



General Assembly
January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1451

LCO No. 5801



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY STAFF SAFETY ISSUES AFFECTING
HOME HEALTH CARE AND HOME HEALTH AIDE AGENCIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-491f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) Each home health care agency, [and] home health aide agency and
4 hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, [except any
5 such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the
6 Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] shall,
7 during intake of a prospective client who will be receiving services from
8 the agency, collect and provide to any employee assigned to provide
9 services to such client, to the extent feasible and consistent with state
10 and federal laws, information regarding: (1) The client, including, if
11 applicable, (A) the client's history of violence toward health care
12 workers; (B) the client's history of substance use; (C) the client's history
13 of domestic abuse; (D) a list of the client's diagnoses, including, but not
14 limited to, psychiatric history; (E) whether the client's diagnoses or
15 symptoms thereof have remained stable over time; and (F) any

16 information concerning violent acts involving the client that is
17 contained in judicial records or any sex offender registry information
18 concerning the client; and (2) the location where the employee will
19 provide services, including, if known to the agency, the (A) crime rate
20 for the municipality in which the employee will provide services, as
21 determined by the most recent annual report concerning crime in the
22 state issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
23 Protection pursuant to section 29-1c, (B) presence of any hazardous
24 materials at the location, including, but not limited to, used syringes, (C)
25 presence of firearms or other weapons at the location, (D) status of the
26 location's fire alarm system, and (E) presence of any other safety hazards
27 at the locations.

28 (b) To facilitate compliance with subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2)
29 of subsection (a) of this section, each such agency shall annually review
30 the annual report issued by the department pursuant to section 29-1c to
31 collect crime-related data regarding the locations in the state where such
32 agency's employees provide services.

33 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) or (b) of this
34 section, no such agency shall deny the provision of services to a client
35 solely based on (1) the inability or refusal of the client to provide the
36 information described in subsection (a) of this section, or (2) the
37 information collected from the client pursuant to subsection (a) of this
38 section.

39 (d) Any health care provider, as defined in section 19a-17b, who
40 refers or transfers a patient to a home health care agency, home health
41 aide agency or hospice agency shall, at the time of such referral and to
42 the extent feasible and consistent with state and federal laws, provide
43 any documentation or information in such health care provider's
44 possession relating to the topics described in subdivision (1) of
45 subsection (a) of this section.

46 Sec. 2. Section 19a-491g of the general statutes is repealed and the

47 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

48 (a) Each home health care agency, [and] home health aide agency and
49 hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, [except any
50 such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the
51 Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] shall (1) (A)
52 adopt and implement a health and safety training curriculum for home
53 care workers that is consistent with the health and safety training
54 curriculum for such workers that is endorsed by the Centers for Disease
55 Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and
56 Health and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration,
57 including, but not limited to, training to recognize hazards commonly
58 encountered in home care workplaces and applying practical solutions
59 to manage risks and improve safety, and (B) provide annual staff
60 training consistent with such health and safety curriculum; and (2)
61 conduct monthly safety assessments with direct care staff at the agency's
62 monthly staff meeting.

63 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall require any home
64 health care agency, [and] home health aide agency [, except any such
65 agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of
66 Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] and hospice agency that
67 receives reimbursement for services rendered under the Connecticut
68 medical assistance program, as defined in section 17b-245g, to provide
69 evidence of adoption and implementation of such health and safety
70 training curriculum pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this
71 section, or, at the commissioner's discretion, an alternative workplace
72 safety training program applicable to such agency to obtain
73 reimbursement for services provided under the medical assistance
74 program.

75 (c) The commissioner may, within available appropriations, provide
76 a rate enhancement under the Connecticut medical assistance program
77 for any home health care agency, [or] home health aide agency [, except
78 any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the

79 Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] or hospice
 80 agency for timely reporting of any workplace violence incident. For
 81 purposes of this section, "timely reporting" means reporting such
 82 incident not later than seven calendar days after its occurrence to the
 83 Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health.

84 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 19a-491h of the general statutes is
 85 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 86 *1, 2025*):

87 (a) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each home
 88 health care agency, [and] home health aide agency and hospice agency,
 89 as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, [except any such agency
 90 that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public
 91 Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] shall report, in a form and manner
 92 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, each instance of
 93 verbal abuse that is perceived as a threat or danger by a staff member of
 94 such agency, physical abuse, sexual abuse or any other abuse by an
 95 agency client or any other person against a staff member [of] relating to
 96 such staff member's employment with such agency and the actions
 97 taken by the agency to ensure the safety of the staff member.

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

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	19a-491f
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	19a-491g
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	19a-491h(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the working group to study staff safety issues affecting home health care and home health aide agencies.

[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.]