



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 290**

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1373

*Senate, March 27, 2025*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. ANWAR of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT REQUIRING THE LICENSURE OF LACTATION CONSULTANTS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) As used in this section and  
2 sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Lactation consultant" means a person who holds and maintains  
4 certification in good standing as an international board certified  
5 lactation consultant with the International Board of Lactation  
6 Consultant Examiners and is licensed pursuant to section 3 of this act;  
7 and

8 (2) "Lactation consulting" means clinical application of scientific  
9 principles and a multidisciplinary body of evidence for evaluation,  
10 problem identification, treatment, education and consultation to  
11 families regarding the course of lactation and feeding, including, but not  
12 limited to, the following services:

- 13 (A) Taking maternal, child and feeding histories;
- 14 (B) Performing clinical assessments related to breastfeeding and  
15 human lactation through the systematic collection of subjective and  
16 objective information;
- 17 (C) Analyzing relevant information and data;
- 18 (D) Developing an unbiased lactation management and child feeding  
19 plan with demonstration and instruction to parents;
- 20 (E) Providing lactation and feeding education, including, but not  
21 limited to, recommendations for and training in the use of assistive  
22 devices for lactation and breastfeeding;
- 23 (F) Communicating to a primary health care practitioner and  
24 referring to other health care practitioners, as necessary;
- 25 (G) Conducting appropriate follow-up appointments and evaluating  
26 outcomes; and
- 27 (H) Documenting patient encounters in a patient record.
- 28 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) No person may practice  
29 lactation consulting, for compensation, unless licensed pursuant to  
30 section 3 of this act.
- 31 (b) No person shall (1) hold himself or herself out to the public as  
32 being licensed as a lactation consultant, (2) use, in connection with such  
33 person's name or business, the title "licensed lactation consultant" or  
34 "lactation consultant" or the designation "IBCLC" or "L.C.", or (3) make  
35 use of any title, words, letters, abbreviations or insignia that may  
36 reasonably be confused with licensure as a lactation consultant, unless  
37 such person is licensed pursuant to section 3 of this act.
- 38 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person who (1)  
39 is licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health pursuant to  
40 title 20 of the general statutes or by the Department of Consumer  
41 Protection pursuant to chapter 400j of the general statutes and providing

42 lactation consulting while acting within the scope of practice of the  
43 person's license or certification, provided the person does not refer to  
44 himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (2) is a student  
45 enrolled in a lactation consulting educational program or an accredited  
46 education program the completion of which is required for licensure or  
47 certification by the Department of Public Health pursuant to title 20 of  
48 the general statutes or by the Department of Consumer Protection  
49 pursuant to chapter 400j of the general statutes, lactation consulting is a  
50 part of the student's course of study and the student is performing such  
51 consulting under appropriate program supervision, provided the  
52 student does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation  
53 consultant", (3) provides lactation education and support through the  
54 federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and  
55 Children, administered pursuant to section 19a-59c of the general  
56 statutes, or any other federally funded nutrition assistance program  
57 administered in the state, to participants in such program while acting  
58 within the person's job description and training, provided the person  
59 does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (4)  
60 is certified as a community health worker, as defined in section 20-195ttt  
61 of the general statutes, and providing lactation support to a HUSKY  
62 Health program member, provided the community health worker does  
63 not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", (5)  
64 provides education, social support, peer support, peer counseling or  
65 nonclinical services relating to lactation and feeding, provided the  
66 person does not refer to himself or herself by the term "lactation  
67 consultant", (6) is a doula or midwife and providing services within the  
68 doula's or midwife's scope of practice and for which the doula or  
69 midwife is trained, provided the doula or midwife does not refer to  
70 himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant", or (7) is a public  
71 health professional and engaging in outreach, engagement, education,  
72 coaching, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care  
73 coordination or research related to social determinants of health or a  
74 basic screening or assessment of any risk associated with social  
75 determinants of health, provided the professional does not refer to  
76 himself or herself by the term "lactation consultant".

77       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Commissioner of Public  
78 Health shall grant a license as a lactation consultant to any applicant  
79 who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such  
80 applicant has earned a certification as an international board certified  
81 lactation consultant from the International Board of Lactation  
82 Consultant Examiners, or any successor of said board. The  
83 commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. The  
84 application fee shall be two hundred dollars.

85       (b) Any license issued under this section shall expire in accordance  
86 with the provisions of section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended  
87 by this act, and may be renewed every two years, for a fee of one  
88 hundred dollars. Each licensed lactation consultant applying for license  
89 renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of  
90 having a current certification as an international board certified lactation  
91 consultant with the International Board of Lactation Consultant  
92 Examiners, or any successor of said board, and having obtained  
93 continuing education units for such certification as required by said  
94 board.

95       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Public  
96 Health may deny an application of an individual or take any  
97 disciplinary action set forth in section 19a-17 of the general statutes  
98 against a lactation consultant for any of the following reasons: (1)  
99 Failure to conform to the accepted standards of the profession; (2)  
100 conviction of a felony, provided any action taken is based upon (A) the  
101 nature of the conviction and its relationship to the license holder's ability  
102 to safely or competently practice as a lactation consultant, (B)  
103 information pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the license  
104 holder, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release; (3) fraud  
105 or deceit in obtaining or seeking reinstatement of a license to practice  
106 lactation consulting; (4) fraud or deceit in the practice of lactation  
107 consulting; (5) negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in  
108 professional activities; (6) physical, mental or emotional illness or  
109 disorder resulting in an inability to conform to the accepted standards  
110 of the profession; (7) alcohol or substance abuse; (8) wilful falsification

111 of entries in any hospital, patient or other record pertaining to lactation  
112 consulting; or (9) failure to maintain certification in good standing as an  
113 international board certified lactation consultant with the International  
114 Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. The commissioner may order  
115 a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental  
116 examination if his or her physical or mental capacity to practice safely is  
117 the subject of an investigation. The commissioner may petition the  
118 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order  
119 or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17 of the general statutes.  
120 The commissioner shall give notice and an opportunity to be heard on  
121 any contemplated action under section 19a-17 of the general statutes.

122 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 19a-14 of the general statutes is  
123 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
124 *2026*):

125 (c) No board shall exist for the following professions that are licensed  
126 or otherwise regulated by the Department of Public Health:

127 (1) Speech and language pathologist and audiologist;

128 (2) Hearing instrument specialist;

129 (3) Nursing home administrator;

130 (4) Environmental health specialist;

131 (5) Subsurface sewage system installer or cleaner;

132 (6) Marital and family therapist and marriage and family therapist  
133 associate;

134 (7) Nurse-midwife;

135 (8) Licensed clinical social worker;

136 (9) Respiratory care practitioner;

137 (10) Asbestos contractor, asbestos consultant and asbestos training

- 138 provider;
- 139 (11) Massage therapist;
- 140 (12) Registered nurse's aide;
- 141 (13) Radiographer;
- 142 (14) Dental hygienist;
- 143 (15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;
- 144 (16) Asbestos abatement worker;
- 145 (17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;
- 146 (18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;
- 147 (19) Professional counselor and professional counselor associate;
- 148 (20) Acupuncturist;
- 149 (21) Occupational therapist and occupational therapist assistant;
- 150 (22) Lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead
- 151 consultant, lead abatement supervisor, lead abatement worker, lead
- 152 training provider, lead inspector, lead inspector risk assessor and lead
- 153 planner-project designer;
- 154 (23) Emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical
- 155 technician, emergency medical responder and emergency medical
- 156 services instructor;
- 157 (24) Paramedic;
- 158 (25) Athletic trainer;
- 159 (26) Perfusionist;
- 160 (27) Master social worker subject to the provisions of section 20-195v;

- 161 (28) Radiologist assistant, subject to the provisions of section 20-74tt;  
162 (29) Homeopathic physician;  
163 (30) Certified water treatment plant operator, certified distribution  
164 system operator, certified small water system operator, certified  
165 backflow prevention device tester and certified cross connection survey  
166 inspector, including certified limited operators, certified conditional  
167 operators and certified operators in training;  
168 (31) Tattoo technician;  
169 (32) Genetic counselor;  
170 (33) Behavior analyst;  
171 (34) Art therapist;  
172 (35) Esthetician;  
173 (36) Eyelash technician; [and]  
174 (37) Nail technician; and  
175 (38) Lactation consultant.

176 The department shall assume all powers and duties normally vested  
177 with a board in administering regulatory jurisdiction over such  
178 professions. The uniform provisions of sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this  
179 act, this chapter and chapters 368v, 369 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 388,  
180 inclusive, 393a, 395, 398, 399, 400a and 400c, including, but not limited  
181 to, standards for entry and renewal; grounds for professional discipline;  
182 receiving and processing complaints; and disciplinary sanctions, shall  
183 apply, except as otherwise provided by law, to the professions listed in  
184 this subsection.

185 Sec. 6. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the general  
186 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
187 (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

188 (2) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under section  
189 19a-514, sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act and chapters 384a, 384c,  
190 384d, 386, 387, 388 and 398 shall apply for renewal of such license or  
191 certificate once every two years, during the month of such person's  
192 birth, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and  
193 business address and such other information as the department  
194 requests.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-14(c)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-88(e)(2)

**PH**          *Joint Favorable*



*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$	FY 29 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	57,200	Minimal	28,600

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill creates a new Department of Public Health (DPH) licensure category for lactation consultants, starting July 1, 2026, which results in a General Fund revenue gain of approximately \$57,200 in FY 27 from initial licensure fees paid by approximately 286<sup>1</sup> lactation consultants (\$200 each). A lactation consultant license will be subject to biennial renewal, resulting in an FY 29 revenue gain of \$28,600 from renewal fees (\$100 each), and every two years thereafter. A minimal revenue gain is anticipated in FY 28 (and annually thereafter) associated with new entrants to this profession and their licensure renewals.

As the language of the bill conforms the licensing of lactation consultants to current DPH practices associated with other professions, and the number of projected initial and renewal applications is limited, it is anticipated that the department can establish this new licensure category within existing resources.

The bill empowers the DPH commissioner to take disciplinary action

<sup>1</sup> As of 12/18/24, there were 286 lactation consultants in Connecticut holding International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners certification.

against a lactation consultant licensee, which may result in a minimal revenue gain to the General Fund from civil penalties beginning in FY 27. Disciplinary actions available to DPH include imposing a civil penalty of up to \$10,000. The extent of the revenue gain, if any, is dependent on the number of violations and the DPH's discretion regarding civil penalties.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of persons seeking initial and renewal lactation consultant licensure.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 1373****AN ACT REQUIRING THE LICENSURE OF LACTATION CONSULTANTS.****SUMMARY**

Starting in July 2026, this bill creates a Department of Public Health (DPH) licensure program for lactation consultants. To receive a license, an applicant must have a certification in good standing from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) or any successor to it.

The bill generally prohibits unlicensed people from practicing lactation consulting for compensation, using the “lactation consultant” title, or holding themselves out to the public as licensed lactation consultants. But it does not restrict unlicensed people meeting specified criteria from practicing lactation consulting or providing related services, if they do not refer to themselves as “lactation consultants.”

In addition, the bill authorizes DPH to take disciplinary action against licensees and sets forth the grounds for these actions.

Lastly, it specifies that no new regulatory board is created for lactation consultants (§ 5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**LACTATION CONSULTANT LICENSURE*****Lactation Consulting Definition (§ 1)***

Under the bill, “lactation consulting” is helping families with lactation and feeding by clinically applying scientific principles and multidisciplinary evidence for evaluation, problem identification, treatment, education, and consultation, including the following

services:

1. taking maternal, child, and feeding histories;
2. performing clinical assessments related to breastfeeding and human lactation by systematically collecting subjective and objective information;
3. analyzing relevant information and data;
4. developing an unbiased lactation management and child feeding plan with demonstration and instruction to parents;
5. providing lactation and feeding education, including recommendations and training on using assistive devices;
6. communicating to a primary health care practitioner and referring to other practitioners, as needed;
7. conducting appropriate follow-up appointments and evaluating outcomes; and
8. keeping records of patient encounters.

***Licensure Requirement and Exemptions (§ 2)***

The bill generally prohibits anyone without a lactation consultant license from:

1. practicing lactation consulting for compensation;
2. holding himself or herself out to the public as a licensed lactation consultant;
3. using, in connection with their name or business, the “licensed lactation consultant” or “lactation consultant” titles or “IBCLC” or “L.C.” designations; or
4. using any title, words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia that may reasonably be confused with this licensure.

These restrictions do not prevent people without this license from providing lactation consulting or related services under the following conditions, as long as they do not refer to themselves by the term “lactation consultant”:

1. people licensed or certified by DPH as another type of provider, or by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) under the pharmacy laws, who are providing lactation consulting under the scope of practice of their license or certification;
2. students in a lactation consulting educational program or an accredited education program required for DPH licensure or certification (or DCP under the pharmacy laws), if lactation consulting is a part of the program and the student provides the consulting under appropriate program supervision;
3. people providing lactation education and support through the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or other federally funded nutrition assistance programs, while acting within their job description and training;
4. certified community health workers providing lactation support to HUSKY Health program members;
5. people providing education, social or peer support, peer counseling, or nonclinical services related to lactation and feeding;
6. doulas or midwives providing services within their training and scope of practice; or
7. public health professionals engaging in outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination, or research related to social determinants of health or a basic screening or assessment of any risk associated with those determinants.

***Licensing and License Renewals (§§ 3 & 6)***

The bill requires DPH to issue a lactation consultant license to an applicant who submits satisfactory evidence, on a DPH form, of being certified by IBLCE or any successor to it. The licensure application fee is \$200.

The license expires every two years, and may be renewed during the licensee's birth month for a \$100 fee. To renew, licensees must provide satisfactory evidence that they have (1) a current certification with IBLCE or any successor to it and (2) completed the continuing education IBLCE requires for that certification.

***Enforcement and Disciplinary Action (§ 4)***

The bill allows the DPH commissioner to deny a license application or take disciplinary action against a lactation consultant licensee for the following reasons:

1. failing to conform to the profession's accepted standards;
2. a felony conviction, if the disciplinary action is based on the (a) nature of the conviction and its relationship to the licensee's ability to safely or competently practice, (b) licensee's degree of rehabilitation, and (c) time passed since the conviction or release;
3. fraud or deceit in getting or seeking reinstatement of a license or in the practice of lactation consulting;
4. negligence, incompetence, or wrongful conduct in professional activities;
5. an inability to conform to professional standards because of a physical, mental, or emotional illness;
6. alcohol or substance abuse;
7. willfully falsifying entries in a hospital, patient, or other record pertaining to lactation consulting; or

8. failing to maintain certification in good standing with IBLCE.

By law, disciplinary actions available to DPH include, among other things, (1) revoking or suspending a license; (2) censuring the violator; (3) issuing a letter of reprimand; (4) placing the violator on probationary status; or (5) imposing a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 (CGS § 19a-17).

Under the bill, the commissioner may order a licensee to undergo a reasonable physical or mental examination if his or her capacity to practice safely is under investigation. The bill allows the commissioner to petition Hartford Superior Court to enforce the examination order or any DPH disciplinary action. The commissioner must give the person notice and an opportunity to be heard before taking disciplinary action.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    22    Nay   10    (03/12/2025)