receipt of such petition, application, request or appeal and shall be completed within thirty-five days after such hearing commences, unless a shorter period of time is required under this chapter, chapter 126, chapter 440 or chapter 446i. Notice of the hearing shall be [published in a newspaper having a general circulation in such municipality where the land that is the subject of the hearing is located at least twice, at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days or less than ten days and the last not less than two days before the date set for the hearing] posted electronically on the municipalities website. In addition to such notice, such commission, board or agency may, by regulation, provide for additional notice. Such regulations shall include provisions that the notice be mailed to persons who own land that is adjacent to the land that is the subject of the hearing or be provided by posting a sign on the land that is the

subject of the hearing, or both. For purposes of such additional notice, (1) proof of mailing shall be evidenced by a certificate of mailing, (2) the person who owns land shall be the owner indicated on the property tax map or on the last-completed grand list as of the date such notice is mailed, and (3) a title search or any other additional method of identifying persons who own land that is adjacent to the land that is the subject of the hearing shall not be required. All applications and maps and documents relating thereto shall be posted on the municipalities website and open for public inspection. At such hearing, any person or persons may appear and be heard and may be represented by agent or by attorney. All decisions on such matters shall be rendered not later than sixty-five days after completion of such hearing, unless a shorter period of time is required under this chapter, chapter 126, chapter 440 or chapter 446i. The petitioner or applicant may consent to one or more extensions of any period specified in this subsection, provided the total extension of all such periods shall not be for longer than sixty-five days, or may withdraw such petition, application, request or appeal.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, whenever the approval of a site plan is the only requirement to be met or remaining to be met under the zoning regulations for any building, use or structure, a decision on an application for approval of such site plan shall be rendered not later than sixty-five days after receipt of such site plan. Whenever a decision is to be made on an application for subdivision approval under chapter 126 on which no hearing is held, such decision shall be rendered not later than sixty-five days after receipt of such application. Whenever a decision is to be made on an inland wetlands and watercourses application under chapter 440 on which no hearing is held, such decision shall be rendered not later than sixty-five days after receipt of such application. Whenever a decision is to be made on an aquifer protection area application under chapter 446i on which no hearing is held, such decision shall be rendered not later than sixty-five days after receipt of such application. The applicant may consent to one or more extensions of such period, provided the total period of any such extension or extensions shall not exceed sixty-five days or may withdraw such plan or application.

(c) For purposes of subsection (a) or (b) of this section and section 7-246a, the date of receipt of a petition, application, request or appeal shall be the day of the next regularly scheduled meeting of such commission, board or agency, immediately following the day of submission to such commission, board or agency or its agent of such petition, application, request or appeal or thirty-five days after such submission, whichever is sooner. If the commission, board or agency does not maintain an office with regular office hours, the office of the clerk of the municipality shall act as the agent of such commission, board or agency for the receipt of any petition, application, request or appeal. Any such petition, application, request or appeal may be made unperson or by electronic mail.

(d) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any action initiated by any zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission regarding adoption or change of any zoning regulation or boundary or any subdivision regulation.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if an application involves an activity regulated pursuant to sections 22a-36 to 22a-45, inclusive, and the time for a decision by a zoning commission or planning and zoning commission established pursuant to this section would elapse prior to the thirty-fifth day after a decision by the inland wetlands agency, the time period for a decision shall be extended to thirty-five days after the decision of such agency. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to apply to any extension consented to by an applicant or petitioner.

(f) The zoning commission, planning commission, zoning and planning commission, zoning board of appeals, inland wetlands agency or aquifer protection agency shall notify the clerk of any adjoining municipality of the pendency of any application, petition, appeal, request or plan concerning any project on any site in which: (1) Any portion of the property affected by a decision of such commission, board or agency is within five hundred feet of the boundary of the adjoining municipality; (2) a significant portion of the traffic to the completed project on the site will use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site; (3) a significant portion of the sewer or water drainage from the project on the site will flow through and significantly impact the drainage or sewerage system within the adjoining municipality; or (4) water runoff from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality. Such notice shall be made by certified mail, return receipt

requested or by electronic mail , and shall be [mailed] made within seven days of the date of receipt of the application, petition, request or plan. Such adjoining municipality may, through a representative, appear and be heard at any hearing on any such application, petition, appeal, request or plan.

(g) (1) Any zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission initiating any action regarding adoption or change of any zoning regulation or boundary or any subdivision regulation or regarding the preparation or amendment of the plan of conservation and development shall provide notice of such action in accordance with this subsection in addition to any other notice required under any provision of the general statutes.

(2) A zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission shall establish a public notice registry of landowners, electors and nonprofit organizations qualified as tax-exempt organizations under the provisions of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, requesting notice under this subsection. Each municipality shall notify residents of such registry and the process for registering for notice under this subsection. The zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission shall place on such registry the names and addresses of any such landowner, elector or organization upon written request of such landowner, elector or organization. A landowner, elector or organization may request such notice be sent by mail or by electronic mail. The name and address of a landowner, elector or organization who requests to be placed on the public notice registry shall remain on such registry for a period of three years after the establishment of such registry. Thereafter any land owner, elector or organization may request to be placed on such registry for additional periods of three years.

(3) Any notice under this subsection shall be mailed to all landowners, electors and organizations in the public notice registry not later than seven days prior to the commencement of the public hearing on such action, if feasible. Such notice may be mailed by electronic mail if the zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission or the municipality has an electronic mail service provider.

(4) No zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission shall be civilly liable to any landowner, elector or nonprofit organization requesting notice under this subsection with respect to any act done or omitted in good faith or through a bona fide error that occurred despite reasonable procedures maintained by the zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission to prevent such errors in complying with the provisions of this section.

Sec. Section 8-28. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posing Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper

Notice of all official actions or decisions of a planning commission, not limited to those relating to the approval or denial of subdivision plans, shall be [published in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the municipality] posted electronically on the municipalities website within fifteen days after such action or decision. Any appeal from an action or decision of a planning commission shall be taken pursuant to the provisions of section 8-8.

Sec. Section 8-29. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posing Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper

Such commission is authorized, unless otherwise provided by ordinance adopted by the municipality, to prepare and file surveys, maps or plans of proposed highways, streets, sidewalks or the relocation, grade, widening or improvement of existing highways, streets or sidewalks, or of any building or veranda lines proposed as herein

provided, in the office of the town clerk of such municipality, provided such map or plan after completion shall have been approved at a meeting of the commission called for the purpose. Such map or plan shall have inscribed thereon the following: "Recommended by planning commission" and shall bear the date of such recommendation and be signed by the chairman or secretary. Such commission shall, upon the filing of such survey, map or plan, give notice to each record owner and to each mortgagee of record of land included in such survey, map or plan, by mail or by electronic mail, and by [advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in such municipality] posted electronically on the municipalities website, of such filing and of the place within such municipality where, and the time, not less than ten days after such mailing and [publication] posting, when, such commission shall hear any person claiming to be affected thereby. Such commission, after such hearing, may approve and adopt such map or plan, and may make assessments of benefits accruing to and damages sustained by any person owning land included in such survey, map or plan, and shall give notice of such benefits and damages to mortgagees of record of such land. Any assessments of benefits so made shall, from the time of the completion of such work, constitute a lien against the property affected, which lien shall take precedence of all other encumbrances except taxes and other municipal liens or encumbrances of earlier date. Such liens may be continued by filing with the town clerk for record in the land records of such municipality, within ninety days after such assessment has been made and notice thereof given to the person or persons affected thereby, a certificate of such lien signed by the secretary of such commission, which lien may be enforced in the same manner as is provided for the enforcement of tax liens. Upon the adoption of any such survey, map or plan which takes an easement for public use over any parcel of land, a notice of the taking of each such easement and a description of the easement shall be recorded in the land records of the town in which such land is located, in the names of the owners of record, before such easement becomes effective. Such commission may change any survey, map or plan so made and filed by it, at such time and in such manner as it deems necessary, and shall thereupon file a survey, map or plan of such change, inscribed as hereinbefore provided, with the town clerk of such municipality. Notice by mail or by electronic mail of such change shall be given by such commission to each record owner and to all persons having a recorded mortgage interest in land affected thereby and by advertisement as in the first instance and the subsequent proceedings shall be as provided in the case of an original filing.

Sec. Section 12-110. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Posing Change to Website Rather Than Newspaper

(a) The board of assessment appeals in each town shall meet at least once in the month of September, annually, provided any meeting in the month of September shall be for the sole purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of motor vehicles, and shall give notice of the time and place of such meetings by posting it at least ten days before the first meeting in the office of the town clerk, and [publishing it in some newspaper published therein or, if no newspaper is published in such town, in a newspaper having a general circulation in such town] posted electronically on the municipalities website. Such meetings shall be held on business days, which may be Saturdays, the last not later than the last business day in the month of September, on or before which date such board shall complete the duties imposed upon it.

(b) The board of assessment appeals in each town shall meet in the month of March to hear appeals related to the assessment of property. Any such meeting which may be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, electronic communication, or other technology shall be held on business days, which may be Saturdays, the last not later than the last business day in the month of March, on or before which date such board shall complete the duties imposed upon it.

Sec. Section 12-111. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Actions

(a) Any person, including any lessee of real property whose lease has been recorded as provided in section 47-19 and who is bound under the terms of a lease to pay real property taxes and any person to whom title to such property has been transferred since the assessment date, claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the assessors of such town may appeal therefrom to the board of assessment appeals. Such appeal shall be filed, in writing, on or before February twentieth. The written appeal, or by electronic mail, shall include, but is not limited to, the property owner's name, name and position of the signer, description of the property which is the subject of the appeal, name, [and] electronic mail address and mailing address of the party to be sent all correspondence by the board of assessment appeals, reason for the appeal, appellant's estimate of value, signature of property owner, or duly authorized agent of the property owner, and date of signature. The board shall notify each aggrieved taxpayer who filed a written appeal in the proper form and in a timely manner, no later than March first immediately following the assessment date, of the date, time and place of the appeal hearing. Such notice shall be sent no later than seven calendar days preceding the hearing date except that the board may elect not to conduct an appeal hearing for any commercial, industrial, utility or apartment property with an assessed value greater than one million dollars. The board shall, not later than March first, notify the appellant that the board has elected not to conduct an appeal hearing. An appellant whose appeal will not be heard by the board may appeal directly to the Superior Court pursuant to section 12-117a. The board shall determine all appeals for which the board conducts an appeal hearing and send written notification of the final determination of such appeals to each such person within one week after such determination has been made. Such written notification shall include information describing the property owner's right to appeal the determination of such board. Such board may equalize and adjust the grand list of such town and may increase or decrease the assessment of any taxable property or interest therein and may add an assessment for property omitted by the assessors which should be added thereto; and may add to the grand list the name of any person omitted by the assessors and owning taxable property in such town, placing therein all property liable to taxation which it has reason to believe is owned by such person, at the percentage of its actual valuation, as determined by the assessors in accordance with the provisions of sections 12-64 and 12-71, from the best information that it can obtain, and if such property should have been included in the declaration, as required by section 12-42 or 12-43, it shall add thereto twenty-five per cent of such assessment; but, before proceeding to increase the assessment of any person or to add to the grand list the name of any person so omitted, it shall mail to such person, postage paid, at least one week before making such increase or addition, a written or printed notice addressed to such person at the town in which such person resides, to appear before such board and show cause why such increase or addition should not be made. When the board increases or decreases the gross assessment of any taxable real property or interest therein, the amount of such gross assessment shall be fixed until the assessment year in which the municipality next implements a revaluation of all real property pursuant to section 12-62, unless the assessor increases or decreases the gross assessment of the property to (1) comply with an order of a court of jurisdiction, (2) reflect an addition for new construction, (3) reflect a reduction for damage or demolition, or (4) correct a factual error by issuance of a certificate of correction. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, if, prior to the next revaluation, the assessor increases or decreases a gross assessment established by the board for any other reason, the assessor shall submit a written explanation to the board setting forth the reason for such increase or decrease. The assessor shall also append the written explanation to the property card for the real estate parcel whose gross assessment was increased or decreased.

(b) If an extension is granted to any assessor or board of assessors pursuant to section 12-117, the date by which a taxpayer shall be required to submit a written request or by electronic mail for appeal to the board of assessment appeals shall be extended to March twentieth and said board shall conduct hearings regarding such requests during the month of April. The board shall send notification to the taxpayer of the time and date of an appeal hearing at least seven calendar days preceding the hearing date, but no later than the first day of April. If the board elects not to hear

an appeal for commercial, industrial, utility or apartment property described in subsection (a) of this section, the board shall notify the taxpayer of such decision no later than the first day of April.

Sec. Section 12-113. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Hearings by Electronic Means

The board of assessment appeals may reduce the assessment of any person as reflected on the grand list by reducing the valuation, number, quantity or amount of any item of estate therein, or by deleting any item which ought not to be retained in it, provided any such reduction or deletion shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of said board. The board of assessment appeals shall not reduce the valuation or assessment of property on the grand list belonging to any person who does not appear at a hearing before the board of assessment appeals, either in person or by such person's attorney or agent, and offer or consent to be sworn before it and answer all questions touching such person's taxable property situated in the town. The board of assessment appeals may hold such meetings and obtain necessary information remotely by conference call, videoconference, electronic communication, or other technology and may reduce the valuation or assessment of property on the grand list without the physical presence of the owner of such property or such owner's attorney or agent, provided that such owner or such owner's attorney or agent participates remotely, and the hearing is conducted in accordance with open meeting requirements.

Sec. Section 12-117. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Electronic Mail Option

(a) The period prescribed by law for the completion of the duties of any assessor, board of assessors or board of assessment appeals may, for due cause shown, be extended by the chief executive officer of the town for a period not exceeding one month, and in the case of the board of assessment appeals in any town in the assessment year in which a revaluation, pursuant to section 12-62, is required to be effective, such period shall be extended by said chief executive officer for a period not exceeding two months. Not later than two weeks after granting an extension as provided under this subsection, the chief executive officer shall send by mail or by electronic mail written notice of the extension to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

(b) If, in the assessment year in which a revaluation is required to be effective, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management determines, on the basis of information provided, in writing by mail or by electronic mail, by the board of assessment appeals and the chief executive officer, that the number of appeals pending before such board is such as to preclude fair and equitable consideration of such appeals within the extended period of time provided under subsection (a) of this section, the secretary may authorize a postponement of the implementation of said revaluation until the assessment day next ensuing. If the secretary authorizes such postponement, the town shall not be subject to the penalty provisions of subsection (d) of section 12-62. Upon receipt of the secretary's notice of authorization, the assessor shall revise the real property grand list for the assessment year with respect to which such postponement is applicable, to reflect assessments for such property effective in the assessment year immediately preceding. The real property grand list from which such appeals are taken shall then become the real property grand list for the assessment day next ensuing, subject only to transfers of ownership, additions for new construction, reductions for demolitions and such adjustments as are authorized by the board of assessment appeals, unless the assessor revalues all real property for said assessment day in accordance with section 12-62. The secretary shall not grant an authorization to a town, pursuant to this subsection, in consecutive years.

(c) During any assessment year in which the provisions of subsection (b) of this section become applicable, the assessor or board of assessors shall, not later than thirty days after the date on which the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management authorizes the postponement of revaluation, complete the grand list as required by subsection (b) of this section. An increase notice shall be prepared in the manner prescribed by section 12-55, and mailed or by electronic mail, not later than the tenth day after the completion of said grand list, to each owner whose property valuation on said grand list increased above the valuation of such property in the last-preceding assessment year. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 12-112, any owner may appeal such increase to the board of assessment appeals not later than thirty days after the date of such notice. If the assessor or board of assessors fails to comply with the notice requirements in this subsection, any such increase shall not take effect until the next succeeding assessment date.

Sec. Section 12-170f. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Property Tax Relief For Elderly Homeowners And Renters And Persons With Permanent Total Disability - Remote Applications

(a) Any renter, believing himself or herself to be entitled to a grant under section 12-170d for any calendar year, shall apply in person or by electronic means for such grant to the assessor of the municipality in which the renter resides or to the duly authorized agent of such assessor or municipality on or after April first and not later than October first of each year with respect to such grant for the calendar year preceding each such year, on a form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to the assessor. A renter may apply to the in person or by electronic means secretary prior to December fifteenth of the claim year for an extension of the application period. The secretary may grant such extension in the case of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines there is good cause for doing so. A renter making such application shall present in person or by electronic means to such assessor or agent, in substantiation of the renter's application, a copy of the renter's federal income tax return, and if not required to file a federal income tax return, such other evidence of qualifying income, receipts for money received, or cancelled checks, or copies thereof, and any other evidence the assessor or such agent may require. When the assessor or agent is satisfied that the applying renter is entitled to a grant, such assessor or agent shall issue a certificate of grant in such form as the secretary may prescribe and supply showing the amount of the grant due.

(b) The assessor or agent shall forward the application to the secretary not later than the last day of the month following the month in which the renter has made application. Any municipality that neglects to transmit to the secretary the application as required by this section shall forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state, provided the secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards adopted by regulation in accordance with chapter 54. The certificate of grant shall be delivered to the renter and the assessor or agent shall keep the original copy of such certificate and application.

(c) After the secretary's review of each claim, pursuant to section 12-120b, and verification of the amount of the grant, the secretary shall make a determination of any per cent reduction to all claims that will be necessary to keep within available appropriations and, not later than October fifteenth of each year, prepare a list of certificates approved for payment, and shall thereafter supplement such list monthly. Such list and any supplements thereto shall be approved for payment by the secretary and shall be forwarded by the secretary to the Comptroller, along with a notice of any per cent reduction in claim amounts, and the Comptroller shall, not later than fifteen days following receipt of such list, draw an order on the Treasurer in favor of each person on such list and on supplements to such list in the amount of such person's claim, minus any per cent reduction noticed by the secretary pursuant to this subsection, and the Treasurer shall pay such amount to such person, not later than fifteen days following receipt of such order.

(d) If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management determines a renter was overpaid for such grant, the amount of any subsequent grant paid to the renter under section 12-170d after such determination shall be reduced by the amount of overpayment until the overpayment has been recouped. Any claimant aggrieved by the results of the secretary's review or determination shall have the rights of appeal as set forth in section 12-120b. Applications filed under this section shall not be open for public inspection. Any person who, for the purpose of obtaining a grant under section 12-170d wilfully fails to disclose all matters related thereto or with intent to defraud makes false statement shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

(e) Any municipality may provide, upon approval by its legislative body, that the duties and responsibilities of the assessor, as required under this section and section 12-170g, shall be transferred to (1) the officer in such municipality having responsibility for the administration of social services, or (2) the coordinator or agent for the elderly in such municipality.

Sec. Section 12-170g. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Electronic Mail Option

Any person aggrieved by the action of the assessor or agent in fixing the amount of the grant under section 12-170f, or in disapproving the claim therefor may apply in writing or by electronic means to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in writing, within thirty business days from the date of notice given to such person by the assessor or agent, giving notice of such grievance. The secretary shall promptly consider such notice and may grant or deny the relief requested, provided such decision shall be made not later than thirty business days after the receipt of such notice. If the relief is denied, the applicant shall be notified forthwith, and the applicant may appeal the decision of the secretary in accordance with the provisions of section 12-120b.

Sec. Section 12-170w. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Electronic Mail Option

(a) No claim shall be accepted under section 12-170v unless the taxpayer or authorized agent of such taxpayer files an application either in writing or by electronic means with the assessor of the municipality in which the property is located, in such form and manner as the assessor may prescribe, during the period from February first to and including May fifteenth of any year in which benefits are first claimed, including such information as is necessary to substantiate such claim in accordance with requirements in such application. A taxpayer may make application in writing or by electronic means to the assessor prior to August fifteenth of the claim year for an extension of the application period. The assessor may grant such extension in the case of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the assessor determines there is good cause for doing so. The taxpayer shall present in writing or by electronic means to the assessor a copy of such taxpayer's federal income tax return and the federal income tax return of such taxpayer's spouse, if filed separately, for such taxpayer's taxable year ending immediately prior to the submission of the taxpayer's application, or if not required to file a federal income tax return, such other evidence of qualifying income in respect to such taxable year as the assessor may require. Each such application, together with the federal income tax return and any other information submitted in relation thereto, shall be examined by the assessor and a determination shall be made as to whether the application is approved. Upon determination by the assessor that the applying homeowner is entitled to tax relief in accordance with the provisions of section 12-170v and this section, the assessor shall notify the homeowner and the municipal tax collector of the approval of such application. The municipal tax collector shall determine the maximum amount of the tax due with respect to such homeowner's residence and thereafter the property tax with respect to such homeowner's residence shall not exceed such amount. After a taxpayer's claim for the first year has been filed and approved such taxpayer shall file

such an application in writing or by electronic means. In respect to such application required after the filing and approval for the first year the assessor in each municipality shall notify each such taxpayer concerning application requirements by regular mail or, at the taxpayers option, electronic mail not later than February first of the assessment year in which such taxpayer is required to reapply, enclosing a copy of the required application form. Such taxpayer may submit such application to the assessor by mail or by electronic means provided it is received by the assessor not later than April fifteenth in the assessment year with respect to which such tax relief is claimed. Not later than April thirtieth of such year the assessor shall notify, by mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing, any such taxpayer for whom such application was not received by said April fifteenth concerning application requirements and such taxpayer shall submit not later than May fifteenth such application personally or by electronic means or for reasonable cause, by a person acting on behalf of such taxpayer as approved by the assessor.

(b) Any person knowingly making a false application for the purpose of claiming property tax relief under section 12-170v and this section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. Any person who fails to disclose all matters relating thereto or with intent to defraud makes a false statement shall refund to the municipality all tax relief improperly taken.

(c) Any municipality providing property tax relief under section 12-170v and this section may establish a lien on such property in the amount of the total tax relief granted, plus interest applicable to the total of unpaid taxes represented by such tax relief, at a rate to be determined by such municipality. Any such lien shall have a priority in the settlement of such person's estate.

(d) Any such property tax relief granted to any such resident in accordance with the provisions of section 12-170v and this section shall not disqualify such resident with respect to any benefits for which such resident shall be eligible under the provisions of sections 12-129b to 12-129d, inclusive, 12-129n and 12-170aa and any such property tax relief provided under this section shall be in addition to any such benefits for which such resident shall be eligible under sections 12-129b to 12-129d, inclusive, 12-129n and 12-170aa.

Sec. Section 12-170aa. of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Electronic Mail Option

(a) Revision effective for assessment year commencing October 1, 1985, and thereafter. There is established, for the assessment year commencing October 1, 1985, and each assessment year thereafter, a revised state program of property tax relief for certain elderly homeowners as determined in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, and additionally for the assessment year commencing October 1, 1986, and each assessment year thereafter, the property tax relief benefits of such program are made available to certain homeowners who are permanently and totally disabled as determined in accordance with said subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Eligibility for benefits. Age and income requirements. Determination of income. (1) The program established by this section shall provide for a reduction in property tax, except in the case of benefits payable as a grant under certain circumstances in accordance with provisions in subsection (j) of this section, applicable to the assessed value of certain real property, determined in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, for any owner of real property, or any tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48, or any resident of a multiple-dwelling complex under certain contractual conditions as provided in said subsection (j) of this section, who (A) at the close of the preceding calendar year has attained age sixty-five or over, or whose spouse domiciled with such homeowner, has attained age sixty-five or over at the close of the preceding calendar year, or is fifty years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a homeowner who at the time of his death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief under this section, provided such spouse was domiciled with such homeowner at the time of his death or (B) at the close of the preceding calendar year has not attained age sixty-five and is eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security, or has not been

engaged in employment covered by Social Security and accordingly has not qualified for benefits thereunder but who has become qualified for permanent total disability benefits under any federal, state or local government retirement or disability plan, including the Railroad Retirement Act and any government-related teacher's retirement plan, determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to contain requirements in respect to qualification for such permanent total disability benefits which are comparable to such requirements under Social Security; and in addition to qualification under (A) or (B) above, whose taxable and nontaxable income, the total of which shall hereinafter be called "qualifying income", in the tax year of such homeowner ending immediately preceding the date of application for benefits under the program in this section, was not in excess of sixteen thousand two hundred dollars, if unmarried, or twenty thousand dollars, jointly with spouse if married, subject to adjustments in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, evidence of which income shall be required in the form of a signed affidavit to be submitted to the assessor in the municipality in which application for benefits under this section is filed. Such affidavit may be submitted remotely by electronic mail. The amount of any Medicaid payments made on behalf of such homeowner or the spouse of such homeowner shall not constitute income. The amount of tax reduction provided under this section, determined in accordance with and subject to the variable factors in the schedule of amounts of tax reduction in subsection (c) of this section, shall be allowed only with respect to a residential dwelling owned by such qualified homeowner and used as such homeowner's primary place of residence. If title to real property or a tenancy interest liable for real property taxes is recorded in the name of such qualified homeowner or his spouse making a claim and qualifying under this section and any other person or persons, the claimant hereunder shall be entitled to pay his fractional share of the tax on such property calculated in accordance with the provisions of this section, and such other person or persons shall pay his or their fractional share of the tax without regard for the provisions of this section, unless also qualified hereunder. For the purposes of this section, a "mobile manufactured home", as defined in section 12-63a, or a dwelling on leased land, including but not limited to a modular home, shall be deemed to be real property and the word "taxes" shall not include special assessments, interest and lien fees.

(2) The amounts of qualifying income as provided in this section shall be adjusted annually in a uniform manner to reflect the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security income, with each such adjustment of qualifying income determined to the nearest one hundred dollars. Each such adjustment of qualifying income shall be prepared by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in relation to the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security, if any, becoming effective at any time during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the first day of October each year and the amount of such adjustment shall be distributed to the assessors in each municipality not later than the thirty-first day of December next following.

(3) For purposes of determining qualifying income under subdivision (1) of this subsection with respect to a married homeowner who submits an application for tax reduction in accordance with this section, the Social Security income of the spouse of such homeowner shall not be included in the qualifying income of such homeowner, for purposes of determining eligibility for benefits under this section, if such spouse is a resident of a health care or nursing home facility in this state receiving payment related to such spouse under the Title XIX Medicaid program. An applicant who is legally separated pursuant to the provisions of section 46b-40, as of the thirty-first day of December preceding the date on which such person files an application for a grant in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, may apply as an unmarried person and shall be regarded as such for purposes of determining qualifying income under said subsection.

(c) Schedule of qualifying income and corresponding tax reductions. The amount of reduction in property tax provided under this section shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, be determined in accordance with the following schedule:

(d) Maximum amount of tax reduction. Any homeowner qualified for tax reduction in accordance with subsection (b) of this section in an amount to be determined under the schedule of such tax reduction in subsection (c) of this section, shall in no event receive less in tax reduction than the minimum amount of such reduction applicable to the qualifying income of such homeowner according to the schedule in said subsection (c).

(e) Initial claim for tax reductions. Biennial requirements. Penalty. Any claim for tax reduction under this section shall be submitted by mail or by electronic mail for approval, on the application form prepared for such purpose by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in the first year claim for such tax relief is filed and biennially thereafter. The amount of tax reduction approved shall be applied to the real property tax payable by the homeowner for the assessment year in which such application is submitted and approved. If any such homeowner has qualified for tax reduction under this section, the tax reduction determined shall, when possible, be applied and prorated uniformly over the number of installments in which the real property tax is due and payable to the municipality in which he resides. In the case of any homeowner who is eligible for tax reduction under this section as a result of increases in qualifying income, effective with respect to the assessment year commencing October 1, 1987, under the schedule of qualifying income and tax reduction in subsection (c) of this section, exclusive of any such increases related to social security adjustments in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the total amount of tax reduction to which such homeowner is entitled shall be credited and uniformly prorated against property tax installment payments applicable to such homeowner's residence which become due after such homeowner's application for tax reduction under this section is accepted. In the event that a homeowner has paid in full the amount of property tax applicable to such homeowner's residence, regardless of whether the municipality requires the payment of property taxes in one or more installments, such municipality shall make payment to such homeowner in the amount of the tax reduction allowed. The municipality shall be reimbursed for the amount of such payment in accordance with subsection (g) of this section. In respect to such application required biennially after the filing and approval for the first year, the tax assessor in each municipality shall notify each such homeowner concerning application requirements by regular mail or at the option of such homeowner by electronic mail not later than February first, annually enclosing a copy of the required application form. Such homeowner may submit such application to the assessor by mail or by electronic mail, provided it is received by the assessor not later than April fifteenth in the assessment year with respect to which such tax reduction is claimed. Not later than April thirtieth of such year the assessor shall notify, by mail or at the option of such homeowner by electronic mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing or copy of such electronic mail, any such homeowner for whom such application was not received by said April fifteenth concerning application requirements and such homeowner shall be required not later than May fifteenth to submit such application personally or by electronic mail or, for reasonable cause, by a person acting on behalf of such taxpayer as approved by the assessor. In the year immediately following any year in which such homeowner has submitted application and qualified for tax reduction in accordance with this section, such homeowner shall be presumed, without filing application therefor, to be qualified for tax reduction in accordance with the schedule in subsection (c) of this section in the same percentage of property tax as allowed in the year immediately preceding. If any homeowner has qualified and received tax reduction under this section and subsequently in any calendar year has qualifying income in excess of the maximum described in this section, such homeowner shall notify the tax assessor by mail or by electronic mail on or before the next filing date and shall be denied tax reduction under this section for the assessment year and any subsequent year or until such homeowner has reapplied and again qualified for benefits under this section. Any such person who fails to so notify the tax assessor of his disqualification shall refund all amounts of tax reduction improperly taken and be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

(f) Proof of claim requirements. Any homeowner, believing such homeowner is entitled to tax reduction benefits under this section for any assessment year, shall make application as required in subsection (e) of this section, to the assessor of the municipality in which the homeowner resides, for such tax reduction at any time from February first to and including May fifteenth of the year in which tax reduction is claimed. A homeowner may make application to the secretary prior to August fifteenth of the claim year for an extension of the application period. The secretary may grant such extension in the case of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines there is good cause for doing so. Such application for tax reduction benefits shall be submitted on a form prescribed and furnished by the secretary to the assessor. In making application the homeowner shall present to such assessor, in substantiation of such homeowner's application, a copy of such homeowner's federal income tax return, including a copy of the Social Security statement of earnings for such homeowner, and that of such homeowner's spouse, if filed separately, for such homeowner's taxable year ending immediately prior to the submission of such application, or if not required to file a return, such other evidence of qualifying income in respect

to such taxable year as may be required by the assessor. When the assessor is satisfied that the applying homeowner is entitled to tax reduction in accordance with this section, such assessor shall issue a certificate of credit, in such form as the secretary may prescribe and supply showing the amount of tax reduction allowed. A duplicate of such certificate shall be delivered to the applicant and the tax collector of the municipality and the assessor shall keep the fourth copy of such certificate and a copy of the application. Any homeowner who, for the purpose of obtaining a tax reduction under this section, wilfully fails to disclose all matters related thereto or with intent to defraud makes false statement shall refund all property tax credits improperly taken and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. Applications filed under this section shall not be open for public inspection.

(g) State reimbursement for loss of property tax. On or before July first, annually, each municipality shall submit to the secretary a claim for the tax reductions approved under this section in relation to the assessment list of October first immediately preceding. On or after December 1, 1987, any municipality that neglects to transmit to the secretary the claim as required by this section shall forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state, except that the secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards established by regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54. Subject to procedures for review and approval of such data pursuant to section 12-120b, said secretary shall, on or before December fifteenth next following, certify to the Comptroller the amount due each municipality as reimbursement for loss of property tax revenue related to the tax reductions allowed under this section, except that the secretary may reduce the amount due as reimbursement under this section by up to one hundred per cent for any municipality that is not eligible for a grant under section 32-9s. The Comptroller shall draw an order on the Treasurer on or before the fifth business day following December fifteenth and the Treasurer shall pay the amount due each municipality not later than the thirty-first day of December. Any claimant aggrieved by the results of the secretary's review shall have the rights of appeal as set forth in section 12-120b. The amount of the grant payable to each municipality in any year in accordance with this section shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of this section with respect to such year.

(h) Residential dwelling on leased land. Property taxes paid by the owner of the dwelling. Any person who is the owner of a residential dwelling on leased land, including any such person who is a sublessee under terms of the lease agreement applicable to such land, shall be entitled to claim tax relief under the provisions of this section, subject to all requirements therein except as provided in this subdivision, with respect to property taxes paid by such person on the assessed value of such dwelling, provided (1) the dwelling is such person's principal place of residence, (2) such lease or sublease requires that such person as the lessee or sublessee, whichever is applicable, pay all property taxes related to the dwelling and (3) such lease or sublease is recorded in the land records of the town.

(i) Pro rata tax reduction for assessment year in which property is transferred. If any person with respect to whom a claim for tax reduction in accordance with this section has been approved for any assessment year transfers, assigns, grants or otherwise conveys on or after the first day of October but prior to the first day of August in such assessment year the interest in real property to which such claim for tax credit is related, regardless of whether such transfer, assignment, grant or conveyance is voluntary or involuntary, the amount of such tax credit shall be a pro rata portion of the amount otherwise applicable in such assessment year to be determined by a fraction the numerator of which shall be the number of full months from the first day of October in such assessment year to the date of such conveyance and the denominator of which shall be twelve. If such conveyance occurs in the month of October the grantor shall be disqualified for tax credit in such assessment year. The grantee shall be required within a period not exceeding ten days immediately following the date of such conveyance to notify by mail or by electronic mail the assessor thereof, or in the absence of such notice, upon determination by the assessor that such transfer, assignment, grant or conveyance has occurred, the assessor shall (1) determine the amount of tax reduction to which the grantor is entitled for such assessment year with respect to the interest in real property conveyed and notify the tax collector of the reduced amount of tax reduction applicable to such interest and (2) notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on or before the October first immediately following the end of the assessment year in which such conveyance occurs of the reduction in such tax reduction for purposes of a corresponding adjustment in the amount of state payment to the municipality next following as reimbursement for the revenue loss

related to such tax reductions. On or after December 1, 1987, any municipality which neglects to transmit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management the claim as required by this section shall forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state provided the secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards established by regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54. Upon receipt of such notice from the assessor, the tax collector shall, if such notice is received after the tax due date in the municipality, within ten days thereafter mail, at the option of such grantee by electronic mail or hand a bill to the grantee stating the additional amount of tax due as determined by the assessor. Such tax shall be due and payable and collectible as other property taxes and subject to the same liens and processes of collection, provided such tax shall be due and payable in an initial or single installment not sooner than thirty days after the date such bill is mailed or handed to the grantee and in equal amounts in any remaining, regular installments as the same are due and payable.

(j) Benefits for persons without ownership or leasehold interest in real property who reside in multiple-dwelling complex. (1) Notwithstanding the intent in subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section to provide for benefits in the form of property tax reduction applicable to persons liable for payment of such property tax and qualified in accordance with requirements related to age and income as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a certain annual benefit, determined in amount under the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section but payable in a manner as prescribed in this subsection, shall be provided with respect to any person who (A) is qualified in accordance with said requirements related to age and income as provided in subsection (b) of this section, including provisions concerning such person's spouse, and (B) is a resident of a dwelling unit within a multiple-dwelling complex containing dwelling units for occupancy by certain elderly persons under terms of a contract between such resident and the owner of such complex, in accordance with which contract such resident occupies a certain dwelling unit subject to the express provision that such resident has no legal title, interest or leasehold estate in the real or personal property of such complex, and under the terms of which contract such resident agrees to pay the owner of the complex a fee, as a condition precedent to occupancy and a monthly or other such periodic fee thereafter as a condition of continued occupancy. In no event shall any such resident be qualified for benefits payable in accordance with this subsection if, as determined by the assessor in the municipality in which such complex is situated, such resident's contract with the owner of such complex, or occupancy by such resident (i) confers upon such resident any ownership interest in the dwelling unit occupied or in such complex, or (ii) establishes a contract of lease of any type for the dwelling unit occupied by such resident.

(2) The amount of annual benefit payable in accordance with this subsection to any such resident, qualified as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be determined in relation to an assumed amount of property tax liability applicable to the assessed value for the dwelling unit which such resident occupies, as determined by the assessor in the municipality in which such complex is situated. Annually, not later than the first day of June, the assessor in such municipality, upon receipt of an application by mail or by electronic mail for such benefit submitted in accordance with this subsection by any such resident, shall determine, with respect to the assessment list in such municipality for the assessment year commencing October first immediately preceding, the portion of the assessed value of the entire complex, as included in such assessment list, attributable to the dwelling unit occupied by such resident. The assumed property tax liability for purposes of this subsection shall be the product of such assessed value and the mill rate in such municipality as determined for purposes of property tax imposed on said assessment list for the assessment year commencing October first immediately preceding. The amount of benefit to which such resident shall be entitled for such assessment year shall be equivalent to the amount of tax reduction for which such resident would qualify, considering such assumed property tax liability to be the actual property tax applicable to such resident's dwelling unit and such resident as liable for the payment of such tax, in accordance with the schedule of qualifying income and tax reduction as provided in subsection (c) of this section, subject to provisions concerning maximum allowable benefit for any assessment year under subsections (c) and (d) of this section. The amount of benefit as determined for such resident in respect to any assessment year shall be payable by the state as a grant to such resident equivalent to the amount of property tax reduction to which such resident would be entitled under subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section if such resident were the owner of such dwelling unit and qualified for tax reduction benefits under said subsections (a) to (i), inclusive.

(3) Any such resident entitled to a grant as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be required to submit an application by mail or by electronic mail for such grant to the assessor in the municipality in which such resident resides at any time from February first to and including the fifteenth day of May in the year in which such grant is claimed, on a form prescribed and furnished for such purpose by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Any such resident submitting an application for such grant shall be required to present, by mail, in person or by electronic mail to the assessor, in substantiation of such application, a copy of such resident's federal income tax return, and if not required to file a federal income tax return, such other evidence of qualifying income, receipts for money received or cancelled checks, or copies thereof, and any other evidence the assessor may require. Not later than the first day of July in such year, the assessor shall submit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (A) a copy of the application prepared by such resident, together with such resident's federal income tax return, if required to file such a return, and any other information submitted in relation thereto, (B) determinations of the assessor concerning the assessed value of the dwelling unit in such complex occupied by such resident, and (C) the amount of such grant approved by the assessor. Said secretary, upon approving such grant, shall certify the amount thereof and not later than the fifteenth day of September immediately following submit approval for payment of such grant to the State Comptroller. Not later than five business days immediately following receipt of such approval for payment, the State Comptroller shall draw his or her order upon the State Treasurer and the Treasurer shall pay the amount of the grant to such resident not later than the first day of October immediately following.

(k) Adjustments. If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management makes any adjustments to the grants for tax reductions or assumed amounts of property tax liability claimed under this section subsequent to the Comptroller the payment of said grants in any year, the amount of such adjustment shall be reflected in the next payment the Treasurer shall make to such municipality pursuant to this section.

Sec. . Section 12-170cc of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Remote Electronic Option

Any person aggrieved by the action of the assessor or assessors in fixing the amount of a credit under subsection (f) of section 12-170aa or in disapproving the claim therefor may appeal to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in writing or by electronic mail, within thirty business days from the date of notice given to such person by the assessor or assessors, giving notice of such grievance. The secretary shall promptly consider such notice and may grant or deny the relief requested, provided such decision shall be made not later than thirty business days after the receipt of such notice. If the relief is denied, the applicant shall be notified forthwith and may appeal the decision of the secretary in accordance with the provisions of section 12-120b.

Sec. . Section 28-9a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Coordinated Actions

(a) Whenever the Governor proclaims a disaster emergency under the laws of this state, or the President declares an emergency or a major disaster to exist in this state, the Governor is authorized: (1) To enter into purchase, lease, or other arrangements with any agency of the United States for temporary housing units to be occupied by disaster victims and to make such units available to any political subdivision of the state; (2) require a coordinated effort between the State and its municipalities when responding to an emergency or a major disaster and thus prohibits municipalities from issuing shelter-in-place orders or prohibitions on travel without permission from the Governor as well as prospectively prohibiting cities and towns from enacting or enforcing any order that conflicts with any order issued by the Governor. [(2)] (3) to assist any political subdivision of this state which is the locus of

such housing to acquire sites necessary for such housing and to do all things required to prepare such sites to receive and utilize such housing units by: (A) Advancing or lending funds available to the Governor from any appropriation made by the legislature, or from any other source, (B) "passing through" funds made available by any agency, public or private, or (C) becoming a copartner with the political subdivision for the execution and performance of any temporary housing for disaster victims' project and for such purposes to pledge the credit of the state on such terms as he deems appropriate, having due regard for current debt transactions of the state; (3) under such regulations as he shall prescribe, to temporarily suspend or modify for not to exceed sixty days any public health, safety, zoning, transportation or other requirement of law or regulation within this state when by proclamation he deems such suspension or modification essential to provide temporary housing for disaster victims.

(b) Any political subdivision of this state is expressly authorized to acquire, temporarily or permanently, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, sites required for installation of temporary housing units for disaster victims, and to enter into whatever arrangements, including purchase of temporary housing units and payment of transportation charges, which are necessary to prepare or equip such sites to utilize such housing units.

(c) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit the Governor's authority to apply for, administer, and expend any grant, gifts, or payments in aid of disaster prevention, preparedness, response or recovery.

(d) "Major disaster", "emergency" and "temporary housing" as used in this section have the same meanings as the terms are defined, or used, in the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-288, 88 Stat. 143).

Sec. . Section 29-262 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Building Inspections

(a) The State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee acting jointly, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, shall require passage of a written examination and successful completion of a suitable educational program of training as proof of qualification pursuant to section 29-261 to be eligible to be a building official. No person shall act as a building official for any municipality until the State Building Inspector, upon a determination of qualification, issues a license to such person, except that a license shall not be required (1) in the case of a person certified prior to January 1, 1984, or (2) in the case of a provisional appointment, for a period not to exceed ninety days in order to complete such training program and licensure classes, made in accordance with standards established in regulations adopted by the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. The State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (A) establish classes of licensure that will recognize the varying complexities of code enforcement in the municipalities within the state, and (B) require continuing educational programs for each such class that shall include basic requirements for each such program and a system of control and reporting. Any licensed or certified building official or inspector who wishes to retire his or her license or certificate may apply to the office of the State Building Inspector to have such license or certificate retired and be issued a certificate of emeritus. Such retired official or inspector may no longer hold himself or herself out as a licensed or certified official or inspector.

(b) The State Building Inspector shall prepare and conduct or approve continuing educational programs designed to train and assist building officials in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their office. Such educational programs shall be in addition to the program specified under subsection (a) of this section and shall consist of not less than ninety hours of training over consecutive three-year periods. Each building official shall attend such training programs and present proof of successful completion to the State Building Inspector. The State Building Inspector may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, revoke any license issued under the provisions of subsection

(a) of this section or any certificate issued prior to January 1, 1984, for failure on the part of any building official to present such proof.

(c) The fees for the educational programs of training required in subsections (a) and (b) of this section and the cost of textbooks for such programs shall be paid from the education fee assessed pursuant to section 29-263. Any person may participate in the educational programs specified under subsection (b) of this section at his own expense where space is available.

(d) The Codes and Standards Committee may suspend or revoke the license or certificate of any building official who fails to faithfully perform the duties of his office. No such building official may have his license or certificate suspended or revoked unless he has been given notice in writing of the specific grounds for such action and an opportunity to be heard in his own defense, personally or by counsel, at a hearing before the Codes and Standards Committee. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. Any such building official may appeal such suspension or revocation to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183. Said court shall review the record of such hearing and, if it appears upon the hearing on the appeal that testimony is necessary for an equitable disposition of the appeal, it may take evidence or appoint a referee or a committee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same to the court with his or its findings of fact, which report shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court shall be made. The court may affirm the action of the Codes and Standards Committee or may set the same aside if it finds that such committee acted illegally or in the abuse of its discretion.

(e) For purposes of indemnification of any building official against any losses, damages or liabilities arising out of the performance of his official duties, the building official shall be deemed to be acting for the municipality in which he was appointed.

(F) (NEW) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall promulgate a policy and adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, detailing process an procedures relative to the remote inspection of buildings utilizing remote electronic video communications and drone technologies.

Sec. . Section 29-263 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Building Inspections

(a) Except as provided in subsection (h) of section 29-252a and the State Building Code adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of section 29-252, after October 1, 1970, no building or structure shall be constructed or altered until an application has been filed by mail, in person or by electronic mail with the building official and a permit issued. Such permit shall be issued or refused, in whole or in part, within thirty days after the date of an application. No permit shall be issued except upon application of the owner of the premises affected or the owner's authorized agent. No permit shall be issued to a contractor who is required to be registered pursuant to chapter 400, for work to be performed by such contractor, unless the name, business address and Department of Consumer Protection registration number of such contractor is clearly marked on the application for the permit, and the contractor has presented such contractor's certificate of registration as a home improvement contractor. Prior to the issuance of a permit and within said thirty-day period, the building official shall review the plans of buildings or structures to be constructed or altered, including, but not limited to, plans prepared by an architect licensed pursuant to chapter 390, a professional engineer licensed pursuant to chapter 391 or an interior designer registered pursuant to chapter 396a acting within the scope of such license or registration, to determine their compliance with the requirements of the State Building Code and, where applicable, the local fire marshal shall review such plans to determine their compliance with the Fire Safety Code. Such plans submitted for review shall be in substantial compliance with the provisions of the State Building Code and, where applicable, with the provisions of the Fire Safety Code.

(b) On and after July 1, 1999, the building official shall assess an education fee on each building permit application. During the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, the amount of such fee shall be sixteen cents per one thousand dollars of construction value as declared on the building permit application and the building official shall remit such fees quarterly to the Department of Administrative Services, for deposit in the General Fund. Upon deposit in the General Fund, the amount of such fees shall be credited to the appropriation to the Department of Administrative Services and shall be used for the code training and educational programs established pursuant to section 29-251c and the educational programs required in subsections (a) and (b) of section 29-262. On and after July 1, 2000, the assessment shall be made in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 29-251c. All fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be maintained in a separate account by the local building department. During the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, the local building department may retain two per cent of such fees for administrative costs incurred in collecting such fees and maintaining such account. On and after July 1, 2000, the portion of such fees which may be retained by a local building department shall be determined in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 29-251c. No building official shall assess such education fee on a building permit application to repair or replace a concrete foundation that has deteriorated due to the presence of pyrrhotite.

(c) Any municipality may, by ordinance adopted by its legislative body, exempt Class I renewable energy source projects from payment of building permit fees imposed by the municipality.

(d) Notwithstanding any municipal charter, home rule ordinance or special act, no municipality shall collect an application fee on a building permit application to repair or replace a concrete foundation that has deteriorated due to the presence of pyrrhotite.

Sec. . Section 29-264 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Building Official

The State Building Inspector may, upon application by a builder setting forth that a set of plans and specifications will be utilized in more than one municipality to acquire building permits, review and approve any set of plans and specifications for the construction or erection of any building or structure designed to provide dwelling space for not more than two families if such set of plans and specifications meet the requirements of the State Building Code. Any building official shall issue a building permit upon application by mail, in person or by electronic mail by a builder and presentation to him of such a set of plans and specifications bearing the approval of the State Building Inspector if all other local ordinances are complied with.

Sec. . Section 29-266 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Building Official

(a) A board of appeals shall be appointed by each municipality. Such board shall consist of five members, all of whom shall meet the qualifications set forth in the State Building Code. A member of a board of appeals of one municipality may also be a member of the board of appeals of another municipality.

(b) When the building official rejects or refuses to approve the mode or manner of construction proposed to be followed or the materials to be used in the erection or alteration of a building or structure, or when it is claimed that the provisions of the code do not apply or that an equally good or more desirable form of construction can be employed in a specific case, or when it is claimed that the true intent and meaning of the code and regulations have

been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted, or when the building official issues a written order under subsection (c) of section 29-261, the owner of such building or structure, whether already erected or to be erected, or his authorized agent may appeal in writing, which may be done by electronic mail, from the decision of the building official to the board of appeals. When a person other than such owner claims to be aggrieved by any decision of the building official, such person or his authorized agent may appeal, in writing , which may be done by electronic mail, from the decision of the building official to the board of appeals, and before determining the merits of such appeal the board of appeals shall first determine whether such person has a right to appeal. Upon receipt of an appeal from an owner or his representative or approval of an appeal by a person other than the owner, the chairman of the board of appeals shall appoint a panel of not less than three members of such board to hear such appeal. Such appeal shall be heard in the municipality for which the building official serves within five days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, after the date of receipt of such appeal. Such panel shall render a decision upon the appeal and file the same with the building official from whom such appeal has been taken not later than five days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, following the day of the hearing thereon. A copy of such decision shall be mailed, prior to such filing, to the party taking such appeal. Any person aggrieved by the decision of a panel may appeal to the Codes and Standards Committee within fourteen days after the filing of the decision with the building official. Any determination made by the local panel shall be subject to review de novo by said committee.

(c) If, at the time that a building official makes a decision under subsection (b) of this section, there is no board of appeals for the municipality in which the building official serves, a person who claims to be aggrieved by such decision may submit an appeal, in writing, which may be done by electronic mail, to the chief executive officer of such municipality. If, within five days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, after the date of receipt of such appeal by such officer, the municipality fails to appoint a board of appeals from among either its own residents or residents of other municipalities, such officer shall file a notice of such failure with the building official from whom the appeal has been taken and, prior to such filing, mail a copy of the notice to the person taking the appeal. Such person may appeal the decision of the building official to the Codes and Standards Committee within fourteen days after the filing of such notice with the building official. If the municipality succeeds in appointing a board of appeals, the chief executive officer of the municipality shall immediately transmit the written appeal to such board, which shall review the appeal in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Any person aggrieved by any ruling of the Codes and Standards Committee may appeal to the superior court for the judicial district where such building or structure has been or is being erected.

Sec. . Section 38a-477aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Out-of-Network Care

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Emergency condition” has the same meaning as “emergency medical condition”, as provided in section 38a-591a;

(2) “Pandemic health care emergency” means declaration by the governor of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak;

([2] 3) “Emergency services” means, with respect to an emergency condition, (A) a medical screening examination as required under Section 1867 of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time, that is within the capability of a hospital emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to such department to evaluate such condition, and (B) such further medical examinations and treatment required under said Section 1867 to stabilize such individual, that are within the capability of the hospital staff and facilities;

([3] 4) "Health care plan" means an individual or a group health insurance policy or health benefit plan that provides coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469;

([4] 5) "Health care provider" means an individual licensed to provide health care services under chapters 370 to 373, inclusive, chapters 375 to 383b, inclusive, and chapters 384a to 384c, inclusive;

([5] 6) "Health carrier" means an insurance company, health care center, hospital service corporation, medical service corporation, fraternal benefit society or other entity that delivers, issues for delivery, renews, amends or continues a health care plan in this state;

([6] 7) (A) "Surprise bill" means a bill for health care services, other than emergency services, received by an insured for services rendered by an out-of-network health care provider, where such services were rendered by such out-of-network provider at an in-network facility, during a service or procedure performed by an in-network provider or during a service or procedure previously approved or authorized by the health carrier and the insured did not knowingly elect to obtain such services from such out-of-network provider.

(B) "Surprise bill" does not include a bill for health care services received by an insured when an in-network health care provider was available to render such services and the insured knowingly elected to obtain such services from another health care provider who was out-of-network.

(b) (1) No health carrier shall require prior authorization for rendering emergency services or those as a result of the pandemic health care emergency to an insured.

(2) No health carrier shall impose, for emergency services or those as a result of the pandemic health care emergency rendered to an insured by an out-of-network health care provider, a coinsurance, copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense that is greater than the coinsurance, copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense that would be imposed if such emergency services or those as a result of the pandemic health care emergency were rendered by an in-network health care provider.

(3) (A) If emergency services or those as a result of the pandemic health care emergency were rendered to an insured by an out-of-network health care provider, such health care provider may bill the health carrier directly and the health carrier shall reimburse such health care provider the greatest of the following amounts: (i) The amount the insured's health care plan would pay for such services if rendered by an in-network health care provider; (ii) the usual, customary and reasonable rate for such services; or (iii) the amount Medicare would reimburse for such services. As used in this subparagraph, "usual, customary and reasonable rate" means the eightieth percentile of all charges for the particular health care service performed by a health care provider in the same or similar specialty and provided in the same geographical area, as reported in a benchmarking database maintained by a nonprofit organization specified by the Insurance Commissioner. Such organization shall not be affiliated with any health carrier.

(B) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit such health carrier and out-of-network health care provider from agreeing to a greater reimbursement amount.

(c) With respect to a surprise bill:

(1) An insured shall only be required to pay the applicable coinsurance, copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense that would be imposed for such health care services if such services were rendered by an in-network health care provider; and

(2) A health carrier shall reimburse the out-of-network health care provider or insured, as applicable, for health care services rendered at the in-network rate under the insured's health care plan as payment in full, unless such health carrier and health care provider agree otherwise.

(d) If health care services were rendered to an insured by an out-of-network health care provider and the health carrier failed to inform such insured, if such insured was required to be informed, of the network status of such health care provider pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 38a-591b, the health carrier shall not impose a coinsurance, copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense that is greater than the coinsurance, copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense that would be imposed if such services were rendered by an in-network health care provider.

Sec. . Section 46b-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Marriage License Change in Terms of Where Made

(a) Except as provided in section 46b-28a, no persons may be joined in marriage in this state until both have complied with the provisions of this section, sections 46b-20a, 46b-25 and 46b-29 to 46b-33, inclusive, and have been issued a license by [the] a registrar [for the town in which the marriage is to be celebrated], which license shall bear the certification of the registrar that the persons named therein have complied with the provisions of said sections.

(b) Such license, when certified by the registrar, is sufficient authority for any person authorized to perform a marriage ceremony in this state to join such persons in marriage, provided the ceremony is performed within a period of not more than sixty-five days after the date of application.

(c) Anyone who joins any persons in marriage without having received such license from them shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in order to be valid in this state, a marriage ceremony shall be conducted by and in the physical presence of a person who is authorized to solemnize marriages.

Sec. . Section 46b-24a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Electronic Mail Option

(a) No license may be issued by the registrar until both persons have appeared before or while connected to electronic communication to the registrar and made application for a license. The registrar shall issue a license to any two persons eligible to marry under this chapter. The license shall be completed either in person or while connected to electronic communication in its entirety, dated, signed and sworn to by each applicant and shall state each applicant's name, age, race, birthplace, residence, whether single, widowed or divorced and whether under the supervision or control of a conservator or guardian. The Social Security numbers of both persons shall be recorded in the “administrative purposes” section of the license. If the license is signed and sworn to by the applicants on different dates, the later date shall be deemed the date of application.

(b) (NEW) All Remotely signed applications shall be accepted for recording by the registrar. The signatory must transmit by fax or electronic means a legible copy of the signed application directly to the registrar on the same date it was made or such application is voided.

Sec. . Section 46b-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Electronic Mail Option

(a) Each person who joins any person in marriage shall certify upon the license certificate the fact, time and place of the marriage, and return it in person, by mail or electronic means to the registrar of the town where the marriage took place, before or during the first week of the month following the marriage. Any person who fails to do so shall be fined not more than ten dollars.

(b) If any person fails to return the certificate to the registrar, as required under subsection (a) of this section, the persons joined in marriage may provide the registrar with a notarized affidavit attesting to the fact that they were joined in marriage and stating the date and place of the marriage. Upon the recording of such affidavit by the registrar, the marriage of the affiants shall be deemed to be valid as of the date of the marriage stated in the affidavit.

Sec. . Section 52-557b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Protects health care professionals and health care facilities, including nursing homes and field hospitals, from lawsuits for acts or omissions undertaken in good faith in support of the state's COVID-19 response. State statutes already provide similar protections for other first responders, including police, firefighters, and EMS.

(a) A person licensed to practice medicine and surgery under the provisions of chapter 370 or dentistry under the provisions of section 20-106 or members of the same professions licensed to practice in any other state of the United States, a person licensed as a registered nurse under section 20-93 or 20-94 or certified as a licensed practical nurse under section 20-96 or 20-97, a medical technician or any person operating a cardiopulmonary resuscitator or a person trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association, or a person operating an automatic external defibrillator, who, voluntarily and gratuitously and other than in the ordinary course of such person's employment or practice, renders emergency medical or professional assistance to a person in need thereof, health care professionals and health care facilities, including nursing homes and field hospitals shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering the emergency care, which may constitute ordinary negligence. A person or entity that provides or maintains an automatic external defibrillator shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of the person or entity in providing or maintaining the automatic external defibrillator, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence. With respect to the use of an automatic external defibrillator, the immunity provided in this subsection shall only apply to acts or omissions involving the use of an automatic external defibrillator in the rendering of emergency care. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to exempt paid or volunteer firefighters, police officers or emergency medical services personnel from completing training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or in the use of an automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association. For the purposes of this subsection, "automatic external defibrillator" means a device that: (1) Is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart; (2) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make medical diagnosis and, if necessary, apply therapy; (3) guides the user through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts; and (4) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment in its use.

(b) A paid or volunteer firefighter or police officer, a teacher or other school personnel on the school grounds or in the school building or at a school function, a member of a ski patrol, a lifeguard, a conservation officer, patrol officer or special police officer of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, or emergency medical service personnel, who has completed a course in first aid offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart

Association, the National Ski Patrol, the Department of Public Health or any director of health, as certified by the agency or director of health offering the course, and who renders emergency first aid to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering the emergency first aid, which may constitute ordinary negligence. No paid or volunteer firefighter, police officer or emergency medical service personnel who forcibly enters the residence of any person in order to render emergency first aid to a person whom such firefighter, police officer or emergency medical service personnel reasonably believes to be in need thereof shall be liable to such person for civil damages incurred as a result of such entry. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(c) An employee of a railroad company, including any company operating a commuter rail line, who has successfully completed a course in first aid, offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National Ski Patrol, the Department of Public Health or any director of health, as certified by the agency or director of health offering the course, and who renders emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injury or death which results from acts or omissions by such employee in rendering the emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(d) A railroad company, including any commuter rail line, which provides emergency medical training or equipment to any employee granted immunity pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall not be liable for civil damages for any injury sustained by a person or for the death of a person which results from the company's acts or omissions in providing such training or equipment or which results from acts or omissions by such employee in rendering emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(e) (1) For purposes of this subsection, “cartridge injector” means an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for emergency first aid response to allergic reactions.

(2) Any volunteer worker associated with, or any person employed to work for, a program offered to children sixteen years of age or younger by a corporation, other than a licensed health care provider, that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, who (A) has been trained in the use of a cartridge injector by a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse, (B) has obtained the consent of a parent or legal guardian to use a cartridge injector on his or her child, and (C) uses a cartridge injector on such child in apparent need thereof participating in such program, shall not be liable to such child assisted or to such child's parent or guardian for civil damages for any personal injury or death which results from acts or omissions by such worker in using a cartridge injector which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(3) A corporation, other than a licensed health care provider, that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, which provides training in the use of cartridge injectors to any volunteer worker granted immunity pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not be liable for civil damages for any injury sustained by, or for the death of, a child sixteen years of age or younger who is participating in a program offered by such corporation, which injury or death results from acts or omissions by such worker in using a cartridge injector, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(f) A teacher or other school personnel, on the school grounds or in the school building or at a school function, who has completed both a course in first aid in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and a course given by the medical advisor of the school or by a licensed physician in the administration of medication by injection, who renders emergency care by administration of medication by injection to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to the person assisted for civil damages for any injuries which result from acts or omissions by the person in rendering the emergency care of administration of medication by injection, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(g) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require any teacher or other school personnel to render emergency first aid or administer medication by injection.

(h) Any person who has completed a course in first aid offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National Ski Patrol, the Department of Public Health or any director of health, as certified by the agency or director of health offering the course, or has been trained in the use of a cartridge injector by a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse, and who, voluntarily and gratuitously and other than in the ordinary course of such person's employment or practice, renders emergency assistance by using a cartridge injector on another person in need thereof, or any person who is an identified staff member of a before or after school program, day camp or child care facility, as defined in section 19a-900, and who renders emergency assistance by using a cartridge injector on another person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in using a cartridge injector, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence. For the purposes of this subsection, “cartridge injector” has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section.

(i) A school bus driver, on or in the immediate vicinity of a school bus during the provision of school transportation services, who renders emergency care by administration of medication with a cartridge injector to a student in need thereof who has a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death, shall not be liable to the student assisted for civil damages for any injuries which result from acts or omissions by the school bus driver in rendering the emergency care of administration of medication with a cartridge injector, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence. For the purposes of this subsection, “cartridge injector” has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section.

(NEW) (i) A paid or volunteer firefighter, police officer or state, regional or municipal animal control officer or emergency medical service personnel who renders emergency medical assistance to any animal in need thereof, as determined by such firefighter, police officer, animal control officer or emergency medical service personnel, shall not be liable to the owner of such animal for civil damages for any injuries to or death of such animal which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering emergency medical assistance to such animal which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence.