



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1373

LCO No. 4759



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***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)

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*