



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 5511***

LCO No. 2308



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CONSENT ORDERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-2a 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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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 The Commissioner of Public Health shall employ the most efficient  
5 and practical means for the prevention and suppression of disease and  
6 shall administer all laws under the jurisdiction of the Department of  
7 Public Health and the Public Health Code. The commissioner shall have  
8 responsibility for the overall operation and administration of the  
9 Department of Public Health. The commissioner shall have the power  
10 and duty to: (1) Administer, coordinate and direct the operation of the  
11 department; (2) adopt and enforce regulations, in accordance with  
12 chapter 54, as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the department  
13 as established by statute; (3) establish rules for the internal operation  
14 and administration of the department; (4) establish and develop

15 programs and administer services to achieve the purposes of the  
16 department as established by statute; (5) enter into a contract, including,  
17 but not limited to, a contract with another state, for facilities, services  
18 and programs to implement the purposes of the department as  
19 established by statute; (6) designate a deputy commissioner or other  
20 employee of the department to sign any license, certificate or permit  
21 issued by said department; (7) conduct a hearing, issue subpoenas,  
22 administer oaths, compel testimony and render a final decision in any  
23 case when a hearing is required or authorized under the provisions of  
24 any statute dealing with the Department of Public Health; (8) with the  
25 health authorities of this and other states, secure information and data  
26 concerning the prevention and control of epidemics and conditions  
27 affecting or endangering the public health, and compile such  
28 information and statistics and shall disseminate among health  
29 authorities and the people of the state such information as may be of  
30 value to them; (9) annually issue a list of reportable diseases, emergency  
31 illnesses and health conditions and a list of reportable laboratory  
32 findings and amend such lists as the commissioner deems necessary and  
33 distribute such lists as well as any necessary forms to each licensed  
34 physician, licensed physician assistant, licensed advanced practice  
35 registered nurse and clinical laboratory in this state. The commissioner  
36 shall prepare printed forms for reports and returns, with such  
37 instructions as may be necessary, for the use of directors of health,  
38 boards of health and registrars of vital statistics; and (10) specify  
39 uniform methods of keeping statistical information by public and  
40 private agencies, organizations and individuals, including a client  
41 identifier system, and collect and make available relevant statistical  
42 information, including the number of persons treated, frequency of  
43 admission and readmission, and frequency and duration of treatment.  
44 In exercising any authority to issue or renew any permit, approval,  
45 registration, certificate or license, the commissioner may include any  
46 condition that the commissioner deems necessary to ensure compliance  
47 with the regulatory requirements related to such permit, approval,  
48 registration, certificate or license. In the administration or enforcement

49 of any applicable statute, regulation, permit or order, the department  
50 may resolve any dispute regarding compliance by agreed settlement or  
51 consent order. The client identifier system shall be subject to the  
52 confidentiality requirements set forth in section 17a-688 and regulations  
53 adopted thereunder. The commissioner may designate any person to  
54 perform any of the duties listed in subdivision (7) of this section. The  
55 commissioner shall have authority over directors of health and may, for  
56 cause, remove any such director; but any person claiming to be  
57 aggrieved by such removal may appeal to the Superior Court which  
58 may affirm or reverse the action of the commissioner as the public  
59 interest requires. The commissioner shall assist and advise local  
60 directors of health and district directors of health in the performance of  
61 their duties, and may require the enforcement of any law, regulation or  
62 ordinance relating to public health. In the event the commissioner  
63 reasonably suspects impropriety on the part of a local director of health  
64 or district director of health, or employee of such director, in the  
65 performance of his or her duties, the commissioner shall provide  
66 notification and any evidence of such impropriety to the appropriate  
67 governing authority of the municipal health authority, established  
68 pursuant to section 19a-200, or the district department of health,  
69 established pursuant to section 19a-244, for purposes of reviewing and  
70 assessing a director's or an employee's compliance with such duties.  
71 Such governing authority shall provide a written report of its findings  
72 from the review and assessment to the commissioner not later than  
73 ninety days after such review and assessment. When requested by local  
74 directors of health or district directors of health, the commissioner shall  
75 consult with them and investigate and advise concerning any condition  
76 affecting public health within their jurisdiction. The commissioner shall  
77 investigate nuisances and conditions affecting, or that he or she has  
78 reason to suspect may affect, the security of life and health in any  
79 locality and, for that purpose, the commissioner, or any person  
80 authorized by the commissioner, may enter and examine any ground,  
81 vehicle, apartment, building or place, and any person designated by the  
82 commissioner shall have the authority conferred by law upon

83 constables. Whenever the commissioner determines that any provision  
84 of the general statutes or regulation of the Public Health Code is not  
85 being enforced effectively by a local health department or health district,  
86 he or she shall forthwith take such measures, including the performance  
87 of any act required of the local health department or health district, to  
88 ensure enforcement of such statute or regulation and shall inform the  
89 local health department or health district of such measures. In  
90 September of each year the commissioner shall certify to the Secretary  
91 of the Office of Policy and Management the population of each  
92 municipality. The commissioner may solicit and accept for use any gift  
93 of money or property made by will or otherwise, and any grant of or  
94 contract for money, services or property from the federal government,  
95 the state, any political subdivision thereof, any other state or any private  
96 source, and do all things necessary to cooperate with the federal  
97 government or any of its agencies in making an application for any grant  
98 or contract. The commissioner may enter into any contracts or  
99 agreements, in accordance with any established procedures, as may be  
100 necessary for the distribution or use of such money, services or property  
101 in accordance with any requirements to fulfill any conditions of a gift,  
102 grant or contract. The commissioner may establish state-wide and  
103 regional advisory councils. For purposes of this section, "employee of  
104 such director" means an employee of, a consultant employed or retained  
105 by or an independent contractor retained by a local director of health, a  
106 district director of health, a local health department or a health district.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-2a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow the Commissioner of Public Health to (1) impose conditions on the issuance or renewal of any permit, approval, registration, certificate or license, and (2) resolve enforcement actions with an agreed settlement or consent order without need for a formal hearing.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*