



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6952

LCO No. 4687



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***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, no 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 use the
22 term "camp" in the name of such program in any advertising materials.

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

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

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

48 National Sex Offender Registry Public Website maintained by the
49 United States Department of Justice, or (2) check by a third-party
50 provider of national criminal history record checks that is conducted
51 through a centralized database utilizing the prospective employee's
52 fingerprints, provided such provider appears on a list of such providers
53 published on the Internet web site of the Office of Early Childhood.

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 over the age of eighteen for every twelve children on the
74 program's premises during the hours of such program's daily operation,
75 and (2) not less than one staff person who is trained in cardiopulmonary
76 resuscitation and first aid on the program's premises during the hours
77 of such program's daily operation and at any activities conducted off-
78 site from such premises during such hours at which children enrolled in
79 such program are 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. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2026, and
 137 annually thereafter, each paid director, assistant director or staff
 138 member of a municipal recreational or educational children's program,
 139 as defined in section 2 of this act, who is twenty-one years of age or
 140 older, shall complete the educational training program or refresher
 141 training program, as applicable, developed pursuant to subsection (c) of
 142 section 17a-101 of the general statutes.

143 (b) Not later than August 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the director
 144 or equivalent employee of each municipal agency that operates a
 145 municipal recreational or educational children's program shall certify,

146 in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Children and
147 Families, that each paid director, assistant director and staff member of
148 such program who is twenty-one years of age or older complied with
149 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section in the preceding twelve-
150 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>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) prohibit certain recreational or educational children's programs from using the term "camp" in advertising materials, (2) require certain employees of municipal recreational or educational children's programs to submit to comprehensive background checks, (3) require municipal recreational or educational children's programs to maintain certain staffing ratios and employ staff persons trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, and (4) require certain employees of municipal recreational or educational children's programs to serve as mandated reporters and complete related training.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]