

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5379 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill requires the Commissioner of Early Childhood to adopt various regulations that ensure childcare centers and group childcare homes meet health and licensing guidelines, including but not limited to immunizations, space/capacity, staffing, and training. Additional regulatory adoptions include residence and care types of said facilities. The bill also touches on youth camp licensure issuances and renewals, with eligibility criteria looking at infrastructure, maintenance, training, and data storage. This legislation ensures that providers will remain up-to-date and in good standing in all aspects of health and safety, maintaining future reputability in administering children's programs.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

LCO 2547: This language adds specific details to the original mandates of the bill for further clarification. For example, it requires (1) OEC to amend its regulations to require childcare centers, group childcare homes and family childcare homes to conduct medical emergency drills every six months; and (2) youth camps to conduct medical emergency drills prior to assuming responsibility for campers, as a condition of licensure.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Area Health Education Center, Associate Director, Cecil Tengtenga: CT AHEC and Mr. Tengtenga testify in support of the bill because it seeks to strengthen children's programs and supports a high-quality, safe, and accountable ecosystem of resources for the state's youth.

Kathi Ellison: Ms. Ellison volunteers with the CT High School Science and Humanities Symposium, which is a part of the CT Area Health Education Center, and she is a strong believer in creative, problem-solving learning environments. Ms. Ellison appreciates the bill and requests support for valuable programs like hers.

Jessica Cohen: Ms. Cohen shares her support as a parent connected to the CT High School Science and Humanities Symposium through the Connecticut Area Health Education Center. She affirms the program's importance and says her son grew as both a student and a person because of it, stating that, "...I observed an increase in confidence, motivation, persistence, ethical engagement with technology, interest in careers, inspiration, and sense of community in my son. It created a supportive learning environment where students could grow and feel they belonged."

Victoria Makarov: As a former student of the Connecticut High School Science and Humanities Symposium, Ms. Makarov advocates for this bill and emphasizes the positive impact that these programs have on students' career aspirations. She presented scientific research and explored STEM while there and remains thankful for the program.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Mia Giglietti and Zachary Robinson Date: 3/13/2026