



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5638



Offered by:

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.

REP. EXUM, 19th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5447

File No. 642

Cal. No. 433

"AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONCERNING TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The executive director of
4 the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity
5 shall convene two working groups. Each working group shall include
6 one or more members of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health
7 Policy and Planning Committee and such other members as selected by
8 the executive director.

9 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a
10 working group concerning the treatment of eating disorders. The
11 working group shall, in consultation with the Commissioners of Public
12 Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services, compile information

13 to be made available to the public concerning (1) providers of eating
14 disorder treatment services in the state, including, but not limited to,
15 facilities that provide such treatment, (2) details concerning the types of
16 services each such provider offers and the ages of persons typically
17 served by such providers, and (3) other resources available in the state
18 for persons with eating disorders. The working group shall also consult
19 with the Commissioner of Public Health to establish best practice
20 guidelines for facilities in providing treatment for eating disorders.

21 (c) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a
22 working group to develop a state-wide food education roadmap and a
23 model school nutrition curriculum that includes, but is not limited to,
24 developmentally appropriate evidence-based education programs on
25 disordered eating behaviors, nutrition, culinary skills, growing food,
26 food safety and food systems.

27 (d) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
28 executive director shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
29 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the chairpersons of the
30 Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning
31 Committee and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
32 having cognizance of matters relating to children, public health,
33 education and human services concerning the results of the working
34 groups' studies.

35 Sec. 2. Section 2-137 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is
36 amended by adding subsection (o) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

37 (NEW) (o) The committee shall annually review the progress of the
38 working groups concerning eating disorders and food education and
39 nutrition, established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

40 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services
41 shall, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Children and Families,
42 Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and
43 the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate, study the feasibility of

44 establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment
45 services to children and young adults between the ages of fourteen and
46 twenty-one, inclusive, who have intellectual or developmental
47 disabilities.

48 (b) The study shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The
49 appropriate size of such facility and number of persons to be served at
50 one time; (2) the best treatment practices for the population; (3) the
51 operational costs of establishing such a facility and the feasibility of
52 operating the facility within available agency appropriations; (4)
53 appropriate sites, which may include state-owned property, on which
54 the facility may be built; and (5) billing options for payment of inpatient
55 psychiatric services for the population served, including Medicaid
56 billing options.

57 (c) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services
58 shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
59 the general statutes, on the results of the study with the joint standing
60 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
61 relating to children, human services, public health and appropriations
62 and the budgets of state agencies.

63 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) On and after January 1, 2027, each
64 school-based health center shall (1) use an evidence-based screening tool
65 for early identification of disordered eating behaviors, as a supplement
66 to existing methods used to diagnose disordered eating behaviors, and
67 (2) provide such screening tool to each patient who is in grades six to
68 twelve, inclusive, during such patient's annual health assessment,
69 including, but not limited to, the health assessments conducted
70 pursuant to section 10-206 of the general statutes."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	2-137(o)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
--------	---------------------	-------------