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Executive Authority Extended, Most Orders Expire

Governor Ned Lamont's executive powers under the public health emergency, which have been highly controversial were extended for the fifth time in July after a party line vote by the Connecticut General Assembly. Following the votes by the House and Senate, Governor Lamont signed Executive Order 13, extending the duration of several previously issued orders through September 30, 2021 while allowing the remaining 27 orders to expire. Lamont sought an extension for 11 executive orders that he says are necessary to keep the state safe during the ongoing pandemic. One of the key aspects, he said, is to keep millions of dollars in federal funding flowing into the state for food stamps, housing for the homeless, rent relief, and emergency needs. With the spikes of the Delta variant Covid cases, there is a possibility for yet another extension as the September 30th date approaches.

Governor Lamont's Executive Orders

During a public health emergency, the Governor essentially can run the state via executive order. Please review the Governor's most recent Executive Orders: [13 PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – EXTENSION OF COVID-19 ORDERS.](#)

Review the updated list of executive orders [here](#).

Marijuana

As of July 1st, it is now legal for adults in Connecticut to possess and consume small amounts of marijuana. The new law, which took effect this month, allows individuals aged 21 and older to possess or consume up to 1.5 ounces (42.5 grams) of "cannabis plant material" and up to 5 ounces (141.7 grams) in a locked container in a home or in the trunk or locked glove box in the person's vehicle. Additionally, the bill changes state law to allow the government to tax and regulate the commercialization of cannabis products. Governor Lamont hopes that the new law will "eliminate the dangerous, unregulated market and support a new and equitable sector of our economy that will create jobs" as the first recreational dispensaries are expected to open in Connecticut mid next year.

