

# Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

PO Box 1946, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492  
Telephone (203) 484-2512 • Fax (203) 793-7824  
[www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org)

*We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees*



*Organized August 16, 1922*

*President*  
EMMETT SHUTTS  
1045 Coleman Road  
Cheshire, CT 06410

*Vice-President*  
SEAN REDDING  
107 Selden Street  
Berlin, CT 06037

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
GREGORY A. FORAN  
2155 Main Street  
P.O. Box 6523  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

*Executive Secretary*  
CATHY DVORSKY  
15 Shady Drive  
Wallingford, CT 06492

CHARLES N. ISELIN, JR.  
94 Cedar Lake Road  
Chester, CT 06412

BUD NEAL  
PO Box 18  
Woodbury, CT 06798

ALLAN FENNER  
53 Prospect Street  
New Hartford, CT 06057

MICHAEL ALMSTEAD  
80 Lincoln Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06902

CLAIRE RUTLEDGE  
123 Huntington Street  
New Haven, CT 06504

KEVIN W. WYATT  
19 Piave Street  
Stamford, CT 06902

CARTER PECK  
18 Mohawk Drive  
Canton, CT 06019

STACEY MARCELL  
143 Freeman Road  
Oxford, CT 06478

CASEY TRESP  
229 Wiese Road  
Cheshire, CT 06410

September 10, 2026

Re: Statute Change Affecting CT Arborists

From: The CTPA Board of Directors To: The CTPA Membership

Dear CTPA Membership,

Connecticut has always stood head and shoulders above the nation when it comes to education in arboriculture, support for our arborists and the arborist license. In the past, one of the few allowances afforded to Connecticut arborists was the exemption from needing a crane operator's license. During the past legislative session, House Bill (HB 5405) was introduced to amend the statute and remove this exemption. Over the course of the session, HB 5405 was tabled.

In the closing days of the 2026 session, HB 5405 was incorporated into the Omnibus Labor Committee bill (HB 5003). Within HB 5003, the statutory exemption that permitted arborists to operate a crane without a crane operator's license was removed. Based on the enacted language, arborists operating cranes will be subject to the state's crane operator licensing requirements beginning October 1, 2026.

Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 29-223a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2026): (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (1) Engineers under the jurisdiction of the United States, (2) engineers or operators employed by public utilities or industrial manufacturing plants, (3) any person operating either a bucket truck or a digger derrick designed and used for an electrical generation, electrical transmission, electrical distribution, electrical catenary or electrical signalization project, if such person: (A) Holds a valid limited electrical line contractor or journeyman's license issued pursuant to chapter 393 or any regulation adopted pursuant to said chapter, or (B) has engaged in the installation of electrical line work for more than one thousand hours, or (C) has enrolled in or has graduated from a federally recognized electrical apprenticeship program, (4) persons engaged in (A) the recreational boating or fishing industry, except when engaged in construction-related work, or [in] (B) agriculture, [or arboriculture,] or (5) persons engaged in activities, or using equipment, excluded under section 29-221a.

The amended language removes arboriculture from the list of exempt activities. (HB 5003 – Pages 48-53)

This change may affect staffing, training, equipment scheduling, and regulatory compliance for arboricultural operations that utilize cranes. The Board is already evaluating the steps needed to support our members. We will communicate updates, resources, and guidance as soon as they are available. This communication is intended to provide general information regarding the enacted statutory changes and should not be considered legal advice. Thank you for your commitment to the high standards of our profession.

Regards,  
The CTPA Board of Directors