

***Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 6952***

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 5946

***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECREATIONAL AND
EDUCATIONAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section, "recreational or educational children's program" means any
3 regularly scheduled program or organized group activity operated only
4 during school vacations or on weekends by a person, a partnership, a
5 corporation, an association, the state or a municipal agency for
6 recreational or educational purposes that accommodates, for a period of
7 three days or more per week or portions of three or more days per week,
8 five or more children who are (1) at least three years of age and under
9 sixteen years of age, (2) not bona fide personal guests in the private
10 home of an individual, and (3) living apart from their relatives, parents
11 or legal guardian, including, but not limited to, (A) classroom-based
12 summer instructional programs operated by any person, (B) summer
13 educational programs operated by public schools, or private schools in
14 compliance with section 10-188 of the general statutes, and approved by
15 the State Board of Education or accredited by an accrediting agency
16 recognized by the State Board of Education, (C) licensed child care
17 centers, and (D) drop-in programs for children who are at least six years
18 of age administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls' club.

19 (b) On and after January 1, 2026, a recreational or educational
20 children's program that does not hold a license to operate a youth camp
21 issued pursuant to section 19a-421 of the general statutes shall not use
22 the term "camp" in the name of such program in any advertising

23 materials unless such advertising materials state that such program
24 does not hold a license to operate as a youth camp from the Office of
25 Early Childhood.

26 (c) A violation of subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed an
27 unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b
28 of the general statutes.

29 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
30 section, "municipal recreational or educational children's program"
31 means any regularly scheduled program or organized group activity
32 operated only during school vacations or on weekends by a municipal
33 agency for recreational or educational purposes that accommodates, for
34 a period of three days or more per week or portions of three or more
35 days per week, five or more children who are at least three years of age
36 and under sixteen years of age.

37 (b) On and after January 1, 2026, each municipal agency that operates
38 a municipal recreational or educational children's program shall require
39 any prospective employee eighteen years of age or older, who is
40 applying for a position at such program that requires the provision of
41 care to a child or involves unsupervised access to a child, to submit to a
42 comprehensive background check. The background check shall include,
43 but not be limited to, a (1) (A) criminal history records check conducted
44 (i) in accordance with section 29-17a of the general statutes, or (ii) by
45 searching the electronic criminal record system maintained on the
46 Internet web site of the Judicial Department for convictions matching
47 the prospective employee's name and year of birth, (B) check of the state
48 child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k of the
49 general statutes, (C) check of the registry established and maintained
50 pursuant to section 54-257 of the general statutes, and (D) check of the
51 National Sex Offender Registry Public Website maintained by the
52 United States Department of Justice, or (2) check by a third-party
53 provider of national criminal history record checks.

54 (c) Pending completion of all comprehensive background check

55 components described in subsection (b) of this section, a prospective
56 employee may begin work on a provisional basis, provided such
57 prospective employee shall be supervised at all times by an employee
58 who was subjected to a comprehensive background check described in
59 subsection (b) of this section within the past five years.

60 (d) Each municipal agency shall require each employee of a
61 recreational or educational children's program operated by such agency
62 who holds a position that requires the provision of care to a child or
63 involves unsupervised access to a child to submit to a comprehensive
64 background check described in subsection (b) of this section not later
65 than five years after the date such employee was hired, and at least once
66 every five years thereafter. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a
67 municipal agency from requiring any such employee to submit to a
68 comprehensive background check more than once during a five-year
69 period.

70 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) On and after January 1, 2026, each
71 municipal recreational or educational children's program, as defined in
72 section 2 of this act, shall maintain (1) a ratio of not less than one staff
73 person for every twelve children on the program's premises during the
74 hours of such program's daily operation, and (2) not less than one staff
75 person who is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid on
76 the program's premises during the hours of such program's daily
77 operation and at any activities conducted off-site from such premises
78 during such hours at which children enrolled in such program are
79 present.

80 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the general statutes is
81 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
82 *2025*):

83 (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: (1) Any
84 physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, (2)
85 any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or
86 not so licensed, (3) any registered nurse, (4) any licensed practical nurse,

87 (5) any medical examiner, (6) any dentist, (7) any dental hygienist, (8)
88 any psychologist, (9) any school employee, as defined in section 53a-65,
89 (10) any social worker, (11) any person who holds or is issued a coaching
90 permit by the State Board of Education, is a coach of intramural or
91 interscholastic athletics and is eighteen years of age or older, (12) any
92 individual who is employed as a coach or director of youth athletics and
93 is eighteen years of age or older, (13) any individual who is employed
94 as a coach or director of a private youth sports organization, league or
95 team and is eighteen years of age or older, (14) any paid administrator,
96 faculty, staff, athletic director, athletic coach or athletic trainer employed
97 by a public or private institution of higher education who is eighteen
98 years of age or older, excluding student employees, (15) any police
99 officer, (16) any juvenile or adult probation officer, (17) any juvenile or
100 adult parole officer, (18) any member of the clergy, (19) any pharmacist,
101 (20) any physical therapist, (21) any optometrist, (22) any chiropractor,
102 (23) any podiatrist, (24) any mental health professional, (25) any
103 physician assistant, (26) any person who is a licensed or certified
104 emergency medical services provider, (27) any person who is a licensed
105 or certified alcohol and drug counselor, (28) any person who is a
106 licensed marital and family therapist, (29) any person who is a sexual
107 assault counselor or a domestic violence counselor, as defined in section
108 52-146k, (30) any person who is a licensed professional counselor, (31)
109 any person who is a licensed foster parent, (32) any person paid to care
110 for a child in any public or private facility, child care center, group child
111 care home or family child care home licensed by the state, (33) any
112 employee of the Department of Children and Families or any person
113 who, in the performance of such person's duties, has regular contact
114 with and provides services to or on behalf of children pursuant to a
115 contract with or credential issued by the Department of Children and
116 Families, (34) any employee of the Office of Early Childhood who is
117 responsible for the licensing of child care centers, group child care
118 homes, family child care homes or youth camps, (35) any paid youth
119 camp director, assistant director and staff member who is twenty-one
120 years of age or older, (36) any paid director, assistant director or staff

121 member of a municipal recreational or educational children's program,
122 as defined in section 2 of this act, who is twenty-one years of age or
123 older, (37) the Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of the
124 Child Advocate, [(37)] (38) any person who is a licensed behavior
125 analyst, [(38)] (39) any family relations counselor, family relations
126 counselor trainee or family services supervisor employed by the Judicial
127 Department, [(39)] (40) any victim services advocate employed by the
128 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department, [(40)] (41) any
129 employee of a juvenile justice program operated by or pursuant to a
130 contract with the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
131 Department, and [(41)] (42) any person employed, including any person
132 employed under contract and any independent ombudsperson, to work
133 at a juvenile detention facility or any other facility where children under
134 eighteen years of age are detained and who has direct contact with
135 children as part of such employment.

136 Sec. 5. Section 17a-101b of the general statutes is repealed and the
137 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

138 (a) An oral or electronic report shall be made by a mandated reporter
139 as soon as practicable but not later than twelve hours after the mandated
140 reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been
141 abused or neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm. An oral
142 report made pursuant to this subsection shall be made by telephone or
143 in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families or a law
144 enforcement agency. If a law enforcement agency receives an oral
145 report, it shall immediately notify the commissioner. An electronic
146 report made pursuant to this subsection shall be made in a manner
147 prescribed by the commissioner. A mandated reporter who makes an
148 electronic report pursuant to this section shall respond to further
149 inquiries from the commissioner or the commissioner's designee made
150 within twenty-four hours of such report.

151 (b) If the commissioner or the commissioner's designee suspects or
152 knows that such person has knowingly made a false report, the identity

153 of such person shall be disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement
154 agency and to the perpetrator of the alleged abuse.

155 (c) If the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
156 commissioner's designee, receives a report alleging sexual abuse or
157 serious physical abuse, including, but not limited to, a report that: (1) A
158 child has died; (2) a child has been sexually assaulted; (3) a child has
159 suffered brain damage or loss or serious impairment of a bodily function
160 or organ; (4) a child has been sexually exploited; or (5) a child has
161 suffered serious nonaccidental physical injury, the commissioner shall,
162 within twelve hours of receipt of such report, notify the appropriate law
163 enforcement agency.

164 (d) Whenever a mandated reporter, as described in section 17a-101,
165 as amended by this act, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that
166 any child has been abused or neglected by a member of the staff of a
167 public or private institution or facility that provides care for such child
168 or a public or private school, the mandated reporter shall report as
169 required in subsection (a) of this section. The Commissioner of Children
170 and Families or the commissioner's designee shall notify the principal,
171 headmaster, executive director or other person in charge of such
172 institution, facility or school, or the person's designee, unless such
173 person is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect of such child. In
174 the case of a public school, the commissioner shall also notify the
175 person's employing superintendent. Such person in charge, or such
176 person's designee, shall then immediately notify the child's parent or
177 other person responsible for the child's care that a report has been made.

178 (e) If a mandated reporter described in subdivision (36) of subsection
179 (b) of section 17a-101, as amended by this act, makes a report pursuant
180 to subsection (a) of this section concerning abuse or neglect of or
181 imminent risk of serious harm to a child that occurred on the premises
182 of a municipal recreational or educational children's program, as
183 defined in section 2 of this act, or during an activity conducted by such
184 program off-site from such premises, the Commissioner of Children and

185 Families shall notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in
186 which such program is located. Such notice shall not include any
187 personally identifying information concerning the child that is the
188 subject of such report.

189 [(e)] (f) For purposes of this section, "child" includes any victim
190 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a.

191 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2026, and
192 annually thereafter, each paid director, assistant director or staff
193 member of a municipal recreational or educational children's program,
194 as defined in section 2 of this act, who is twenty-one years of age or
195 older, shall complete the educational training program or refresher
196 training program, as applicable, developed pursuant to subsection (c) of
197 section 17a-101 of the general statutes.

198 (b) Not later than August 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the director
199 or equivalent employee of each municipal agency that operates a
200 municipal recreational or educational children's program shall certify,
201 in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Children and
202 Families, that each paid director, assistant director and staff member of
203 such program who is twenty-one years of age or older complied with
204 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section in the preceding twelve-
205 month period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-101(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-101b
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-101(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-101b
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section