



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 1055

LCO No. 3521



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND
DISABILITY SERVICES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-660 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services is authorized to
4 accept and use gifts, grants, reimbursements or bequests made
5 [unconditionally] by will or otherwise for carrying out the purposes of
6 the donor or of the general statutes concerning the Department of Aging
7 and Disability Services. Gifts, grants, reimbursements or bequests made
8 under such conditions as in the judgment of the Commissioner of Aging
9 and Disability Services are proper and consistent with the provisions of
10 [said sections] state and federal law may be so accepted and shall be
11 held, invested, reinvested and used in accordance with the conditions
12 of the gift, grant, reimbursement or bequest.

13 Sec. 2. Section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

15 (a) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall prepare
16 and maintain a register of persons who are blind in this state which shall
17 describe their condition, cause of blindness and capacity for education
18 and rehabilitative training. The commissioner may register cases of
19 persons who are liable to become visually impaired or blind, and may
20 take such measures in cooperation with other authorities as the
21 commissioner deems advisable for the prevention of blindness or
22 conservation of eyesight and, in appropriate cases, for the education of
23 children and for the vocational guidance of adults whose eyesight
24 approaches visual impairment or blindness. The commissioner shall
25 establish criteria for low vision care and maintain a list of
26 ophthalmologists and optometrists that are exclusively authorized to
27 receive agency funds through established and existing state fee
28 schedules for the delivery of specifically defined low vision services that
29 increase the capacity of eligible recipients of such services to maximize
30 the use of their remaining vision.

31 [(b) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services may accept
32 and receive any bequest or gift of money or personal property and,
33 subject to the consent of the Governor and Attorney General as provided
34 in section 4b-22, any devise or gift of real property made to the
35 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, and may hold and use
36 such money or property for the purposes, if any, specified in connection
37 with such bequest, devise or gift.]

38 [(c)] (b) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall
39 provide the Department of Motor Vehicles with the names of all
40 individuals sixteen years of age or older who, on or after October 1, 2005,
41 have been determined to be blind by a physician, an advanced practice
42 registered nurse or an optometrist, as provided in section 10-305. The
43 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall provide
44 simultaneous written notification to any individual whose name is
45 being transmitted by the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services
46 to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of Aging and
47 Disability Services shall update the list of names provided to the
48 Department of Motor Vehicles on a quarterly basis. The list shall also

49 contain the address and date of birth for each individual reported, as
50 shown on the records of the Department of Aging and Disability
51 Services. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall maintain such list on
52 a confidential basis, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-46d.
53 The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall enter into a
54 memorandum of understanding with the Commissioner of Motor
55 Vehicles to effectuate the purposes of this subsection.

56 Sec. 3. Section 17b-607 of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

58 (a) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services is authorized
59 to establish and administer [a fund] state financing activities as outlined
60 in the federal Assistive Technology Act of 2004, P.L. 108-364, as
61 amended from time to time. to be known as the Assistive Technology
62 [Revolving Fund. Said fund] Loan Program. The program shall be used
63 by [said] the commissioner to make and guarantee loans to persons with
64 disabilities, [senior citizens] older adults or the family members of
65 persons with disabilities or [senior citizens] older adults for the
66 purchase of assistive technology and adaptive equipment and services.
67 Each such loan shall be made for a term of not more than ten years. Any
68 loans made under this section [after July 1, 2013,] shall bear interest at a
69 fixed rate not to exceed six per cent. [Said] The commissioner is
70 authorized to expend any funds necessary for the reasonable direct
71 expenses relating to the administration of [said fund. Said] the program.
72 The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
73 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of this section.

74 (b) The State Bond Commission shall have power from time to time
75 to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series in
76 accordance with section 3-20 and in a principal amount necessary to
77 carry out the purposes of this section, but not in excess of an aggregate
78 amount of one million dollars. All of [said] the bonds shall (1) be payable
79 at such place or places as may be determined by the Treasurer pursuant
80 to section 3-19, [and shall] (2) bear such date or dates, (3) mature at such
81 time or times, not exceeding five years from their respective dates, (4)

82 bear interest at such rate or different or varying rates and payable at
83 such time or times, (5) be in such denominations, (6) be in such form
84 with or without interest coupons attached, (7) carry such registration
85 and transfer privileges, (8) be payable in such medium of payment, and
86 (9) be subject to such terms of redemption with or without premium as,
87 irrespective of the provisions of [said] section 3-20, may be provided by
88 the authorization of the State Bond Commission or fixed in accordance
89 therewith. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be deposited in
90 the Assistive Technology [Revolving Fund] Loan Program created by
91 this section. Such bonds shall be general obligations of the state and the
92 full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the
93 payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same
94 become due. Accordingly, and as part of the contract of the state with
95 the holders of such bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for
96 punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made and the
97 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.
98 Net earnings on investments or reinvestments of proceeds, accrued
99 interest and premiums on the issuance of such bonds, after payment
100 therefrom of expenses incurred by the Treasurer or State Bond
101 Commission in connection with their issuance, shall be deposited in the
102 General Fund of the state.

103 (c) The Connecticut Tech Act Project, within the Department of Aging
104 and Disability Services and as authorized by 29 USC 3001, as amended
105 from time to time, may provide assistive technology evaluation and
106 training services upon the request of any person or any public or private
107 entity, to the extent persons who provide assistive technology services
108 are available. The project may charge a fee to any person or entity
109 receiving such assistive technology evaluation and training services to
110 reimburse the department for its costs. The Commissioner of Aging and
111 Disability Services shall establish fees at reasonable rates that will cover
112 the department's direct and indirect costs.

113 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 9-20 of the general statutes is repealed
114 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

115 (c) The application for admission as an elector shall include a
116 statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an
117 attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (3)
118 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. Each
119 registrar of voters and town clerk shall maintain a copy of such
120 statement in braille, large print and audio form. The Department of
121 Aging and Disability Services shall, in consultation with the Secretary
122 of the State, produce [a videotape presenting] an accessible version of
123 such statement in voice and sign language and provide the [videotape]
124 accessible version to the Secretary of the State who shall make [copies of
125 the videotape and provide a copy] it available to the registrars of voters
126 of any municipality. [, upon request and at a cost equal to the cost of
127 making the copy.] If a person applies for admission as an elector in
128 person to an admitting official, such admitting official shall, upon the
129 request of the applicant, administer the elector's oath.

130 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 46a-28 of the general statutes is
131 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
132 *2021*):

133 (a) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
134 shall consist of: [the following sixteen members appointed by the
135 Governor:] (1) The consultant appointed by the State Board of Education
136 in accordance with section 10-316a, or the consultant's designee; (2) the
137 president of the Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf,
138 or the president's designee; (3) the president of the Connecticut
139 Association of the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the president of
140 the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or the president's
141 designee; (5) the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the
142 commissioner's designee; (6) the executive director of the American
143 School for the Deaf, or the executive director's designee; (7) [a parent of
144 a student in a predominantly oral education program] the Governor's
145 liaison to the disability community; (8) [a parent of a student at the
146 American School for the Deaf] the director of the Connecticut Chapter
147 of We the Deaf People and eight members appointed by the Governor;
148 (9) a person who is deaf; (10) a person who is hard of hearing; (11) a

149 person who is deaf and blind; (12) an interpreting professional who
 150 serves deaf or hard of hearing persons; (13) a healthcare professional
 151 who works with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; (14) [the
 152 Governor's liaison to the disability community] a parent of a student in
 153 a predominantly oral education program; (15) an educator who works
 154 with children who are deaf or hard of hearing; and (16) [the director of
 155 the Connecticut Chapter of We the Deaf People] a parent of a student at
 156 the American School for the Deaf. The Commissioner of Aging and
 157 Disability Services, the Governor's liaison to the disability community
 158 and a member chosen by the majority of the board shall be the
 159 chairpersons of the advisory board.

160 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 46a-29 of the general statutes is
 161 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 162 *2021*):

163 (a) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services may request
 164 and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau,
 165 commission or agency of the state or of any political subdivision thereof
 166 such assistance and data as will enable the Department of Aging and
 167 Disability Services to properly carry out its activities under sections 17b-
 168 650e and [46a-30] 46a-33 to 46a-33b, inclusive, and to effectuate the
 169 purposes therein set forth.

170 Sec. 7. Sections 17a-301b and 46a-30 of the general statutes are
 171 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-660
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-298
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-607
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	9-20(c)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	46a-28(a)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	46a-29(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To update statutes concerning the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]