



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 6952***

*January Session, 2025*



***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 issued by the Office  
25 of 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 municipal recreational or educational children's program operated by  
62 such agency who is eighteen years of age or older and holds a position  
63 that requires the provision of care to a child or involves unsupervised  
64 access to a child to submit to a comprehensive background check  
65 described in subsection (b) of this section not later than five years after  
66 the date such employee was hired, and at least once every five years  
67 thereafter. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a municipal agency  
68 from requiring any such employee to submit to a comprehensive  
69 background check more than once during a five-year 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, whether each paid director, assistant director and staff  
 203 member of such program who is twenty-one years of age or older  
 204 complied with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section in the  
 205 preceding twelve-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

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(b), "from" was changed to "issued by" for consistency with the general statutes, in Section 2(d), "recreational or educational children's program" was changed to "municipal recreational or

educational children's program" and "is eighteen years of age or older and" was inserted for consistency, and in Section 6(b), "that each paid director" was changed to "whether each paid director" for clarity.

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*