



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 193**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING LICENSURE FOR LONG-TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-490 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

4 (a) "Institution" means a hospital, short-term hospital special hospice,  
5 hospice inpatient facility, residential care home, nursing home facility,  
6 home health care agency, home health aide agency, behavioral health  
7 facility, assisted living services agency, substance abuse treatment  
8 facility, outpatient surgical facility, outpatient clinic, clinical laboratory,  
9 blood collection facility, source plasma donation center, birth center,  
10 long-term acute care hospital, an infirmary operated by an educational  
11 institution for the care of students enrolled in, and faculty and  
12 employees of, such institution; a facility engaged in providing services  
13 for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or care of human health  
14 conditions, including facilities operated and maintained by any state  
15 agency; and a residential facility for persons with intellectual disability  
16 licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the  
17 Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for  
18 individuals with intellectual disability. "Institution" does not include

19 any facility for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness or  
20 substance use disorder operated or maintained by any state agency,  
21 except Whiting Forensic Hospital and the hospital and psychiatric  
22 residential treatment facility units of the Albert J. Solnit Children's  
23 Center;

24 (b) "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and  
25 treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical  
26 or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in  
27 general hospitals;

28 (c) "Residential care home" or "rest home" means a community  
29 residence that furnishes, in single or multiple facilities, food and shelter  
30 to two or more persons unrelated to the proprietor and, in addition,  
31 provides services that meet a need beyond the basic provisions of food,  
32 shelter and laundry and may qualify as a setting that allows residents to  
33 receive home and community-based services funded by state and  
34 federal programs;

35 (d) "Home health care agency" means a public or private  
36 organization, or a subdivision thereof, engaged in providing  
37 professional nursing services and the following services, available  
38 twenty-four hours per day, in the patient's home or a substantially  
39 equivalent environment: Home health aide services as defined in this  
40 section, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy or  
41 medical social services. The agency shall provide professional nursing  
42 services and at least one additional service directly and all others  
43 directly or through contract. An agency shall be available to enroll new  
44 patients seven days a week, twenty-four hours per day;

45 (e) "Home health aide agency" means a public or private  
46 organization, except a home health care agency, which provides in the  
47 patient's home or a substantially equivalent environment supportive  
48 services which may include, but are not limited to, assistance with  
49 personal hygiene, dressing, feeding and incidental household tasks  
50 essential to achieving adequate household and family management.

51 Such supportive services shall be provided under the supervision of a  
52 registered nurse and, if such nurse determines appropriate, shall be  
53 provided by a social worker, physical therapist, speech therapist or  
54 occupational therapist. Such supervision may be provided directly or  
55 through contract;

56 (f) "Home health aide services" as defined in this section shall not  
57 include services provided to assist individuals with activities of daily  
58 living when such individuals have a disease or condition that is chronic  
59 and stable as determined by a physician licensed in the state;

60 (g) "Behavioral health facility" means any facility that provides  
61 mental health services to persons eighteen years of age or older or  
62 substance use disorder services to persons of any age in an outpatient  
63 treatment or residential setting to ameliorate mental, emotional,  
64 behavioral or substance use disorder issues;

65 (h) "Clinical laboratory" means any facility or other area used for  
66 microbiological, serological, chemical, hematological,  
67 immunohematological, biophysical, cytological, pathological or other  
68 examinations of human body fluids, secretions, excretions or excised or  
69 exfoliated tissues for the purpose of providing information for the (1)  
70 diagnosis, prevention or treatment of any human disease or  
71 impairment, (2) assessment of human health, or (3) assessment of the  
72 presence of drugs, poisons or other toxicological substances;

73 (i) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation,  
74 limited liability company or association;

75 (j) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health or the  
76 commissioner's designee;

77 (k) "Home health agency" means an agency licensed as a home health  
78 care agency or a home health aide agency;

79 (l) "Assisted living services agency" means an agency that provides  
80 chronic and stable individuals with services that include, but need not

81 be limited to, nursing services and assistance with activities of daily  
82 living and may have a dementia special care unit or program as defined  
83 in section 19a-562;

84 (m) "Outpatient clinic" means an organization operated by a  
85 municipality or a corporation, other than a hospital, that provides (1)  
86 ambulatory medical care, including preventive and health promotion  
87 services, (2) dental care, or (3) mental health services in conjunction with  
88 medical or dental care for the purpose of diagnosing or treating a health  
89 condition that does not require the patient's overnight care;

90 (n) "Multicare institution" means a hospital that provides outpatient  
91 behavioral health services or other health care services, psychiatric  
92 outpatient clinic for adults, free-standing facility for the care or  
93 treatment of substance abusive or dependent persons, hospital for  
94 psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495, or a general acute  
95 care hospital that provides outpatient behavioral health services that (1)  
96 is licensed in accordance with this chapter, (2) has more than one facility  
97 or one or more satellite units owned and operated by a single licensee,  
98 and (3) offers complex patient health care services at each facility or  
99 satellite unit. For purposes of this subsection, "satellite unit" means a  
100 location where a segregated unit of services is provided by the multicare  
101 institution;

102 (o) "Nursing home" or "nursing home facility" means (1) any chronic  
103 and convalescent nursing home or any rest home with nursing  
104 supervision that provides nursing supervision under a medical director  
105 twenty-four hours per day, or (2) any chronic and convalescent nursing  
106 home that provides skilled nursing care under medical supervision and  
107 direction to carry out nonsurgical treatment and dietary procedures for  
108 chronic diseases, convalescent stages, acute diseases or injuries;

109 (p) "Outpatient dialysis unit" means (1) an out-of-hospital out-patient  
110 dialysis unit that is licensed by the department to provide (A) services  
111 on an out-patient basis to persons requiring dialysis on a short-term  
112 basis or for a chronic condition, or (B) training for home dialysis, or (2)

113 an in-hospital dialysis unit that is a special unit of a licensed hospital  
114 designed, equipped and staffed to (A) offer dialysis therapy on an out-  
115 patient basis, (B) provide training for home dialysis, and (C) perform  
116 renal transplantations;

117 (q) "Hospice agency" means a public or private organization that  
118 provides home care and hospice services to terminally ill patients;

119 (r) "Psychiatric residential treatment facility" means a nonhospital  
120 facility with a provider agreement with the Department of Social  
121 Services to provide inpatient services to Medicaid-eligible individuals  
122 under the age of twenty-one;

123 (s) "Chronic disease hospital" means a long-term hospital having  
124 facilities, medical staff and all necessary personnel for the diagnosis,  
125 care and treatment of chronic diseases;

126 (t) "Blood collection facility" means a facility that performs blood  
127 component collection activities where blood is removed from a human  
128 being for the purpose of administering such blood or any of its  
129 components to any human being. "Blood collection facility" does not  
130 include a facility that performs blood component collection activities to  
131 collect source plasma or perform testing that would require licensure as  
132 a clinical laboratory. For the purposes of this subsection, "source  
133 plasma" means the liquid portion of human blood collected by  
134 plasmapheresis and intended as source material for further  
135 manufacturing use and does not include single donor plasma products  
136 intended for intravenous use, and "plasmapheresis" means a procedure  
137 in which blood is removed from a blood donor, the plasma is separated  
138 from the formed elements and at least the red blood cells are returned  
139 to the blood donor at the time of the donation;

140 (u) "Source plasma donation center" means a facility where source  
141 plasma is collected by plasmapheresis. For the purposes of this  
142 subsection, "source plasma" means the liquid portion of human blood  
143 collected by plasmapheresis and intended as source material for further  
144 manufacturing use and does not include single donor plasma products

145 intended for intravenous use, and "plasmapheresis" means a procedure  
146 in which blood is removed from a blood donor, the plasma is separated  
147 from the formed elements and at least the red blood cells are returned  
148 to the blood donor at the time of the donation; [and]

149 (v) "Birth center" means a freestanding facility that is licensed by the  
150 department (1) to provide perinatal, labor, delivery and postpartum  
151 care during and immediately after delivery to persons presenting with  
152 a low-risk pregnancy and healthy newborns for a period typically less  
153 than twenty-four hours, and (2) that is not a hospital licensed pursuant  
154 to the provisions of this chapter, or attached to or located in such a  
155 hospital. For the purposes of this subsection, "low-risk pregnancy"  
156 means an uncomplicated, singleton pregnancy that has vertex  
157 presentation and is at low risk for developing complications during  
158 labor and birth, as determined by an evaluation and examination  
159 conducted by a licensed health care provider acting within the scope of  
160 such provider's practice; and

161 (w) "Long-term acute care hospital" means a hospital that is a long-  
162 term care hospital, as defined in 42 USC 1395x, as amended from time  
163 to time.

164 Sec. 2. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 19a-491c of the 2026  
165 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
166 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

167 (4) "Long-term care facility" means any facility, agency or provider  
168 that is a nursing home, as defined in section 19a-521, a residential care  
169 home, as defined in section 19a-521, a home health care agency, hospice  
170 agency or home health aide agency, as defined in section 19a-490, as  
171 amended by this act, an assisted living services agency, as defined in  
172 section 19a-490, as amended by this act, an intermediate care facility for  
173 individuals with intellectual disabilities, as defined in 42 USC 1396d(d),  
174 except any such facility operated by a Department of Developmental  
175 Services' program subject to background checks pursuant to section 17a-  
176 227a, a chronic disease hospital, as defined in section 19a-490, as

177 amended by this act, [or] an agency providing hospice care which is  
178 licensed to provide such care by the Department of Public Health or  
179 certified to provide such care pursuant to 42 USC 1395x or a long-term  
180 acute care hospital, as defined in section 19a-490, as amended by this  
181 act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-490
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-491c(a)(4)

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*