



## NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022

### **SALES TAX EXEMPTION**

PA 22-118, Sec. 430, restores the sales tax exemption for goods and services purchased by private water companies. *Applicable to the purchase of goods and services occurring on or after 7/1/22.*

### **LEGIONELLA WORKING GROUP**

PA 22-58, Sec. 62, provides that not later than July 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health (DPH) must convene a working group of representatives of hospitals, nursing homes and water companies for the purpose of identifying issues, evaluating data, determining appropriate action timelines and developing solutions regarding the prevention and mitigation of legionella in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. By December 21, 2022, DPH must report to the General Assembly on the efforts of the working group and its recommendations for legislation, regulations or other changes concerning the prevention and mitigation of legionella in hospitals, nursing homes, and health care facilities.

### **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES**

PA 22-118, Sec. 68, establishes the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species within the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Among other things, the office is responsible for coordinating research efforts for aquatic invasive species control and eradication in the state and advising municipalities on aquatic invasive species

management. PA 22-118, the budget, includes \$300,000 for three positions to support this new office.

### **ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD**

PA 22-105 adds two representatives of water companies to the Low Income Energy Advisory Board, which oversees energy assistance programs, including the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. The representatives must be designated by CWNA.

### **CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS**

PA 22-24 generally prohibits employers, including the state and its political subdivisions, from disciplining or discharging an employee or threatening to do so because the employee refused to attend employer-sponsored meetings, listen to speech, or view communications primarily intended to convey the employer's opinion about religious or political matters. The prohibition covers meetings with the employer or its agent, representative, or a designee. Current law prohibits employers from penalizing employees for exercising their First Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution or similar rights under the Connecticut Constitution. The act expands the law to also prohibit employers from threatening to penalize employees for exercising these rights. The act makes certain exceptions to both its prohibition on penalizing employees for refusing to attend captive audience meetings and current



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law's prohibition on penalizing employees for exercising their constitutional rights. For example, employers may communicate information required by law or that employees need to perform their jobs. The act also limits an employer's liability for violating these requirements to lost wages or compensation, with no punitive damages.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE OF ROAD PROJECTS**

By December 1, 2022, PA 22-118, Sec. 462(a), requires each municipality to submit a letter to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) indicating whether the municipality: 1) provides advanced notice to gas, water, or other utility companies of any impending road project involving paving, repaving, or grading of a street or road that include any utility infrastructure (including maintenance hole covers, sewer grates, and utility service grates) that could impede the safe operation of vehicles; and 2) performs a final inspection and approval of the project. By December 1, 2022, PA 22-118, Sec. 462(b), requires each utility company whose infrastructure is situated so that it may be impacted by road paving, repaving, or grading to submit to OPM a description of the company's experience with advance project notice from each municipality whose project may impact that company's infrastructure.