

● **EMPLOYEE PROTECTION LAWS (*LABOR HOUSING*)**

*STATUTORY CITATION:* Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-47

*GENERAL SUMMARY:* Any person, firm or corporation that maintains or has charge of any structure used as housing for laborers in its employ must, within 72 hours after occupancy by such workers, notify the local health authority in which the structure is located. Within 5 days after notification, the local health authority is required to conduct a sanitation and safety inspection of the premises and may issue an order for appropriate corrective action, or forbid use of the housing altogether, if the housing poses a threat to the health of the occupants. Anyone who violates this provision or fails to comply with an order of a local health authority issued pursuant to this provision is subject to a fine of up to \$100.

*PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE:* The notification and inspection requirements of this section apply implicitly to agricultural employers.

*SPECIAL NOTES OR ADVISORIES*

**POSSIBLE PREEMPTION** — With respect to enforcement against private employers, it is the position of the Connecticut Department of Labor that these provisions are likely preempted by the temporary labor camp standard enforced by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (*see entry, U.S. — Housing — General Employee Housing Standards*), since Connecticut does not have an OSHA-approved job safety and health plan.

*ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT*

**PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** — *Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Connecticut Department of Labor, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109 (860-263-6791)*. The Department is responsible for investigating all complaints of violations of the state labor laws, and for reporting violations to appropriate public prosecutors.

**SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** — City, town and borough health directors or agencies are responsible for conducting the housing inspections required by this provision.