



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 280

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 372

Senate, March 31, 2026

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. GASTON of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT WING CIVIL AIR PATROL YOUTH CAMPS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-421 of the 2026 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 (a) No person shall establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp
5 without a license issued by the office. Applications for such license shall
6 be made in writing at least thirty days prior to the opening of the youth
7 camp on forms provided and in accordance with procedures established
8 by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of eight
9 hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a nonprofit, nonstock
10 corporation or association, a fee of three hundred fifteen dollars or, if
11 the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for
12 no more than five days duration and for which labor and materials are
13 donated, no fee. All such licenses shall be valid for a period of one year
14 from the date of issuance unless surrendered for cancellation or

15 suspended or revoked by the commissioner for violation of this chapter
16 or any regulations adopted under section 19a-428, shall be
17 nontransferable and shall be renewable upon receipt by the
18 commissioner of a renewal application and payment of an eight-
19 hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the licensee is a nonprofit,
20 nonstock corporation or association, a three-hundred-fifteen-dollar
21 license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit
22 organization, for no more than five days duration and for which labor
23 and materials are donated, no fee.

24 (b) On and after October 1, 2022, any licensee shall require any
25 prospective employee eighteen years of age or older, who is applying
26 for a position at a youth camp that requires the provision of care to a
27 child or involves unsupervised access to a child, to submit to a
28 comprehensive background check. The background check shall include,
29 but not be limited to, a (1) (A) criminal history records check conducted
30 (i) in accordance with section 29-17a, or (ii) by searching the electronic
31 criminal record system maintained on the Internet web site of the
32 Judicial Department for convictions matching the prospective
33 employee's name and date of birth, (B) state child abuse registry
34 established pursuant to section 17a-101k, (C) registry established and
35 maintained pursuant to section 54-257, and (D) National Sex Offender
36 Registry Public Website maintained by the United States Department of
37 Justice, or (2) check by a third-party provider of national criminal
38 history record checks that is conducted through a centralized database
39 utilizing the prospective employee's fingerprints, provided such
40 provider appears on a list of such providers published on the Internet
41 web site of the Office of Early Childhood. Prior to each check of the state
42 child abuse registry conducted pursuant to this subsection, a licensee
43 shall submit to the office an authorization for the release of personal
44 information signed by the prospective employee, on a form prescribed
45 by the office, and the office shall submit such authorization to the
46 Department of Children and Families. Any prospective employee who
47 holds a J-1 visa, H-1B visa or R-1 visa issued by the United States
48 Department of State shall not be required to submit to a background
49 check under this section.

50 (c) Pending completion of all comprehensive background check
51 components described in subsection (b) of this section, a prospective
52 employee may begin work on a provisional basis, provided such
53 prospective employee is supervised at all times by an employee who
54 was subjected to a comprehensive background check described in
55 subsection (b) of this section within the past five years.

56 (d) Each licensee shall require any employee of a youth camp holding
57 a position that requires the provision of care to a child or involves
58 unsupervised access to a child to submit to a comprehensive
59 background check described in subsection (b) of this section not later
60 than five years after the date such employee was hired, and at least once
61 every five years thereafter. Nothing in this section prohibits a licensee
62 from requiring any such employee to submit to a comprehensive
63 background check more than once during a five-year period.

64 (e) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall have the discretion to
65 refuse to license under sections 19a-420 to 19a-429, inclusive, a person
66 to establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp, as described in section
67 19a-420, or to suspend or revoke the license or take any other action set
68 forth in any regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-428 if, the
69 person who establishes, conducts or maintains such youth camp or a
70 person employed therein in a position connected with the provision of
71 care to a child or involving unsupervised access to a child, has (1) been
72 convicted in this state or any other state of (A) a felony as defined in
73 section 53a-25 involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of
74 physical force against another person, (B) cruelty to persons under
75 section 53-20, (C) injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of
76 children under section 53-21, (D) abandonment of children under the
77 age of six years under section 53-23, (E) any felony where the victim of
78 the felony is a child under eighteen years of age, or (F) a violation of
79 section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
80 January 1, 2019, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, (2)
81 a criminal record in this state or any other state that the commissioner
82 reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to establish, conduct
83 or maintain or be employed by a youth camp, or (3) held a license to

84 establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp in another state that was
85 revoked by such state's licensing authority. However, no refusal of a
86 license shall be rendered except in accordance with the provisions of
87 sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive.

88 (f) Any person who is licensed to establish, operate or maintain a
89 youth camp shall notify the Commissioner of Early Childhood if such
90 licensee or any person employed by such youth camp is convicted of a
91 crime listed in subsection (e) of this section, if such licensee or person
92 employed by such youth camp is employed in a position connected with
93 the provision of care to a child or involving unsupervised access to a
94 child, immediately upon obtaining knowledge of the conviction. Failure
95 to comply with the notification requirement may result in the
96 suspension or revocation of the license or the imposition of any action
97 set forth in regulation, and shall subject the licensee to a civil penalty of
98 not more than one hundred dollars per day for each day after the
99 licensee obtained knowledge of the conviction, provided such civil
100 penalty shall not exceed the aggregate sum of four thousand five
101 hundred dollars.

102 (g) Each licensee shall maintain, and make available for inspection
103 upon request of the Office of Early Childhood, any documentation
104 associated with a comprehensive background check described in
105 subsection (b) of this section, for a period of not less than five years from
106 the date of (1) completion of such background check, if the subject of the
107 comprehensive background check was not hired by the licensee, or (2)
108 separation from employment, if the subject of the comprehensive
109 background check was hired by the licensee.

110 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 368r, the Connecticut
111 Wing Civil Air Patrol within the Department of Emergency Services and
112 Public Protection may establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp
113 without obtaining a license issued by the office, provided the
114 Connecticut Wing Civil Air Patrol (1) establishes, conducts or maintains
115 any such youth camp on property owned or leased by the state and
116 utilizes a facility operated exclusively by the Military Department or the

117 armed forces of the United States in accordance with Title 10 of the
118 United States Code, and (2) complies with the guidelines set forth in the
119 Civil Air Patrol pamphlet entitled "CAPP 79-10 Cadet Medication
120 Management", as amended from time to time, during any overnight
121 youth camp.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	19a-421

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Precludes Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to open, operate, and maintain a youth camp without an Office of Early Childhood (OEC) license.

While the CAP does not currently run a camp in the state, any future establishment of such a facility precludes the revenue gain from licensure fees that would otherwise be collected.

For context, standard licensure fees are \$815 for for-profit organizations and \$315 for non-profits.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any changes to the OEC licensure fee schedule.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 372*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT WING CIVIL AIR PATROL YOUTH CAMPS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol to open, operate, and maintain a youth camp without an Office of Early Childhood (OEC) license. However, to be exempt, the camp must (1) be opened, operated, and maintained on state-owned or -leased property and use a facility operated exclusively by the Connecticut Military Department or U.S. Armed Forces, and (2) comply with the guidelines set forth in the "CAPP 79-10 Cadet Medication Management" Civil Air Patrol pamphlet during any overnight youth camp.

Generally, the current, April 2025 version of the pamphlet outlines tasks to be done by commanders, project officers, and event health service officers before, during, and after an overnight activity, such as (1) receiving, appropriately labeling, and securely storing all received medications; (2) supervising cadets as they self-administer their medications and maintaining a log of all self-administered medications; and (3) contacting parents or guardians in cases when the cadet does not show up at the appropriate time for medication self-administration, or when there are lost, damaged, contaminated, or refused medications. Among other things, it requires that state laws be followed, regardless of the guidelines in the pamphlet.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND***Civil Air Patrol***

The Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally funded nonprofit corporation and serves as the volunteer civilian auxiliary of

the U.S. Air Force (see 36 U.S.C. § 40301, et seq.).

Youth Camps

By law, among other criteria, a “youth camp” is any regularly scheduled program or organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during school vacations or on weekends by a person, entity, or state or municipal agency for recreational or educational purposes that accommodates at least five children from ages 3 through 15 (CGS § 19a-420).

For youth camps to operate in the state, they generally must complete a comprehensive licensing process OEC runs, including background checks for employees who provide care or have unsupervised access to a child. There is generally a license fee of \$315 or \$815 depending on the entity.

Related Bill

sHB 5291, § 14, favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee, has identical provisions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)