

General Assembly
Raised Bill No. ____
January Session, 2027
LCO No. ____
Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL TREATMENT OF CANNABIS

WORKING DRAFT · NOT INTRODUCED

This is a working draft of proposed legislation prepared by the Connecticut Cannabis Reform Project. It is an idea for a bill, not a bill. It has not been introduced in the Connecticut General Assembly, has not been drafted or reviewed by the Legislative Commissioners' Office, has no sponsor, and has no official status of any kind. It is published so the proposal can be read and checked before the 2027 session. Statutory references are to the Connecticut General Statutes as amended by the public acts of the 2026 regular session. The research annotation at the end states the authority for each provision.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) Section 21a-267 of the general statutes no longer penalizes the use or possession of drug paraphernalia associated with cannabis, and the title of said section now reads, in relevant part, “associated with a controlled substance other than cannabis”;
- (2) Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-277 of the general statutes expressly excludes cannabis, and subdivision (3) of said subsection provides that “cannabis” has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-240, while subsection (c) of the same section contains no such exclusion;
- (3) Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (20) of section 21a-240 of the general statutes defines drug paraphernalia to include equipment, products and materials used, intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing or concealing a controlled substance;
- (4) Subparagraph (B) of said subdivision defines a factory to include any building, rooms or location which contains equipment or paraphernalia used for such purposes, with the result that a residence containing a scale, packaging material or cultivation equipment associated with cannabis falls within the definition;
- (5) The phrase “drug factory situation,” as used in subsection (c) of section 21a-277, is not defined in subdivision (20) of section 21a-240 or elsewhere in chapter 420b;
- (6) Subsection (d) of section 21a-277 provides an alternative sentence for violations of subsections (a) and (b) of said section only, and no penalty is expressly provided in said section for a violation of subsection (c); subsection (c) of section 21a-255 provides that any person who violates any provision of sections 21a-243 to 21a-282, inclusive, for which no penalty is expressly provided may, for a first offense, be fined not more than three thousand five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than two years, or both, and shall, for any subsequent offense, be guilty of a class C felony;

(7) Subsection (e) of section 21a-243 of the general statutes directs the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to classify cannabis as a controlled substance in schedule II, and cannabis therefore remains a controlled substance for purposes of subdivision (9) of section 21a-240 and subsection (c) of section 21a-277;

(8) Subsection (b) of section 21a-278b of the general statutes makes the unlicensed manufacture, sale or possession with intent to sell of eight ounces or more of cannabis a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and a class A misdemeanor for any subsequent offense, without regard to quantity, while subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-278 reaches the same conduct involving one kilogram or more of a cannabis-type substance, for which subdivision (2) of said subsection imposes a term of not less than five years nor more than twenty years, the execution of the mandatory minimum portion of which may not be suspended except in the circumstances stated therein; the result is that conduct involving one ounce more than one kilogram, approximately two and two-tenths pounds, is subject to a five-year mandatory minimum term while the same conduct involving one ounce less is subject to a maximum term of six months;

(9) Subsections (a) and (b) of section 21a-278a of the general statutes impose non-suspendable terms of imprisonment, consecutive to any other term, on any person who violates section 21a-277 or 21a-278;

(10) Subsection (a) of section 21a-279a of the general statutes excludes from a person's personal possession limit cannabis plant material derived from plants cultivated in accordance with section 21a-278c, with the result that a person cultivating any number of plants in excess of an authorized limit loses that exclusion entirely and becomes liable under subsection (d) or (e) of said section for the whole of the resulting harvest; and

(11) Cannabis remains subject to comprehensive civil, administrative and injunctive regulation, including the remedies provided in section 21a-420c, and this act neither authorizes nor legalizes any conduct that is unlawful on its effective date; and

(12) It is the policy of the state that criminal penalties for conduct involving cannabis be internally consistent, be proportionate to the conduct involved, operate consistently with the regulatory framework established by chapters 420b, 420f and 420h, and be meaningfully differentiated from penalties for conduct involving violence, weapons, persons under twenty-one years of age, or controlled substances other than cannabis. The provisions amended by this act now operate inconsistently with other portions of that framework.

Sec. 2. (Effective October 1, 2027) Subsection (c) of section 21a-277 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof, and new subsections (e) and (f) are added:

(c) No person may knowingly possess drug paraphernalia in a drug factory situation as defined by subdivision (20) of section 21a-240 for the unlawful mixing, compounding or otherwise preparing any controlled substance OTHER THAN CANNABIS for purposes of violation of this chapter.

(e) FOR PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (c) OF THIS SECTION, "CANNABIS" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 21a-240.

(f) NO PERSON SHALL BE ARRESTED FOR, CHARGED WITH OR CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (c) OF THIS SECTION ON THE BASIS OF, IN WHOLE OR IN PART: (1) ANY QUANTITY OF CANNABIS OR CANNABIS PLANT MATERIAL; (2) ANY SCALE, BALANCE, BAG, JAR, CONTAINER, PACKAGING OR LABELING MATERIAL, HEAT SEALER, GRINDER, TRIMMING IMPLEMENT, LIGHT, LAMP, BALLAST, FAN, FILTER, TENT, POT, TRAY, NUTRIENT, GROWING MEDIUM OR OTHER EQUIPMENT, PRODUCT OR MATERIAL USED, INTENDED FOR USE OR DESIGNED FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH CANNABIS; (3) ANY UNITED STATES CURRENCY FOUND IN THE PRESENCE OF

ANY ITEM DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; OR (4) ANY COMBINATION OF THE FOREGOING.

NO BUILDING, ROOM, LOCATION OR VEHICLE SHALL CONSTITUTE A FACTORY, AS DEFINED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION (20) OF SECTION 21a-240, OR A DRUG FACTORY SITUATION, BY REASON OF THE PRESENCE OF ANY ITEM DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION.

EVIDENCE OF ANY ITEM DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT BE ADMISSIBLE IN ANY PROSECUTION UNDER SUBSECTION (c) OF THIS SECTION. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL RENDER ANY EVIDENCE INADMISSIBLE IN ANY OTHER PROCEEDING, OR AFFECT THE APPLICATION OF SUBSECTION (c) OF THIS SECTION TO ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN CANNABIS.

Sec. 3. (Effective October 1, 2027) Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-278 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(b)(1) No person may manufacture, distribute, sell, prescribe, dispense, compound, transport with the intent to sell or dispense, possess with the intent to sell or dispense, offer, give or administer to another person, except as authorized in this chapter or chapter 420f, (A) a narcotic substance, (B) a hallucinogenic substance, OR (C) an amphetamine-type substance [, or (D) one kilogram or more of a cannabis-type substance]. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to a person who is, at the time of the commission of the offense, a drug-dependent person.

Sec. 4. (Effective October 1, 2027) Section 21a-278a of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (c) as follows:

(c) NO TERM OF IMPRISONMENT SHALL BE IMPOSED UNDER SUBSECTION (a) OR (b) OF THIS SECTION WHERE CANNABIS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 21a-240, IS THE ONLY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE INVOLVED IN THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 21a-277 OR 21a-278 UPON WHICH SUCH TERM WOULD BE PREDICATED.

Sec. 5. (Effective October 1, 2027) Subsection (b) of section 21a-278b of the general statutes, which presently provides a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and a class A misdemeanor for any subsequent offense without regard to quantity, is repealed and the following graduated structure is substituted in lieu thereof, and a new subsection (e) is added:

(b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (c) or (d) of this section, any person eighteen years of age or older who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of:

(A) Where the amount involved is eight ounces or more but less than two pounds of cannabis plant material, as defined in section 21a-279a, or an equivalent amount of cannabis products or a combination thereof, (i) for a first offense, a class B misdemeanor, and (ii) for any subsequent offense, a class A misdemeanor;

(B) Where the amount involved is two pounds or more but less than ten pounds, or an equivalent amount, (i) for a first offense, a class A misdemeanor, and (ii) for any subsequent offense, a class D felony;

(C) Where the amount involved is ten pounds or more, or an equivalent amount, (i) for a first offense, a class D felony, and (ii) for any subsequent offense, a class C felony.

(2) Any person under eighteen years of age who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be adjudicated delinquent pursuant to the provisions of section 46b-120.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, equivalent amounts shall be calculated as provided in subsection (i) of section 21a-279a.

(e) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTIONS 53a-35a AND 53a-36, NO SENTENCE IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE ANY MANDATORY MINIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT, AND THE COURT MAY IMPOSE ANY TERM PERMITTED FOR THE APPLICABLE CLASS OF OFFENSE WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY MINIMUM TERM SPECIFIED IN SAID SECTIONS. THE COURT MAY SUSPEND THE EXECUTION OF ANY SENTENCE IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

THERE SHALL BE A PRESUMPTION AGAINST A SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION FOR ANY VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION. THE COURT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION UNLESS AN AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE HAS BEEN ALLEGED AND DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF THIS ACT, AND THE COURT STATES ON THE RECORD ITS REASONS FOR THE SENTENCE IMPOSED.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2027) Cultivation in excess of authorized limits.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Applicable limit” means the maximum number of mature cannabis plants and the maximum number of immature cannabis plants that such person is lawfully authorized to cultivate at such person’s primary residence at the time of the conduct, under any provision of the general statutes, and, where more than one person lawfully authorized to cultivate cannabis plants resides at such primary residence, the maximum number of cannabis plants that may lawfully be grown per household at such residence at the time of the conduct;

(2) “Plants in excess of the applicable limit” means the sum of (A) the number of mature cannabis plants exceeding the applicable limit for mature plants, and (B) the number of immature cannabis plants exceeding the applicable limit for immature plants;

(3) A cannabis seedling or clone shall be counted as one immature cannabis plant; and

(4) Cannabis harvested from a cannabis plant shall not be counted as a cannabis plant.

(b) Any person twenty-one years of age or older who cultivates cannabis plants at such person’s primary residence in excess of the applicable limit, but who otherwise complies with the requirement that such plants be secure from access by any individual other than the cultivator, a resident of such primary residence, or any other individual permitted access to such plants by the provision of the general statutes under which such person is authorized to cultivate them, shall be subject to the following:

Plants in excess of the applicable limit	Penalty
Not more than six	Civil penalty: \$250 first violation; \$500 second; \$1,000 third or subsequent
Seven to twelve	Civil penalty: \$1,000 first violation; \$2,000 subsequent
Thirteen to twenty-four	Class C misdemeanor
Twenty-five to forty-eight	Class B misdemeanor
More than forty-eight	Class A misdemeanor

(c) A CIVIL PENALTY UNDER SUBSECTION (b) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A CRIMINAL CONVICTION, SHALL NOT BE REPORTED AS A CRIMINAL CONVICTION, AND SHALL NOT SUPPORT AN ARREST.

(d) A PERSON SUBJECT TO A PENALTY UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL NOT, WITH RESPECT TO THE SAME CANNABIS PLANTS, ALSO BE CHARGED UNDER SECTION 21a-277, 21a-278 OR 21a-278b, OR UNDER SUBSECTION (d) OR (e) OF SECTION 21a-279a, SOLELY BY REASON OF THE NUMBER OF CANNABIS PLANTS CULTIVATED. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL LIMIT ANY CHARGE SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE INDEPENDENT OF THE NUMBER OF PLANTS CULTIVATED, INCLUDING EVIDENCE OF MANUFACTURE, SALE, OFFER FOR SALE, OR POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO SELL OR DISPENSE, OR ANY CHARGE INVOLVING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN CANNABIS. NO RULE OF EVIDENCE IS ESTABLISHED BY THIS SUBSECTION.

(e) THE PRESUMPTION AGAINST INCARCERATION IN SUBSECTION (e) OF SECTION 21a-278b SHALL APPLY TO ANY OFFENSE UNDER THIS SECTION.

(f) Any person who attests to indigency may, in lieu of paying a civil penalty under this section, complete community service as provided in subsection (h) of section 21a-279a.

(g) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (a) OF SECTION 21a-279a, CANNABIS PLANT MATERIAL DERIVED FROM A CANNABIS PLANT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH A PERSON IS SUBJECT TO A PENALTY UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE COUNTED TOWARD SUCH PERSON'S PERSONAL POSSESSION LIMIT UNDER SAID SECTION. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL AFFECT THE APPLICATION OF SECTION 21a-278b, OR OF ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, TO ANY PERSON WHO MANUFACTURES, SELLS, OFFERS FOR SALE, OR POSSESSES WITH INTENT TO SELL OR DISPENSE SUCH MATERIAL, AND THIS SUBSECTION CREATES NO EXEMPTION FROM ANY POSSESSION LIMIT WITH RESPECT TO CANNABIS OBTAINED FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

(h) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO INCREASE ANY LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF CANNABIS PLANTS A PERSON MAY LAWFULLY CULTIVATE, OR TO AUTHORIZE CULTIVATION AT ANY LOCATION NOT OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2027) Aggravating circumstances.

(a) For purposes of this act, an aggravating circumstance is present where the offense involved:

(1) The use, possession or threatened use of a firearm, as defined in section 53a-3, or a dangerous instrument, as defined in said section;

(2) The use or threatened use of physical force against another person;

(3) A controlled substance other than cannabis, under circumstances constituting a violation of section 21a-277 or 21a-278;

(4) The sale, transfer or offer of cannabis to a person under twenty-one years of age; or

(5) Employing, hiring, using, persuading, inducing, enticing or coercing a person under eighteen years of age; or

(6) The manufacture, sale, offer for sale, or possession with intent to sell or dispense of ten pounds or more of cannabis plant material, as defined in section 21a-279a, or an equivalent amount of cannabis products or a combination thereof as provided in subsection (i) of said section, WHERE SUCH OFFENSE ALSO INVOLVED AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: (A) A FIXED LOCATION OPEN TO, OR HELD OUT TO, THE

PUBLIC FOR THE SALE OF CANNABIS; (B) THE DIRECTION, EMPLOYMENT OR COMPENSATION OF TWO OR MORE OTHER PERSONS IN SUCH ACTIVITY; (C) CONTINUATION OR RESUMPTION OF SUCH ACTIVITY AFTER SERVICE UPON SUCH PERSON OF AN ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AN INJUNCTION, OR A JUDGMENT ENTERED UNDER SECTION 21a-420c OR CHAPTER 735a REQUIRING SUCH PERSON TO CEASE SUCH ACTIVITY; OR (D) THE TRANSPORTATION OF CANNABIS INTO OR OUT OF THIS STATE FOR SALE. QUANTITY ALONE SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE AN AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION.

(b) THE PRESENCE OF AN AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL NOT ALTER THE CLASSIFICATION OF ANY OFFENSE UNDER THIS ACT OR THE MAXIMUM TERM AUTHORIZED FOR SUCH OFFENSE.

(c) AN AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE SHALL BE ALLEGED IN A SEPARATE PART OF THE INFORMATION, WHICH SHALL BE FILED BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF TRIAL ON THE UNDERLYING OFFENSE AND SHALL SPECIFY THE SUBDIVISION OF SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION RELIED UPON AND ITS FACTUAL BASIS.

(d) IF THE DEFENDANT IS CONVICTED OF OR PLEADS GUILTY TO THE UNDERLYING OFFENSE, THE PRESENCE OF THE ALLEGED AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE JURY AND THE STATE SHALL BEAR THE BURDEN OF PROVING IT BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT, EXCEPT THAT THE COURT SHALL MAKE SUCH DETERMINATION WHERE THE DEFENDANT HAS WAIVED TRIAL BY JURY. A DEFENDANT MAY ADMIT THE AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE.

(e) NO SEPARATE DETERMINATION SHALL BE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (d) OF THIS SECTION WHERE THE FACT CONSTITUTING THE ALLEGED AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE WAS NECESSARILY DETERMINED BY THE TRIER OF FACT IN CONVICTING THE DEFENDANT OF THE UNDERLYING OFFENSE OR OF ANY OTHER COUNT TRIED THEREWITH.

(f) NO AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE NOT ALLEGED AND DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED FOR ANY PURPOSE UNDER THIS ACT.

(g) WHERE A PERSON IS CONVICTED UNDER SECTION 53a-8, 53a-48 OR 53a-49 AND THE OFFENSE THAT IS THE OBJECT OF SUCH CONVICTION IS A VIOLATION OF SECTION 21a-278b OR SECTION 6 OF THIS ACT, SUBSECTION (e) OF SECTION 21a-278b AND THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO THE SENTENCE IMPOSED TO THE SAME EXTENT AS IF SUCH PERSON HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF THE OBJECT OFFENSE.

Sec. 8. (Effective October 1, 2027) Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 54-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(1) All moneys used, or intended for use, in the procurement, manufacture, compounding, processing, delivery or distribution of any controlled substance, as defined in section 21a-240, OTHER THAN CANNABIS, AS DEFINED IN SAID SECTION, WHERE CANNABIS IS THE ONLY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE INVOLVED;

Sec. 9. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2027) Construction.

(a) THIS ACT DOES NOT AMEND ANY SECTION OF CHAPTER 420f OF THE GENERAL STATUTES.

(b) NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO ALTER ANY RIGHT, PRIVILEGE, IMMUNITY, LIMIT OR AUTHORIZATION ESTABLISHED UNDER SAID CHAPTER, THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CONSUMER PROTECTION THEREUNDER, OR THE NUMBER OF CANNABIS

PLANTS ANY PERSON MAY LAWFULLY CULTIVATE UNDER ANY PROVISION OF THE GENERAL STATUTES.

(c) NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO AUTHORIZE, PERMIT OR CREATE ANY RIGHT TO CULTIVATE, MANUFACTURE, SELL OR POSSESS CANNABIS OTHERWISE THAN AS PROVIDED BY LAW, OR TO LIMIT ANY CIVIL PENALTY, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, TAX LIABILITY OR ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTION OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW, INCLUDING THE REMEDIES PROVIDED IN SECTION 21a-420c.

Sec. 10. Effective dates and sections amended.

Section	Effective	Section amended
1	From passage	New section
2	October 1, 2027	21a-277(c), (e), (f)
3	October 1, 2027	21a-278(b)(1)
4	October 1, 2027	21a-278a
5	October 1, 2027	21a-278b(b), (e)
6	October 1, 2027	New section
7	October 1, 2027	New section
8	October 1, 2027	54-36h(a)(1)
9	October 1, 2027	New section
10	From passage	—

RESEARCH ANNOTATION

Provision	Authority
Findings (1)–(5)	§ 21a-267 title and text (June Sp. Sess. P.A. 21-1); § 21a-277(b)(1), (b)(3) as amended by PA 26-8 § 20; § 21a-240(20)(A), (B) as amended by PA 26-8 § 16 and PA 26-100 § 49
Finding (6)	§ 21a-277(d); § 21a-255(c) as added by P.A. 17-17 § 3; § 53a-35a.
Finding (7)	§ 21a-243(e) as amended by PA 26-8 § 17; § 21a-240(9)
Finding (8)	§ 21a-278b(b)(1) and (c), quoted verbatim: the section is flat, a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and class A for a subsequent one, with no quantity tiers and no felony. § 21a-278(b)(1)(D) and (b)(2) supply the five-to-twenty-year term with a non-suspendable minimum. Section 21a-278b contains no quantity ladder; the graduated structure in section 5 of this act is new law.
Findings (9)–(10)	§ 21a-278a(a), (b); § 21a-279a(a) final sentence
Finding (12)	Statement of legislative policy. No assertion is made about the intent behind any prior enactment.
Sec. 2(e)	PA 26-8 § 20 redirects § 21a-277(b)(3) to § 21a-240; using the same source in (e) avoids two definitions of one word in one section
Sec. 2(f)	Four independent bars: substantive exclusion, arrest bar, charge bar, evidentiary bar, each with savings language preserving the offense for all other controlled substances
Sec. 3	§ 21a-278(b)(1)(D); no 2026 act amends § 21a-278
Sec. 4	§ 21a-278a attaches to §§ 21a-277 and 21a-278, not § 21a-278b — verified against the section text
Sec. 5(e)	§ 53a-28(a) subordinates Title 53a sentencing to chapter 420b where inconsistent; §§ 53a-35a and 53a-36 each yield where the defining section specifically provides otherwise; § 53a-28(b)(9) already bars special parole for chapter 420b
Sec. 6(a)	§ 21a-278c and § 21a-408d(b) each impose a twelve-plant household cap without cross-reference and without defining “household”
Sec. 6(b)	§ 21a-408d(b) permits access by the patient or patient’s caregiver; DCP Policies and Procedures § 21a-421j-39(b) authorizes caregiver cultivation assistance
Sec. 6(d)	Anti-stacking. Stated as a charging rule rather than a rule of evidence, and expressly inapplicable to any charge supported by evidence independent of plant count.
Sec. 6(g)	§ 21a-279a(a) final sentence and § 21a-279a(e)(1) penalties. The rule is stated here as a notwithstanding clause rather than by amending § 21a-279a(a) directly, so that this act amends no statute the Cultivating Caregiver Act amends.
Sec. 7(a)(1)	§ 53a-3 as amended by PA 26-41 § 4 — “firearm” at subdiv. (19), “dangerous instrument” at subdiv. (7)

Provision	Authority
Sec. 7(a)(6)	Compound aggravator: ten pounds or more plus one objectively provable indicium of commercial organization. Quantity alone is expressly insufficient, so the quantity-only cliff removed by section 3 is not recreated.
Sec. 7(b)	Apprendi v. New Jersey, 530 U.S. 466, 481 (2000) — discretion within the statutory range is unaffected
Sec. 7(c), (d)	State v. Bell, 283 Conn. 748, 810, 812–13 (2007), read in full; State v. Velasco, 253 Conn. 210, 227–28 (2000); Blakely v. Washington, 542 U.S. 296, 303 and 305 n.8 (2004); Alleyne v. United States, 570 U.S. 99 (2013). Procedure modeled on the two-part information under § 53a-40.
Sec. 7(f)	§ 53a-8(a) (accessory punished as principal); § 53a-48(a); § 53a-49(a); § 53a-51 (grade of object offense); 264 Conn. 593 (object offense’s nonsuspendable minimum travels to a conspiracy conviction)
Sec. 8	§ 54-36h(a)(1) keys to “controlled substance, as defined in section 21a-240” with no violation requirement, unlike subdivs. (2)–(4), which are deliberately left unchanged

SEPARATION FROM THE CULTIVATING CAREGIVER ACT

The Cultivating Caregiver Act amends sections 21a-408b, 21a-408d(b), 21a-408m(b)(4), 21a-408p, 21a-420p(f) and 21a-279a(a). This act amends sections 21a-277, 21a-278, 21a-278a, 21a-278b and 54-36h(a)(1). There is no overlap. The rule concerning section 21a-279a(a) is stated inside section 6 of this act as a notwithstanding clause rather than by amending that section, which the Cultivating Caregiver Act also amends. This act names no section of chapter 420f except in text reproduced verbatim from the statute being amended, and uses no term defined only in that chapter. Neither act depends on the other and neither alters the operation of the other.

COMPLETE 2026 SESSION CHECK

All one hundred fifty-one public acts and thirty-four special acts of the 2026 regular session were downloaded from cga.ct.gov and their operative text searched against forty statutes used by this bill. Twenty-eight acts reference one of those statutes; four amend one.

Act	Effect on a statute used by this bill
PA 26-8 (sHB 5350)	§§ 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 37, 47, 78, 79 — 21a-243, 21a-277(b)(3), 21a-279, 21a-279a, 21a-408, 21a-408a, 21a-408b, 21a-408m, 21a-420, 21a-421j
PA 26-41 (HB 5043)	§ 4 — repeals and re-enacts 53a-3 entire, eff. Oct. 1, 2026. “Dangerous instrument” at subdiv. (7) materially unchanged.
PA 26-82 (SB 296)	§ 1 — 42-110d
PA 26-100 (HB 5222)	§ 49 — further amends 21a-240(29), the definition of cannabis, as already amended by PA 26-8 § 16, striking the exclusion for minor cannabinoids derived from hemp. § 54 — further amends 21a-421j, preserving the July 1, 2028 policy sunset.

No 2026 act amends sections 21a-255, 21a-267, 21a-277(c), 21a-278, 21a-278a, 21a-278b, 21a-278c, 53a-35a, 53a-36, 53a-39, 53a-40, 53a-48, 53a-49, 53a-51 or 54-36h.

Prepared August 15, 2026 by the Connecticut Cannabis Reform Project and published as a working draft. This is a proposal, not a bill. It has not been introduced in the General Assembly, has no sponsor, and has no official status. This document is advocacy and policy analysis, not legal advice, and its author is not an attorney. Statutory citations were verified against the Connecticut General Assembly at cga.ct.gov and against the enacted text of the 2026 public acts on August 15, 2026.