



2025 Acts Affecting Children

By: Sarah Tata, Legislative Analyst II
August 6, 2025 | 2025-R-0111

Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting children enacted during the 2025 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Education, are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the [General Assembly's website](#) or the Connecticut State Library.

Table of Contents

Child Health and Safety	5
Complex Case Team for Young Adults With IDD	5
Emergency Response Communications Systems.....	5
Katie Beckett Waiting List	5
Pediatric Hospice Working Group	5
Priority School District Mental Health Pilot Program	6
Child Protection and Welfare	6
Contacting Local Homeless Education Liaisons Before Expulsion and Suspension Hearings.....	6
New Exceptions to DCF Record Confidentiality Rules	6
PFAS in Juvenile Products	6
Posting Disconnected Youth Report Online	7
Updates to SDE’s Chronic Absenteeism Prevention and Intervention Plan	7
Courts, Criminal Law, and Juvenile Justice	7
Affirmative Defense for Minor Victims in Misdemeanor Cases	7
Alcohol Sting Operations Involving Minors	7
DCF and CSSD Information Sharing	8
DCF Care for Those Over Age 18	8
Fees for OCME Investigation Records	8
Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.....	8
Uniform Collaborative Law Act	9
Use of Handcuffs on Young Children	9
Working Group on Probate Guardianship Proceedings.....	9
Early Childhood and Child Care Programs	10
Care 4 Kids Prospective Payment System	10
CHET Baby Bonds Program Changes.....	10
Child Care Center and Family Child Care Home Liability Insurance Study	10
Child Care Facilities Grants	10
Credit for Family Child Care Homes.....	10
Early Child Care and Education Program Portal	11
Early Childhood Education Endowment.....	11
Earned Income Tax Credit Increase.....	11
Large Family Child Care Home Endorsement	11
Local Food for Schools Incentive Program Expanded to Child Care Providers.....	11
Reporting on Child Care Centers and Higher Education Campuses	12
Reporting Requirements for Care 4 Kids Providers	12
Report on Background Checks for Early Childhood Educators.....	12
Special Education Youth in DCF-Licensed Child Care Facilities	12
Foster Care and Child Placement	12
Emergency Child Placement.....	12

Foster Care Maintenance Payment Report	13
Foster Parent Bill of Rights.....	13
Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children	13
Internet and Technology.....	13
Minors' Access to Money Sharing Applications	13
Online Gaming.....	14
Social Media and Children	14
Maternity, Paternity, Prenatal, and Newborn Care	14
Birth Certificates	14
Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative and Maternal Health	14
Infant Mortality Review Program Data Sharing.....	15
Lactation Consultant Licensure	15
Maternity Care Report Card.....	15
Minors' Access to Pregnancy-Related Care.....	16
Pilot Program to Distribute Child Care Services and Related Assistance Information	16
Strategic Plan for Birth Centers and Hospitals	16
Miscellaneous	16
Child Advocate Term Length, Reappointment Process, and Effectiveness Evaluation	16
Data-Sharing Agreement and Funding for Children Fiscal Map	17
Reduced Fare for Public Buses.....	17
School and Public Library Removal Policies	17
Youth Camps	17

Child Health and Safety

Complex Case Team for Young Adults With IDD

A new law requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to establish a working group on creating an interagency complex case team for young adults (ages 17 to 22) with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) who urgently need services and qualify for support from more than one state agency. Among other things, the working group must report its findings on creating a formalized process to address long hospital stays and safe discharges with community supports for these young adults ([PA 25-89](#), § 5, effective upon passage).

Emergency Response Communications Systems

This session, the legislature passed a law allowing the school security infrastructure competitive grant program to be used for reimbursing the purchase of hardware associated with emergency response communications systems and personal emergency communication devices. Under existing law, eligible entities include, among others, towns (for their public schools), private schools, and certain licensed child care centers ([PA 25-102](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Katie Beckett Waiting List

After convening a working group on the topic over the interim, the legislature enacted a law to address long waiting lists for the Katie Beckett Medicaid waiver, which allows children with severe physical disabilities to be eligible for Medicaid home- and community-based care. The new law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a five-year plan to eliminate the program's waiting list and report to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on appropriations needed to implement the plan. Among other things, the new law also requires DSS to administer an annual survey to applicants on the waiting list to allow them to confirm or update their information and choose to be removed or remain on the list ([PA 25-42](#), most provisions effective upon passage).

Pediatric Hospice Working Group

A new law expands the required duties of the working group on pediatric hospice services in the state established under 2024 legislation. Specifically, from March 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, the act requires the working group to make recommendations to establish (1) a Children's Health, Advocacy, Management, and Palliative Care program and (2) within that program, a Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care Center of Excellence pilot program, as described in the group's March 2025 report. The chairpersons must report the working group's recommendations to the Public Health Committee by March 1, 2026 ([PA 25-97](#), § 45, effective upon passage).

Priority School District Mental Health Pilot Program

A new law requires SDE, within available appropriations, to create a pilot program to allow at least 100,000 students in priority school districts to use an electronic mental and behavioral health awareness and treatment tool (through a website, mobile application, or other online service). SDE must create the program by January 1, 2026, and select the tool to be used in the program. Under the act during the program's first year, its objectives are to (1) build partnerships between priority school districts and community organizations providing mental and behavioral health care services and (2) launch a digital marketing campaign to raise awareness and engagement among students about these issues. During the program's second year, its objectives are to (1) refer students to mental and behavioral health care providers, as needed, and (2) enhance students' engagement with mental and behavioral health tools, including coping strategies and clinician support. By January 1, 2026, and again by January 1, 2027, the act requires the SDE commissioner to report to the Public Health and Education committees on the program's success in achieving these objectives ([PA 25-97](#), § 51, effective upon passage).

Child Protection and Welfare

Contacting Local Homeless Education Liaisons Before Expulsion and Suspension Hearings

This session, the legislature passed a law requiring districts to contact their local homeless education liaisons prior to an expulsion or suspension hearing to determine if the student is homeless. If so, the entity conducting the hearing (the board of education (BOE) or the impartial hearing board) must consider the impact of homelessness on the student's behavior, and a student cannot be expelled without a plan to alleviate this impact ([PA 25-93](#), §§ 38 & 39, effective July 1, 2025).

New Exceptions to DCF Record Confidentiality Rules

A new law allows the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to share records that are otherwise confidential with the Department of Developmental Services for abuse and neglect investigations involving people with intellectual disabilities and with OPM for labor relations investigations conducted for DCF. Generally, DCF's records are confidential and cannot be disclosed without the permission of the person involved except in limited situations ([PA 25-116](#), § 3, effective July 1, 2025).

PFAS in Juvenile Products

A new act renames a "children's product" as a "juvenile product" under the state's law regulating the sale and use of certain products containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The law

generally defines these products as those designed or marketed for use by an infant or child under age 12, but excludes adult mattresses and electronic devices and related equipment (e.g., a computer, wireless phone, game console, mouse, keyboard, or power cord). Beginning July 1, 2026, the law allows the manufacture, sale, or offer or distribution for sale of certain categories of new products (including the renamed children's products) with intentionally added PFAS only if the manufacturer labels them and gives prior written notice to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Without the label and notice, their manufacture, sale, or offer or distribution for sale is banned ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 144 & 145, effective upon passage).

Posting Disconnected Youth Report Online

This session, the legislature passed a law requiring any state agency that contributes data for the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network's (P20 WIN) disconnected youth report to post the report on its website ([PA 25-93](#), § 33, effective upon passage).

Updates to SDE's Chronic Absenteeism Prevention and Intervention Plan

Existing law requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop, in consultation with the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap, a chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan to be used by BOEs. This session, the legislature passed a law that requires SDE to review, and revise as needed, the plan biannually, and when making revisions, (1) incorporate the findings from the disconnected youth report and (2) include the truancy policies and procedures that school boards must adopt by law ([PA 25-93](#), § 34, effective July 1, 2025).

Courts, Criminal Law, and Juvenile Justice

Affirmative Defense for Minor Victims in Misdemeanor Cases

In misdemeanor cases in Superior or Juvenile courts, a new law makes it an affirmative defense that (1) the defendant was a minor (under age 18) at the time he or she committed the offense and (2) his or her participation in the offense was a result of having been a human trafficking victim ([PA 25-139](#), § 16, effective October 1, 2025).

Alcohol Sting Operations Involving Minors

A new law allows the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to conduct, and DCP and law enforcement agencies to authorize, an official investigation or enforcement activity that includes inducing a minor to obtain alcohol from an alcoholic liquor permittee (i.e. a sting operation). Under

prior law, only law enforcement agencies could conduct a sting operation ([PA 25-51](#), § 17, effective upon passage).

DCF and CSSD Information Sharing

The legislature passed a new law that generally allows the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) and DCF to share information on juveniles who have been in both systems. The new law, among other things, allows (1) DCF to disclose information to CSSD to determine a juvenile's needs and track recidivism; (2) the judicial branch to make records in delinquency proceedings available to certain entities; (3) disclosure of information in the judicial branch's central computer system to DCF; (4) the chief court administrator to grant DCF access to information on the protective order registry; and (5) disclosure of youthful offender records to DCF without certain conditions ([PA 25-91](#), §§ 6 & 7, effective July 1, 2025, and §§ 2, 10 & 20, effective from passage).

DCF Care for Those Over Age 18

The legislature passed a new law authorizing DCF to allow post-majority age (over 18) but under 21 youth to voluntarily re-enter DCF care. In these cases, DCF must seek a determination whether re-entry into care is in the youth's best interest by filing a motion in the juvenile court that had jurisdiction over the youth's original case within 60 days of executing the agreement with the youth. In addition to receiving juvenile court approval, to be granted re-entry, the youth generally must be actively enrolled full-time in an education or commissioner-approved program ([PA 25-116](#), § 2, effective July 1, 2025).

Fees for OCME Investigation Records

By law, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) must investigate deaths that (1) involve certain conditions, such as violence or suspicious circumstances, or (2) are sudden or unexpected and not caused by an easily recognizable disease. The office must keep complete records of these investigations (including autopsy and toxicology reports and a copy of the death certificate). A new law prohibits OCME from charging a fee to a parent or adult sibling of a deceased minor for copies of the minor's records. Generally, existing law limits public access to copies of these records unless the person has a legitimate interest in them, or the decedent was under state custody at the time of death ([PA 25-97](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

This session the legislature (1) expanded the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee's (JJPOC) membership by including the housing and emergency services and public protection commissioners or their designees and (2) established an advisory council within JJPOC to help the

state develop its juvenile justice plan. The act also requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and JJPOC to develop a statewide uniform youth diversion policy and a youth diversion training curriculum for police and establishes four new annual reporting requirements related to juvenile justice policy ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 245-251, effective upon passage).

Uniform Collaborative Law Act

This session the legislature adopted the Uniform Collaborative Law Act, which creates a framework for parties to use a collaborative law process to achieve a non-adversarial resolution of certain legal matters arising under Connecticut’s family or domestic relations law. Under the act, a “collaborative law process” is a procedure intended to resolve a collaborative matter (e.g., parentage) without court intervention in which a person (1) signs a participation agreement and (2) is represented by a collaborative lawyer. The act applies to agreements signed on or after October 1, 2025.

Under the act, a “collaborative matter” means a dispute, transaction, claim, problem, or issue for resolution that arises under Connecticut’s family or domestic relations law, including: child custody, visitation, parenting time, child support, adoption, or parentage ([PA 25-153](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Use of Handcuffs on Young Children

The legislature enacted a new law that generally prohibits police officers from using handcuffs to restrain any child the officer knows is under age 14. This prohibition begins at the point of the child’s initial contact with the police officer and applies as long as the child has not been adjudicated a delinquent. The new law makes exceptions when handcuffing is (1) necessary to ensure the safety of the public or police officer or (2) ordered by the court under its existing policy on using mechanical restraints during proceedings ([PA 25-163](#), effective October 1, 2025).

Working Group on Probate Guardianship Proceedings

This session, the legislature passed a law allowing a 12-member working group to study and make recommendations for improving laws, policies, and procedures related to probate court guardianship proceedings. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee by January 1, 2026. The working group terminates on the date it submits the report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later ([SA 25-18](#), effective upon passage).

Early Childhood and Child Care Programs

Care 4 Kids Prospective Payment System

The legislature enacted a new law that requires, by July 1, 2027, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to implement a prospective payment system for the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy program that is based on enrollment rather than attendance ([PA 25-82](#), § 2, effective upon passage).

CHET Baby Bonds Program Changes

A new law makes a number of changes to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) program statutes, including, among other things, eliminating the (1) statutory framework for the CHET Baby Scholars Fund program and its related account and (2) ability for taxpayers to contribute any portion of their state income tax refund to this account. The law instead allows taxpayers to contribute their refunds to the Connecticut Baby Bonds Trust ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 375-383, effective July 1, 2025).

Child Care Center and Family Child Care Home Liability Insurance Study

This session new legislation requires OEC, the Insurance Department, and the attorney general to study liability insurance for child care centers and family child care homes. OEC must submit a report on the study's findings and any recommendations by July 1, 2026, to the committees on Children, Education, and Insurance and Real Estate ([PA 25-82](#), § 5, effective upon passage).

Child Care Facilities Grants

A new law requires OEC to establish a competitive grant program for child care facilities' design, construction, and renovations projects. It also authorizes up to an aggregate \$80 million in state general obligation (GO) bonds, with a cap of \$11.5 million for each fiscal year, from FYs 26-32 and requires OEC to use the proceeds to fund the competitive grant program. The new law also exempts child care centers that are recipients of grants-in-aid of \$50,000 or less from OEC's authority to place a lien on the property to ensure repayment to the state if the property ceases to be used for grant purposes within certain timeframes ([PA 25-174](#), §§ 121 & 122, effective July 1, 2025).

Credit for Family Child Care Homes

Under a new law, taxpayers who own a state-licensed family child care home can receive a refundable income tax credit equal to \$500 ([PA 25-168](#), § 372, effective January 1, 2026, and applicable to tax years starting on or after that date).

Early Child Care and Education Program Portal

A new law requires OEC to establish and maintain an electronic portal (available through a mobile application and OEC's website) that provides information on the availability of, and allows enrollment in, early childhood programs. The portal must be available by July 1, 2028 ([PA 25-82](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

Early Childhood Education Endowment

A new law establishes the Early Childhood Education Endowment and funds it with transfers of estimated unappropriated surplus (up to \$300 million for FY 25, and the full estimated amount in fiscal years after that, with some exceptions). The law allows OEC to use a percentage of the endowment funds (12% in FYs 26 and 27, and 10% after that) to fund early childhood program and expansion costs and health insurance subsidies for early childhood education employees. It also caps the amount that families must pay for care received through programs funded through the endowment at 7% of their annual gross income, except that families with gross incomes under \$100,000 per year pay nothing ([PA 25-93](#), §§ 1-14, effective upon passage).

Earned Income Tax Credit Increase

Connecticut residents who qualify for, and claim, the federal earned income tax credit (EITC) may claim a refundable state EITC equal to 40% of the federal credit for the same tax year. The FY 26-27 budget and implementer act increases the credit's amount by \$250 for eligible taxpayers with at least one qualifying child for federal income tax purposes ([PA 25-168](#), § 371, effective upon passage and applicable to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025).

Large Family Child Care Home Endorsement

This session the legislature enacted a law that allows family child care homes, where licensed child care is provided in a private family home, to serve a maximum of 12 children (rather than nine) if OEC grants the licensee a large family child care home endorsement. The law sets conditions for the new endorsement and limits to 30 the number that can be granted in a year ([PA 25-82](#), § 7, effective July 1, 2025).

Local Food for Schools Incentive Program Expanded to Child Care Providers

A new law makes various changes to the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP), which provides reimbursements to eligible entities for purchases of locally or regionally sourced food for eligible meal programs. The changes include, among other things, (1) expanding the program to include child care providers, (2) SDE, rather than the Department of Agriculture, the lead

administering agency, and (3) requiring SDE to use some of its annual LFSIP appropriation for supplemental services (e.g., outreach, training, and technical assistance) ([PA 25-168](#), § 300, effective July 1, 2025).

Reporting on Child Care Centers and Higher Education Campuses

By October 1, 2025, and quarterly after, a new law requires the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) chancellor, in consultation with the OEC commissioner, to submit a report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee describing the coordination of efforts between CSCU and OEC to construct, improve, or equip child care centers on or near college and university campuses in the state ([PA 25-174](#), § 134, effective July 1, 2025).

Reporting Requirements for Care 4 Kids Providers

New legislation expands the reporting requirements for day care providers to remain eligible for Care 4 Kids payments. The new law requires providers also report the (1) provider's business entity type and (2) names of the provider's officers, directors, and owners, or, in the case of a provider affiliate that is receiving payments, the names of the affiliate's officers, directors, and owners ([PA 25-82](#), § 3, effective July 1, 2025).

Report on Background Checks for Early Childhood Educators

This session, the legislature enacted a new law that requires OEC, in consultation with Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, to develop a report on background checks for early childhood educators, including ways to improve background check processing time. OEC must submit the report by July 1, 2026, on its findings and recommendations to the committees on Children, Education, and Public Safety and Security ([PA 25-82](#), § 6, effective from passage).

Special Education Youth in DCF-Licensed Child Care Facilities

The legislature passed a new law that allows an adolescent placed at a DCF-licensed child care facility who requires special education to remain in the facility receiving services until the end of the school year in which he or she turns 22, thus conforming with state special education law ([PA 25-116](#), § 4, effective July 1, 2025).

Foster Care and Child Placement

Emergency Child Placement

A new law names the existing expedited child placement process "emergency placement" and codifies the definition for emergency placement. By law, a child can be placed with a relative or

fictive kin caregiver who is not DCF-licensed or -approved when the placement is deemed in the child's best interest, if DCF does a basic family assessment, including a home visit ([PA 25-116](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

Foster Care Maintenance Payment Report

This session, the legislature passed a law requiring DCF to submit a report to the Committee on Children on foster care maintenance payments provided by DCF to foster parents in the state. The report must include information on (1) payment rates and schedules; (2) a comparison of foster care maintenance payments in the state and neighboring jurisdictions; (3) the feasibility of increasing rates; and (4) recommendations for legislation to accomplish a rate increase ([SA 25-6](#), effective upon passage).

Foster Parent Bill of Rights

A new law requires the DCF commissioner, in consultation with caregivers, to develop a foster parent bill of rights, consistent with state and federal law, and incorporate it into department policy by January 1, 2026 ([PA 25-116](#), § 5, effective July 1, 2025).

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children

The legislature enacted a law that will replace the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children with a new one crafted by the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children when it is adopted by 35 jurisdictions (to date, 19 have adopted the compact). The new compact includes provisions intended to expedite safe placement of children across state lines and spells out responsibilities of child welfare agencies in the sending and receiving states ([PA 25-116](#), § 6, effective upon enactment of the revised Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children by 35 jurisdictions).

Internet and Technology

Minors' Access to Money Sharing Applications

New legislation regulates minors' access to certain money sharing applications by imposing restrictions and duties on people who are or must be licensed as money transmitters under the state's Money Transmission Act. Generally, the act prohibits these licensees from allowing anyone to sponsor, open, or establish a money sharing application account for a minor unless the licensee (1) receives an attestation from the person stating that he or she is the minor's parent or legal guardian and (2) either receives a copy of the person's driver's license or other valid government-issued identification or verifies the person's identity following the requirements of the federal Bank Secrecy Act and its regulations. The act also requires, with exceptions, licensees to delete a minor's

money sharing application account within 30 business days after receiving a request to do so from the minor or the minor's parent or legal guardian ([PA 25-66](#), § 7, effective October 1, 2025).

Online Gaming

A provision in a new law makes it a class C misdemeanor to knowingly allow an underage person to (1) open or use an account with an online gaming operator or (2) wager or try to wager on Internet games or with a sports wagering retailer ([PA 25-29](#), § 11, effective October 1, 2025).

Social Media and Children

A new law, among other things, broadens what is considered a “heightened risk of harm to minors,” which in turn requires data controllers (those that determine the purpose and means of processing personal data) to do additional data protection assessments for these new risk factors and make and implement plans to mitigate or eliminate the risk.

This legislation also eliminates the ability for individuals to consent to certain actions, such as allowing controllers to process a minor's personal data for targeted advertising, collecting the minor's precise geolocation, and using a design feature to significantly increase a minor's use of an online service, product, or feature.

The same act requires social media platform owners, by October 1, 2026, to incorporate an online safety center and create a policy for handling reports of cyberbullying on the platform ([PA 25-113](#), §§ 4, 8, 9 & 13-18, effective July 1, 2026).

Maternity, Paternity, Prenatal, and Newborn Care

Birth Certificates

A new law extends to legal guardians an existing process allowing a parent whose child was born outside of a health care institution, but who cannot provide the required information for the birth certificate, to seek a probate court order during the child's first year for the town registrar of vital statistics to prepare the certificate ([PA 25-48](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative and Maternal Health

By law, the Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative council must actively participate in efforts to further the initiative's objectives. Under a new law, these efforts must include expanding fathers' roles in supporting maternal health ([PA 25-38](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Infant Mortality Review Program Data Sharing

A new law allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to disclose information and data from the Infant Mortality Review Program to the Child Advocate, if the commissioner deems it necessary for the Child Advocate to perform her statutory duties. In turn, the act allows the Child Advocate to share information with the DPH commissioner about deaths occurring before a child turns one if the Child Advocate determines it is necessary for the purpose of the Infant Mortality Review Program.

Any data disclosed for these purposes (1) is confidential and not subject to further disclosure; (2) is not admissible as evidence in a court or agency proceeding; and (3) must be used solely for medical or scientific research purposes ([PA 25-97](#), §§ 43 & 44, effective October 1, 2025).

Lactation Consultant Licensure

Starting in July 2026, a new law creates a DPH licensure program for lactation consultants. To receive a license, an applicant must have a certification in good standing from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners or any successor to it.

The act generally prohibits unlicensed people from practicing lactation consulting for compensation, using the “lactation consultant” title, or holding themselves out to the public as licensed lactation consultants. But it does not restrict unlicensed people meeting specified criteria from practicing lactation consulting or providing related services if they do not refer to themselves as “lactation consultants” ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 192-197, effective July 1, 2026).

Maternity Care Report Card

A new law requires the DPH commissioner, starting July 1, 2026, to establish an annual maternity care report card that evaluates maternity care provided at birth centers and hospitals that provide obstetrics care.

When doing so, the commissioner must first establish an advisory committee to create the report card’s quantitative metrics, qualitative measures, and assessment methodology and report on them to the Public Health Committee by February 1, 2026. The commissioner must also (1) post the report card on the DPH website annually, starting by January 1, 2027, and (2) revise the report card criteria at least once every three years in consultation with the advisory committee and, if she chooses, other experts ([PA 25-168](#), § 124, effective upon passage).

Minors' Access to Pregnancy-Related Care

A new law allows people under age 18 to give consent for services, exams, or treatment related to pregnancy and pregnancy prevention without the consent or notification of their parents or guardian. These services specifically include contraceptive counseling and services, prenatal care, and appropriate care and pain management during labor and delivery (e.g., epidural administration) but not sterilization.

Under the new law, physicians and other health care providers are prohibited from sharing any information about these services or a related consultation (including sending a bill) with a minor's parent or guardian without the minor's express consent ([PA 25-28](#), effective upon passage).

Pilot Program to Distribute Child Care Services and Related Assistance Information

A new law requires the OEC commissioner, in consultation with the social services commissioner, to develop and administer a one-year pilot program to disseminate certain information to expectant mothers receiving prenatal care in hospitals and from obstetric services providers. The disseminated information must include licensed child care services, early intervention programs, and financial assistance programs available to expectant mothers ([PA 25-82](#), § 8, effective upon passage).

Strategic Plan for Birth Centers and Hospitals

A new law requires the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to develop a strategic plan to increase the number of birth centers and birthing hospitals in areas with high percentages of Medicaid recipients and limited access to these facilities. The OHS commissioner must report to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees on recommendations and estimated appropriations needed to facilitate the opening of more birth centers and birthing hospitals in underserved areas ([PA 25-38](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Miscellaneous

Child Advocate Term Length, Reappointment Process, and Effectiveness Evaluation

This session, the legislature passed a law making various changes related to the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), including (1) extending the Child Advocate's term length from four to five years; (2) establishing a specified reappointment process for the Child Advocate that generally requires OCA's advisory committee to evaluate the advocate's performance and recommend whether he or she

should be reappointed; and (3) requiring the advisory committee to submit its existing annual evaluation on the Child Advocate's effectiveness to the governor and the Judiciary, Children, and Human Services committees and post it on OCA's website ([PA 25-68](#), effective July 1, 2025).

Data-Sharing Agreement and Funding for Children Fiscal Map

A new law requires OEC to enter into a data-sharing agreement to create a fiscal map of funding and spending for children in Connecticut. It requires the OEC commissioner, by October 1, 2025, to enter into the agreement with the Children's Funding Project (CFP, a non-profit organization) to create a fiscal map showing a comprehensive view of state funding and spending for children, but it permits OEC to opt out of this if CFP charges a direct fee for its services ([PA 25-82](#), § 4, effective upon passage).

Reduced Fare for Public Buses

A new law requires the Department of Transportation to give up to a 50% fare discount for state-owned or -controlled public buses to veterans, people age 65 or older, people age 18 or younger, and people with disabilities. Additionally, it allows school boards to purchase passes for use on these buses at the discounted rate. School boards may distribute the passes at no cost to public school students in grades 9-12 under their jurisdiction, or sell them to these students at cost or for a reduced cost ([PA 25-65](#), § 37, effective October 1, 2025).

School and Public Library Removal Policies

This session the legislature enacted a law requiring school boards and public library boards of trustees or other governing bodies to each adopt policies addressing whether books or other material should be removed from a library. Specifically, the policies must address (1) collection development and maintenance, (2) library display and programs, and (3) library material review and reconsideration. Under prior law, public libraries (but not school libraries) were required to adopt collection development, collection management, and collection reconsideration policies to be eligible for state grants. The new law instead requires they adopt policies meeting its requirements to maintain their eligibility ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 321-323, effective upon passage).

Youth Camps

By law, youth camps must obtain an annual license from OEC. This session, the legislature passed a law specifying that (1) these licenses are not transferable and (2) when renewing a license, youth camps must apply to OEC, in addition to paying the renewal fees required under existing law. (The fees are \$815 for for-profit camps, \$315 for nonprofit camps, and no fee for certain nonprofit day camps that operate for no more than five days) ([PA 25-143](#), § 2 & 3, effective July 1, 2025).

ST:co