



**Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut**



FACT SHEET
2020 Legislative Session

SENATE BILL 8
***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
GENERAL GOVERNMENT***

Summary of Proposal:

The proposal makes various changes to the statutes that are necessary to implement the Governor's budget. See below for description of specific changes.

Reason for Proposal:

To implement the Governor's budget.

Significant Impacts:

Sections 1-42 – Transfers the Office of School Construction, Grants, Review and Audit from the Department of Administrative Services to the Office of Policy and Management. Funding of \$1,628,989 for 16 staff and other expenses costs is reallocated in the budget to reflect this change.

Secs. 43-82, 101 – Create the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, housed within the Office of Policy and Management for administrative purposes only. The Office is responsible for unified state strategy, launching key initiatives, overseeing workforce data systems, supporting sector partnerships, and convening and aligning members of workforce ecosystem. To support the OWC, the budget allocates \$693,112 for the initiative. Funding is a new investment of \$310,000 and a reallocation of funding of 383,112 from the Departments of Labor and Economic and Community Development.

Sec. 43 – Creates the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) housed within the Office of Policy and Management, for administrative purposes only. The Office will be responsible for a unified state strategy, launching key initiatives, overseeing workforce data systems, supporting sector partnerships, and convening and aligning members of workforce ecosystem. This section broadens OWC's responsibilities to include a data-driven approach and greater coordination to strengthen the workforce development initiatives statewide.

To support the OWC, the budget allocates \$693,112 for the initiative. Funding includes a new investment of \$310,000 and two new positions as well as a reallocation of \$383,112 from the

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Departments of Labor (DOL) and Economic and Community Development (DECD). One position is also transferred from both DOL and DECD.

The OWC is currently located within the Department of Labor. In order to elevate the strategic focus of the entity and its responsibilities, **sections 44-82** realign the existing statutes to delineate responsibilities between the OWC and the Department of Labor. Additionally, the bill makes conforming changes for the CETC Commission, which was renamed the Governor's Workforce Council per Executive Order 4. **Section 101** repeals outdated and unnecessary statutes.

Sec. 83, 102 – Section 83 adds language that provides that any inmate payphone revenue remaining after any required transfer to the DOC pursuant to section 18-81x, be transferred to the DESPP to administer the CJIS. Section 102 repeals the language that provides the remaining inmate pay phone revenue, after required transfers to DOC and CJIS, be provided to Judicial for the probation transition program and technical violation units. The budget funds these units in Judicial using the General Fund.

Secs. 84-90 – Authorizes the Connecticut Lottery Corporation (CLC) to establish a program to sell tickets for lottery draw games through the corporation's Internet web site, online service or mobile application. This authorization also gives CLC the ability to promote said online lottery program through online advertising and by offering interactive lottery games online for promotional purposes and would also permit the use of credit cards to purchase lottery tickets. Section 88 increases CLC's revenue transfer to the chronic gambler's treatment rehabilitation account from \$2.3 million to \$2.4 million.

Sec. 91 – Modifies the greenhouse gas reduction fee to reflect the change in registrations from biennial to triennial.

Sec. 92 – Requires any over-collection of State Employees Retirement System funds be deposited to the retirement fund. Currently, over-collections of pension funding are deposited as General Fund revenue, while under-collections reduce available pension funding. This proposal would provide for consistent treatment of both over-collections and under-collections.

Sec. 93 – Allows state agencies to contract directly with other states. This change is recommended by the Attorney General's office.

Secs. 94-96 – Delays increasing the full-day rate for school readiness and child day center providers to \$9,027 by one year – from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

Sec. 97 – Provides clarification that the 50% reduction in the lump sum death benefit for members of the Teachers' Retirement System does not apply to current retirees or current teachers who were eligible to receive a retirement benefit prior to July 1, 2019.

Secs. 98-99 – Modifies the enabling legislation for the Connecticut Retirement Security Authority to eliminate the requirement that the board appoint an executive director who reports to the

board, and authorizes the Office of the State Comptroller to provide administrative support to the authority. **Section 99** specifies that any costs of such support by the Comptroller shall be reimbursed from any revenues collected under the retirement security program.

Sec. 100 – Sets aside \$30 million in the debt limit for tax exempt leases for improvements in state buildings that reduce energy consumption or environmental impacts.