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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6185**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY DRINKS BY CHILDREN.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a working group to study the (1) medical risks associated with children consuming energy drinks and (2) effects of banning the sale of energy drinks to children. The group must report its findings and recommendations to the legislature by November 1, 2025.

The bill separately requires, by December 1, 2025, the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to (1) develop a notice, incorporating the working group's recommendations, alerting consumers to the medical risks associated with children drinking energy drinks and (2) post the notice on its website.

It also requires, beginning January 1, 2026, retail businesses that sell energy drinks to post a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place at the point of sale in their establishments. This requirement applies to individuals, firms, fiduciaries, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, and associations that sell energy drinks.

Under the bill, an energy drink is a soft drink containing (1) at least 80 milligrams of caffeine per nine fluid ounces, and (2) methylxanthines, B vitamins, one or more herbal ingredients, or an ingredient labeled "energy blend."

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the working group, and July 1, 2025, for the notice requirement.

#### **WORKING GROUP ON CHILDREN AND ENERGY DRINKS**

##### ***Group Charge***

The working group must study (1) the medical risks associated with children consuming energy drinks and (2) how banning the sale of these

drinks to children would affect public health and the statewide sale of energy drinks. The group must also make recommendations for a (1) public awareness campaign on these risks including a video for television and social media, (2) notice to be posted at the point of sale of energy drinks in retail establishments alerting consumers to the risks, and (3) one-page document explaining the risks.

### ***Membership***

The working group members must at least include the following people, who are selected jointly by the commissioners of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and DCP:

1. the Children Committee chairpersons and ranking members;
2. an advertising and marketing expert;
3. a parent or guardian of a child who experienced adverse health conditions or died due to drinking energy drinks;
4. a pediatric cardiologist;
5. a national association of pediatricians' statewide chapter representative;
6. a statewide interscholastic athletic activity governing body representative;
7. a Connecticut Children's Medical Center representative;
8. a statewide association of food retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and service providers representative;
9. an energy drinks manufacturer representative;
10. the DPH commissioner, or the commissioner's designee; and
11. a licensed athletic trainer.

The DPH commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, must serve as the working group's chairperson. The Children Committee's

administrative staff serves as the group's administrative staff.

***Report Deadline***

By November 1, 2025, the working group's chairperson must submit a report on the group's study and recommendations to the Children, Public Health, and General Law committees.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea     12     Nay   5     (02/18/2025)