



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 1451***

*January Session, 2025*



***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 Section 19a-491f of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, as  
4 such terms are defined in section 19a-490, except any such agency that  
5 is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health  
6 pursuant to section 19a-122b, shall, during intake of a prospective client  
7 who will be receiving services from the agency, collect and provide to  
8 any employee assigned to provide services to such client, to the extent  
9 feasible and consistent with state and federal laws, information  
10 regarding: (1) The client, including, if applicable, (A) the client's history  
11 of violence toward health care workers; (B) the client's history of  
12 substance use; (C) the client's history of domestic abuse; (D) a list of the  
13 client's diagnoses, including, but not limited to, psychiatric history; (E)  
14 whether the client's diagnoses or symptoms thereof have remained  
15 stable over time; and (F) any information concerning violent acts  
16 involving the client that is contained in judicial records or any sex  
17 offender registry information concerning the client; and (2) the location  
18 where the employee will provide services, including, if known to the

19 agency, the (A) crime rate for the municipality in which the employee  
20 will provide services, as determined by the most recent annual report  
21 concerning crime in the state issued by the Department of Emergency  
22 Services and Public Protection pursuant to section 29-1c, (B) presence of  
23 any hazardous materials at the location, including, but not limited to,  
24 used syringes, (C) presence of firearms or other weapons at the location,  
25 (D) status of the location's fire alarm system, and (E) presence of any  
26 other safety hazards at the locations.

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

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

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

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

47 (a) Each home health care agency, [and] home health aide agency and  
48 hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, [except any  
49 such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the  
50 Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] shall (1) (A)

51 adopt and implement a health and safety training curriculum for home  
52 care workers that is consistent with the health and safety training  
53 curriculum for such workers that is endorsed by the Centers for Disease  
54 Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and  
55 Health and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration,  
56 including, but not limited to, training to recognize hazards commonly  
57 encountered in home care workplaces and applying practical solutions  
58 to manage risks and improve safety, and (B) provide annual staff  
59 training consistent with such health and safety curriculum; and (2)  
60 conduct monthly safety assessments with direct care staff at the agency's  
61 monthly staff meeting.

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

74 (c) The commissioner may, within available appropriations, provide  
75 a rate enhancement under the Connecticut medical assistance program  
76 for any home health care agency, [or] home health aide agency [, except  
77 any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the  
78 Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] or hospice  
79 agency for timely reporting of any workplace violence incident. For  
80 purposes of this section, "timely reporting" means reporting such  
81 incident not later than seven calendar days after its occurrence to the  
82 Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health.

83 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 19a-491h of the general statutes is

84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
85 *1, 2025*):

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

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*