



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 5394***

LCO No. 1934



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:  
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF  
THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF HARTFORD COUNTY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 8 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as  
2 amended by section 3 of special act 83-31, section 1 of special act 99-12  
3 and section 3 of special act 14-21, is amended to read as follows (*Effective*  
4 *July 1, 2024*):

5 Said board, either directly or under committees consisting of one or  
6 more members of said board, shall organize bureaus for the convenient  
7 carrying into effect of the several functions herein committed to said  
8 board and may define the powers and duties of such bureaus and  
9 delegate to them such powers and duties by ordinance, by-law or  
10 otherwise as may, in the judgment of the board, be necessary for the  
11 convenient operation of the same. No member of the board shall receive  
12 any pay for his or her services as such member or as a member of a sub-  
13 committee of the board except that a reasonable sum may annually be  
14 appropriated for the actual expenses of said board. The board may, by  
15 ordinance, by-law or otherwise, fix the salaries and define the duties of

16 all officers and employees or may delegate the fixing of salaries of  
17 employees and assignment of duties of employees to sub-committees or  
18 bureau managers. The chairman and vice-chairman of said district and  
19 of all sub-committees, bureaus, boards and commissions appointed by  
20 the district board shall, unless otherwise provided in the appointment  
21 or [herein] in this section, hold office until the end of the fiscal year of  
22 their appointment and thereafter shall be appointed for terms of two  
23 years and until their successors shall be appointed and shall have  
24 qualified. The members of all sub-committees, bureaus, boards and  
25 commissions appointed by the district board shall, unless otherwise  
26 provided in the appointment or [herein] in this section, hold such  
27 membership until the end of the fiscal year of their appointment and  
28 thereafter shall hold membership for terms of two years and until their  
29 successors shall be appointed and shall have qualified. The managers of  
30 the water bureau and of the bureau of public works and such others of  
31 the officers as by the district board shall be especially so designated shall  
32 hold office during good behavior and shall be removed only for cause.  
33 All other officers and employees may be removed at any time by the  
34 district board at pleasure. All vacancies may be filled by the district  
35 board. Said district board [shall have power to] may fill any vacancy  
36 occurring in its number for the unexpired portion of the term and,  
37 except as otherwise expressly provided, shall act in all cases by a  
38 majority of those present at any regular or special meeting, duly  
39 warned. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum and the time,  
40 place and manner of calling meetings and the holding thereof, including  
41 the manner of dissolving tie votes, shall be prescribed by said board by  
42 by-law or otherwise. The district board shall be the final judge of the  
43 election returns and validity of elections and qualifications of its  
44 members and shall decide all tie votes in elections. Except as hereinafter  
45 provided, the district board shall have power to authorize the sale,  
46 transfer and conveyance of real and personal estate belonging to the  
47 district, and shall provide by by-law or otherwise for the form and  
48 manner of execution of the documents and instruments convenient  
49 therefor. The Auditors of Public Accounts, established under chapter 23  
50 of the general statutes, shall audit the district accounts annually in

51 accordance with the provisions of said chapter. The district board [shall  
52 make provision for the proper auditing of the district accounts and] may  
53 cause any officer to execute bonds to the district with surety to the  
54 acceptance of the district board for the faithful performance of duties.  
55 The district board shall post the current budget of the district in a  
56 conspicuous location on the district's Internet web site.

57 Sec. 2. Section 8 of special act 14-21 is amended to read as follows  
58 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

59 The [Metropolitan District Commission] Auditors of Public Accounts  
60 shall, annually, submit a copy of the audit prepared pursuant to  
61 [chapter 111 of the general statutes] section 8 of number 511 of the  
62 special acts of 1929, as amended by section 3 of special act 83-31, section  
63 1 of special act 99-1, section 3 of special act 14-21 and this act, to the  
64 Office of Fiscal Analysis.

65 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 4 of special act 90-27, as amended by  
66 section 6 of public act 93-380 and section 9 of special act 14-21, is  
67 amended to read as follows (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

68 (a) The Metropolitan District in Hartford County created pursuant to  
69 number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as amended, may issue bonds or  
70 other obligations, or may enter into leases of real or personal property  
71 or any interest [therein] in such property, from time to time for the  
72 purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of designing, acquiring,  
73 purchasing, constructing, reconstructing, improving, extending,  
74 financing, refinancing, operating or managing any facility, system,  
75 program or equipment necessary or desirable in connection with  
76 carrying out any of its authorized purposes, including payment of  
77 expenses of administration properly chargeable thereto, including,  
78 without limitation, legal, architectural and engineering expenses and  
79 fees, [and costs of audits,] and payment of costs, fees and expenses  
80 which the district board may deem necessary or advantageous in  
81 connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of bonds or notes  
82 or other obligations, including but not limited to, underwriters' discount

83 and payment of all other items of expense incurred in connection  
84 therewith. The district may issue such types of bonds or other  
85 obligations as the district board by resolution approved by a majority of  
86 its members may determine, including, without limiting the generality  
87 of the foregoing, bonds or other obligations payable as to principal and  
88 interest exclusively from the income and revenues of a particular  
89 facility, system or program. Bonds or other obligations payable as to  
90 principal and interest exclusively from the income and revenues of a  
91 particular facility, system or program shall not constitute an  
92 indebtedness within the meaning of any statutory limitation on the  
93 indebtedness of the district or any member municipality.  
94 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 23, 24, 25, 26 and 51 of  
95 number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as amended, any surplus moneys  
96 not needed in the determination of the district board to meet the  
97 purposes of funds established pursuant to said sections and any surplus  
98 revenues in the assessable sewer fund may be pledged as additional  
99 security for any such bonds or the provider of any credit enhancement  
100 for any such bonds, which also may be secured by a pledge of any  
101 income or revenues of the district, or a mortgage on any facility or  
102 system or the site thereof. Whenever and for so long as the district has  
103 issued and has outstanding bonds pursuant to this section, the district  
104 board shall fix, charge and collect rates, rents, fees and other charges in  
105 accordance herewith. Neither the members of the district nor any person  
106 executing the bonds shall be liable personally on the bonds by reason of  
107 the issuance thereof. The bonds and other obligations of the district, and  
108 such bonds and obligations shall so state on their face, shall not be a debt  
109 of the state or any political subdivision thereof, and no person other than  
110 the district shall be liable thereon, nor shall such bonds or obligations be  
111 payable out of any funds or properties other than those of the district.  
112 Bonds of the district issued under the provisions of sections 2 and 13 of  
113 number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as amended, and sections 2 and  
114 4 of special act 90-27, as amended by public act 93-380 and this act, are  
115 declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose.  
116 In anticipation of the sale of such bonds the district may issue negotiable  
117 bond anticipation notes and may renew the same from time to time, but

118 the maximum maturity of any such note including renewals thereof,  
119 shall not exceed five years from the date of issue of the original note.  
120 Such notes shall be paid from any revenues of the district available  
121 therefor and not otherwise pledged, or from the proceeds of sale of the  
122 bonds of the district in anticipation of which they were issued. Such  
123 notes and the resolution or resolutions authorizing the same may  
124 contain any provisions, conditions or limitations which a bond  
125 resolution of the district may contain.

126 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 2-90 of the general statutes is repealed  
127 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

128 (c) Said auditors shall audit, on a biennial basis if deemed most  
129 economical and efficient, or as frequently as they deem necessary, the  
130 books and accounts, records of operations and activities, systems and  
131 data of each officer, department, commission, board and court of the  
132 state government, all institutions supported by the state and all public  
133 and quasi-public bodies, politic and corporate, created by public or  
134 special act of the General Assembly and not required to be audited or  
135 subject to reporting requirements, under the provisions of chapter 111,  
136 except that said auditors shall, on an annual basis, or as frequently as  
137 they deem necessary, audit the books and accounts of the Metropolitan  
138 District of Hartford County. Each such audit may include an  
139 examination of any relevant information concerning the department,  
140 commission, board or court of state government being audited that is in  
141 the possession or control of a private entity that has a contract with such  
142 department, commission, board or court, and such information shall be  
143 provided upon demand in a format prescribed by the auditors at no cost  
144 to the auditors or the department, commission, board or court. Each  
145 such audit may include an examination of performance in order to  
146 determine effectiveness in achieving expressed legislative purposes.  
147 The auditors shall report their findings and recommendations to the  
148 Governor, the State Comptroller and the joint standing committee of the  
149 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
150 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

151 Sec. 5. Section 7-391 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
152 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

153 When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
154 following terms shall have the meanings herein specified: "Secretary"  
155 means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management;  
156 "municipality" includes each town, consolidated town and city,  
157 consolidated town and borough, city and borough; "audited agency"  
158 includes each district, as defined in section 7-324, or other municipal  
159 utility, [the Metropolitan District of Hartford County], each regional  
160 council of governments, any other political subdivision of similar  
161 character which is created and any other agency created or designated  
162 by a municipality to act for such municipality whose annual receipts  
163 from all sources exceed one million dollars, excluding the Metropolitan  
164 District of Hartford County; "reporting agency" includes each district,  
165 as defined in section 7-324, or other municipal utility, each regional  
166 council of governments, any other political subdivision of similar  
167 character which is created and any other agency created or designated  
168 by a municipality to act for such municipality whose annual receipts  
169 from all sources do not exceed one million dollars; "appointing  
170 authority" means the legislative body of a municipality or the board,  
171 committee or other governing body of such audited agency, except in  
172 any town where the authority to adopt a budget rests with a town  
173 meeting or a representative town meeting "appointing authority" means  
174 the board of finance or other board, committee or body charged with  
175 preparing the budget, or in a town that has no board of finance or other  
176 such board, committee or body, means the board of selectmen or the  
177 town council; "audit report" means the report of the independent  
178 auditor and the annual financial statements of the municipality or  
179 audited agency; "independent auditor" means a public accountant who  
180 is licensed to practice in the state of Connecticut and who meets the  
181 independence standards included in generally accepted government  
182 auditing standards; "public accountant" means an individual who meets  
183 standards included in generally accepted government auditing  
184 standards for personnel performing government audits and the

185 licensing requirements of the State Board of Accountancy; "receipts"  
186 means amounts accrued or received by a municipality, audited agency  
187 or reporting agency and reportable as revenues in accordance with  
188 generally accepted accounting principles; "municipal utility" means  
189 every Connecticut municipality or department or agency thereof, or  
190 Connecticut district, manufacturing, selling or distributing gas or  
191 electricity to be used for light, heat or power or water.

192       Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established a task force to  
193 examine the organization and operations of the Metropolitan District of  
194 Hartford County. The task force's examination shall include, but not be  
195 limited to, a review of the district's charter provisions and  
196 recommendations for revisions to such provisions.

197       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

198       (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
199 who is a member of the administrative staff of the Capitol Region  
200 Council of Governments;

201       (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who is  
202 a representative of an organization that advocates for environmental  
203 protection and conservation;

204       (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
205 Representatives, who is an officer of an engineering or consulting firm  
206 involved in infrastructure improvements to the wastewater system of  
207 the Metropolitan District of Hartford County to achieve the goals of the  
208 federal Clean Water Act, 33 USC 1251 et seq.;

209       (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is an  
210 officer of an investor-owned public water supply company operating in  
211 the state;

212       (5) The Independent Consumer Advocate, selected pursuant to  
213 section 7-334a of the general statutes;

214       (6) The Consumer Counsel, appointed pursuant to section 16-2a of

215 the general statutes, or his or her designee;

216 (7) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority,  
217 elected pursuant to section 16-2 of the general statutes, or his or her  
218 designee;

219 (8) One from the city of Hartford, appointed by the mayor thereof;

220 (9) One from the city of East Hartford, appointed by the mayor  
221 thereof;

222 (10) One from the town of Wethersfield, appointed by the town  
223 manager thereof;

224 (11) One from the town of Newington, appointed by the town  
225 manager thereof;

226 (12) One from the town of Windsor, appointed by the town manager  
227 thereof;

228 (13) One from the town of West Hartford, appointed by the mayor  
229 thereof;

230 (14) One from the town of Bloomfield, appointed by the town  
231 manager thereof;

232 (15) One from the town of Rocky Hill, appointed by the town  
233 manager thereof;

234 (16) One from the town of Glastonbury, appointed by the town  
235 manager thereof;

236 (17) One from the town of East Granby, appointed by the first  
237 selectman thereof;

238 (18) One from the town of South Windsor, appointed by the town  
239 manager thereof; and

240 (19) One from the town of Farmington, appointed by the town



241 manager thereof.

242 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
243 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
244 be filled by the appointing authority.

245 (d) The Independent Consumer Advocate shall serve as chairperson  
246 of the task force and shall schedule the first meeting of the task force,  
247 which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of  
248 this section.

249 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
250 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning  
251 and development shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

252 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report  
253 on its examination to the joint standing committee of the General  
254 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and  
255 development, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
256 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
257 submits such report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

258 *Sec. 7. (Effective July 1, 2024)* Not later than January 1, 2026, the board  
259 of commissioners of the Metropolitan District of Hartford County shall  
260 adopt, administer and enforce the model code of ethics for  
261 municipalities and special districts developed by the State Ethics  
262 Commission, pursuant to public act 94-172, and as revised from time to  
263 time by the Office of State Ethics.

264 *Sec. 8. Section 2 of special act 75-73, as amended by section 2 of special*  
265 *act 83-18, section 2 of special act 84-75, section 17 of public act 93-380*  
266 *and section 4 of special act 14-21, is amended to read as follows (Effective*  
267 *July 1, 2024):*

268 (a) The members of the board of commissioners appointed prior to  
269 and holding office on the effective date of special act 75-73, special act  
270 83-18, special act 84-75, public act 93-380, [or this act] special act 14-21

271 or this act shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms for  
272 which they were appointed. Thereafter, members shall be appointed by  
273 the legislative body of each member municipality, to replace the  
274 members whose terms expire and until their successors are appointed  
275 and qualify, provided, in no event shall the total number of members  
276 appointed by the legislative body of any member municipality exceed:  
277 (1) Six in the city of Hartford, (2) three in the city of East Hartford, (3)  
278 one in the town of Rocky Hill, (4) one in the town of Wethersfield, (5)  
279 one in the town of Newington, (6) one in the town of Windsor, (7) one  
280 in the town of Bloomfield and (8) three in the town of West Hartford.

281 (b) Appointments to the district board by the legislative bodies of the  
282 member municipalities shall be made in accordance with the following  
283 schedule:

284 (1) The legislative body of the city of Hartford shall appoint (A) three  
285 commissioners for a term of two years to commence January 1, 1977, and  
286 (B) three commissioners for a term of six years to commence January 1,  
287 1981;

288 (2) The legislative body of the city of East Hartford shall appoint (A)  
289 two commissioners for a term of four years to commence January 1,  
290 1977, and (B) one commissioner for a term of six years to commence  
291 January 1, 1979;

292 (3) The legislative body of the town of Wethersfield shall appoint one  
293 commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1979;

294 (4) The legislative body of the town of Newington shall appoint one  
295 commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1981;

296 (5) The legislative body of the town of Windsor shall appoint one  
297 commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1981;

298 (6) The legislative body of the town of Bloomfield shall appoint one  
299 commissioner for a term of two years to commence January 1, 1987;

300 (7) The legislative body of the town of Rocky Hill shall appoint one

301 commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1977;

302 (8) The legislative body of the town of West Hartford shall appoint  
303 (A) one commissioner for a term of one year to commence January 1,  
304 1984, (B) one commissioner for a term of three years to commence  
305 January 1, 1984, and (C) one commissioner for a term of five years to  
306 commence January 1, 1984.

307 (c) Upon the expiration of the initial terms of appointment under this  
308 section, members shall be appointed for terms of six years from January  
309 first in the year of their appointment and shall serve until their  
310 successors are appointed and qualify.

311 (d) On and after January 1, 1989, the eight members appointed by the  
312 governor to the district board shall be electors from The Metropolitan  
313 District, not more than three of whom shall be from any one  
314 municipality within said district nor shall such appointees represent  
315 more than fifty per cent of any municipality's representation on the  
316 district board. The appointments by the governor shall be for six years  
317 and shall be made in accordance with the following schedule:

318 (1) Three commissioners from the city of Hartford for a term to  
319 commence January 1, 1989;

320 (2) One commissioner from the city of East Hartford for a term to  
321 commence January 1, 1989;

322 (3) One commissioner from the town of Wethersfield for a term to  
323 commence January 1, 1989;

324 (4) One commissioner from the town of Newington for a term to  
325 commence January 1, 1991;

326 (5) One commissioner from the town of Windsor for a term to  
327 commence January 1, 1989;

328 (6) One commissioner from the town of West Hartford for a term to  
329 commence January 1, 1989.

330 (e) The four commissioners appointed by the designated members of  
 331 the General Assembly shall be appointed as follows: (1) One  
 332 commissioner by the president pro tempore of the Senate, for a term of  
 333 five and one-half years commencing July 1, 1993; (2) one commissioner  
 334 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, for a term of four and  
 335 one-half years commencing July 1, 1993; (3) one commissioner by the  
 336 minority leader of the Senate, for a term of three and one-half years,  
 337 commencing July 1, 1993, and (4) one commissioner by the minority  
 338 leader of the House of Representatives, for a term of two and one-half  
 339 years, commencing July 1, 1993. After such initial appointment the terms  
 340 of all such commissioners shall thereafter be six years. Such  
 341 commissioners shall be electors from The Metropolitan District,  
 342 provided no two commissioners shall be residents of the same  
 343 municipality.

344 (f) On and after October 1, 2014, the legislative bodies of nonmember  
 345 municipalities shall appoint four members to the board of  
 346 commissioners, provided in no event shall the total number of members  
 347 appointed by the legislative body of any nonmember municipality  
 348 exceed: (1) One from the town of Glastonbury; (2) one from the town of  
 349 South Windsor; (3) one from the town of East Granby; and (4) one from  
 350 the town of Farmington. Such commissioners shall be ex-officio,  
 351 nonvoting members of the board of commissioners, except that, on and  
 352 after July 1, 2024, commissioners appointed pursuant to this subsection  
 353 may vote with regard to approval of rates established by the water  
 354 bureau for the use of water. Commissioners appointed pursuant to this  
 355 subsection shall be appointed for terms of six years from January first in  
 356 the year of their appointment and shall serve until their successors are  
 357 appointed and qualify.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 8
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	SA 14-21, Sec. 8

Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	SA 90-27, Sec. 4(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	2-90(c)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-391
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	SA 75-73, Sec. 2

***Statement of Purpose:***

To (1) require annual audits of the Metropolitan District Commission by the Auditors of Public Accounts, (2) establish a task force to examine the organization and operation of the Metropolitan District Commission, (3) require the board of commissioners of the Metropolitan District Commission to adopt, administer and enforce a model code of ethics for municipalities and special districts, and (4) permit commissioners from nonmember municipalities to vote on water rates applicable to nonmember municipalities.

*[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.]*