



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6015



Offered by:

REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.

REP. CASE, 63rd Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5557

File No. 441

Cal. No. 325

"AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES."

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

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
4 Developmental Services shall produce a plan with recommendations on
5 developing a standard definition of intellectual disability that originates
6 before an individual attains eighteen years of age and is characterized
7 by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive
8 behavior, including, but not limited to, conceptual, social and practical
9 skills. Such definition shall be consistent with generally accepted
10 professional standards, including, but not limited to, such standards
11 recognized by the American Association on Intellectual and
12 Developmental Disabilities.

13 (b) As part of the plan, the commissioner shall ensure (1) no single
14 test score or single measure would be determinative of intellectual

15 disability in any such definition; and (2) that such definition is based on
16 the totality of relevant clinical, educational and functional evidence,
17 including, but not limited to (A) standardized assessments when valid
18 and appropriate, (B) adaptive behavior measures, (C) developmental
19 history, (D) medical evidence, and (E) other reliable information.

20 (c) The commissioner shall include in the plan (1) a recommendation
21 for a timeline for the transition to a new definition of intellectual
22 disability, (2) any approvals required from the federal government, and
23 (3) estimates of the one-time costs of making such transition and the
24 recurring costs of utilizing the new definition to the Department of
25 Developmental Services, other state agencies and school districts
26 impacted by the change in the definition.

27 (d) Not later than July 1, 2027, the commissioner shall file a report on
28 the plan to provide recommendations on developing a standard
29 definition of intellectual disability, in accordance with the provisions of
30 section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees
31 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
32 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human services and
33 public health.

34 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) The Commissioner of
35 Education shall establish an American Sign Language education
36 working group which shall consist of:

37 (1) (A) One representative each from the (i) Departments of
38 Education and Aging and Disability Services, (ii) Labor Department,
39 and (iii) Office of Higher Education, and (B) the following members
40 appointed by the Commissioner of Education: (i) A representative of the
41 Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, (ii) a representative of the
42 American School for the Deaf, (iii) a representative of the Connecticut
43 Association of the Deaf, and (iv) at least one American Sign Language
44 instructor who teaches in a public school in the state;

45 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

- 46 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 47 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
48 Representatives;
- 49 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 50 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
51 Representatives;
- 52 (7) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 53 (8) The House and Senate chairpersons and House and Senate
54 ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General
55 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
56 human services, or their designees; and
- 57 (9) Two persons appointed by the Governor.
- 58 (b) The working group shall provide recommendations to the
59 Department of Education regarding the following:
- 60 (1) Curriculum guidance for American Sign Language instruction
61 that includes, but is not limited to, aligning such curriculum with
62 nationally recognized proficiency frameworks;
- 63 (2) Teacher certification standards based on standards established by
64 the American Sign Language Teachers Association and the American
65 Sign Language Proficiency Interview that includes, but is not limited to,
66 (A) establishment of a proficiency benchmark, (B) recognition of an
67 alternative certification pathway for native American Sign Language
68 users and interpreters, and (C) reciprocity with American Sign
69 Language teaching certifications from other states; and
- 70 (3) Guidance to educator preparation programs in the state
71 concerning, but not limited to, the (A) expansion of American Sign
72 Language and interpretation education programs, (B) creation of
73 educational incentives, such as tuition support, credit enhancement or

74 alternative programs, and (C) establishment of bridge, endorsement or
75 alternative programs for native American Sign Language users and
76 certified interpreters seeking teacher certification.

77 (c) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
78 Department of Education shall submit a progress report, in accordance
79 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
80 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
81 matters relating to education and human services concerning the work
82 of the American Sign Language education working group.

83 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services
84 shall conduct a study relating to Medicaid reimbursement rates for, and
85 the availability of, nonemergency medical transportation services for
86 Medicaid beneficiaries to (1) evaluate the adequacy of current Medicaid
87 reimbursement rates for nonemergency medical transportation services;
88 (2) examine the availability of such transportation services across the
89 state, including, but not limited to, geographic disparities in access and
90 service gaps; (3) evaluate options for permitting home care providers,
91 including, but not limited to, home health aides, to provide
92 transportation services to or from medical appointments for Medicaid
93 beneficiaries; (4) assess appropriate qualifications, licensing
94 requirements and insurance standards for any such home care
95 providers providing transportation services; (5) review the practices of
96 other states concerning reimbursement rates and provider eligibility for
97 nonemergency medical transportation services; and (6) identify any
98 other issues the commissioner deems relevant to improving access to
99 non-emergency medical transportation services for Medicaid
100 beneficiaries.

101 (b) Not later than February 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social
102 Services shall submit a report on the findings of such study, and any
103 recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committees of the
104 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
105 services and public health, in accordance with the provisions of section
106 11-4a 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>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section