

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7C

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
AND RESPONSE – FURTHER SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF STATUTES**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7, dated March 12, 2020, prohibited gatherings of 250 people or more for social and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, and sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities, and suspended various statutes and regulations to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No.7A, dated March 13, 2020, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health to restrict entrance into nursing homes and similar facilities to protect people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7B, dated March 14, 2020, among other things, modified in-person open meetings requirements, waived certain rules to mitigate the critical shortage of hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE), maintain and increase the availability of childcare, and provide for increased healthcare resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of

2. **Flexibility of Graduation Requirements, and Prescribed Courses of Study.** The provisions of Sections 10-16b and 10-221a, and any associated regulations, rules, and policies regarding prescribed courses of study and graduation requirements are modified to authorize the Commissioner of Education to temporarily waive any requirements contained therein as he deems necessary to address the impact of COVID-19 and school class cancellations.
3. **Flexibility for Educator Prep Programs.** The provisions of Section 10-145a, and any associated regulations, rules, and policies regarding educator preparation programs are modified to authorize the Commissioner of Education to temporarily waive any requirements, contained therein as he deems necessary to address the repercussions of college, university, and school class cancellations on students pursuing secondary education programs. The Commissioner may issue any order that he deems necessary to implement this order.
4. **Flexibility for Educator Certification Timelines, Educator Evaluations, and School In-Services.** The provisions of Sections 10-145, 10-145b, 10-145d, 10-151b, 10-151 and 10-220a, and any associated regulations, rules, and policies regarding educator certification timelines, evaluations, and professional development requirements are modified to authorize the Commissioner of Education to temporarily waive any requirements contained therein as he deems necessary to address the impact the school class cancellations and COVID-19 risks when classes resume and students return. The Commissioner may issue any order that he deems necessary to implement this order.
5. **Extension of Municipal Budget Adoption Deadlines.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, including Title 7, or any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, that conflicts with this order, all municipal budget deadlines for the preparation of the municipal budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 that fall on any date prior to and including May 15, 2020 are extended by thirty (30) days. The legislative body of the municipality, or in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, the board of selectmen, may alter or modify the schedules and deadlines pertaining to the preparation and submission of a proposed budget and the deliberation or actions on said budget by the legislative body or other fiscal authority, including any required public hearing(s), publication, referendum or final budget adoption. All submission dates may be postponed until such time as the legislative body approves said modified schedule and deadline, consistent with the thirty (30) day extension.
6. **Extension of Regional Board of Education Budget Adoption Deadlines.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, including Title 10, or any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, that conflicts with this order, all budget deadlines for the preparation of regional school district budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 that fall on any date prior to and including May 15, 2020 may be extended by thirty (30) days. Any regional board of education may alter or modify the schedules and deadlines pertaining to the preparation and submission of a proposed budget and the

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7I

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
AND RESPONSE – MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS AND AVAILABILITY OF
ASSISTANCE AND HEALTHCARE**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7, dated March 12, 2020, among other things, prohibited gatherings of 250 people or more for social and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, and sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities, and suspended various statutes and regulations to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7A, dated March 13, 2020, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health to restrict entrance into nursing homes and similar facilities to protect people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7B, dated March 14, 2020, among other things, modified in-person open meetings requirements, waived certain rules to mitigate the critical shortage of hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE), maintain and increase the availability of childcare, and provide for increased healthcare resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7C, dated March 15, 2020, among other things, cancelled classes in public schools for at least two weeks, provided for closure and remote conduct of business at Department of Motor Vehicle branches, extended deadlines for municipal budget preparations, and suspended or modified laws and regulations governing health care data and visitation at certain health care and congregate care settings; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7D, dated March 16, 2020, restricted social and recreational gatherings of all types to fewer than 50 people, closed bars and restaurants to all service except food and non-alcoholic beverage takeout and delivery, closed gyms, fitness centers and movie theaters, and prohibited on-site operations at off-track betting facilities; and

12. Extension of Budget Adoption Deadlines - Additional Municipal Bodies.

For purposes of the provisions set forth under Executive Order 7C, paragraph 5, regarding “Extension of Municipal Budget Adoption Deadlines,” as well as for the provisions set forth in this order, the term “municipal” or “municipality” shall include all municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations, whether created by statute, ordinance, charter, legislative or special act, including but not limited to any town, city or borough, whether consolidated or unconsolidated, any village, school, sewer, fire, lighting, special services or special taxing districts, beach or improvement association, any regional water or resource recovery authority or any other political subdivision of the state or of any municipality having the power to make appropriations or to levy assessments or taxes.

13. Suspension of In-Person Budget Adoption Requirements for Municipalities.

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, including Title 7, or any special act, municipal charter or ordinance that conflicts with this order, the legislative body of a municipality or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, the board of selectmen, shall authorize the budget-making authority within said municipality to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year and to set a mill rate sufficient, in addition to the other estimated yearly income of such town and in addition to such revenue surplus, if any, as may be appropriated, not only to pay the expenses of the municipality for said fiscal year, but also to absorb the revenue deficit of such town, if any, at the beginning of said fiscal year without holding votes required by charter or without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements, including but not limited to, annual town meetings requiring votes, referendum, and special town meetings. In so acting, the budget-making authority of the municipality shall comply with public meeting requirements consistent with requirements set forth in Executive Order 7B and shall thereby take all reasonable steps to publicize the draft municipal budget for said fiscal year and to receive public comment thereon, including but not limited to publishing draft budgets on the website and providing an email address or other means for the public to submit timely comments on the proposed budget.

14. Suspension of In-Person Budget Adoption Requirements for Regional Boards of Education.

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, including Title 10, or any special act, regional plan, municipal charter or ordinance that conflicts with this order, any regional board of education shall adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year which otherwise complies with the requirements of Section 10-51 of the Connecticut General Statutes without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements, including but not limited, annual district budget

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NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7HH

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – MUNICIPAL BUDGET ADOPTION, COMMON-INTEREST COMMUNITY MEETINGS

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued thirty-four (34) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-405 of the Connecticut General Statutes, municipalities are required to adopt budgets for the July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 fiscal year by June 30th, and public town-meetings and referendums usually take place in May, during a period when the risk of spreading COVID-19 posed by large gatherings is expected to remain high; and

WHEREAS, the close contact and high attendance required for in-person voting in large numbers increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19 for voters, town officials, and poll workers and will consume a significant quantity of critically needed personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances of in-person meetings or votes by members of common-interest communities may pose the same risks of transmission of COVID-19 as those posed by public votes on municipal budgets, requiring flexibility for the governing bodies of such communities to take measures to make decisions that eliminate or reduce such risks;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **Clarification of Executive Order No. 7I, Section 13 - Mandatory Suspension of In-Person Voting Requirements by Members of the Public on Municipal Budgets.** Executive Order No. 7I, Section 13 shall be deemed to require the budget-making authority of every municipality to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 fiscal year and to set a mill rate sufficient, in addition to the other estimated yearly income of such town and in addition to such revenue surplus, if any, as may be appropriated, not only to pay the expenses of the municipality for said fiscal year, but also to absorb the revenue deficit of such town, if any, at the beginning of said fiscal year using the procedures set forth therein, and to suspend any requirement for a vote on such budgets or mill rates by residents, electors, or property owners, including, but not limited to, any vote by annual town meeting or referendum. All conditions precedent to any such adoption, including without limitation, public notices, hearings, or presentations, shall proceed in a manner as closely consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, town charters, municipal ordinances, resolutions or procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meeting provisions set forth in Executive Order No. 7B. Nothing in this order shall invalidate or repeal the results of any vote on a budget or tax rate held by annual town meeting or referendum before the effective date of this order.

2. **Allowance of Use of Remote Meeting and Voting Procedures for Common Interest Ownership Association.** To protect the public health and limit transmission of COVID-19, Sections 47-250 and 47-252 are modified to provide that any common interest ownership association and any executive board or committee thereof may conduct any meeting, election, or vote by telephonic, video, or other conferencing process, or by ballot without a meeting, in accordance with Sections 47-250(a)(5), 47-250(b)(7), and/or 47-252(d) notwithstanding any prohibition or limitation in its declaration or bylaws.