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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5379**

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING MEDICAL EMERGENCY DRILLS AT CERTAIN CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND YOUTH CAMPS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires licensed child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes to conduct a medical emergency drill at least once every six months. The purpose of the drills is to identify the roles and responsibilities of (1) staff certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or trained in administering first aid and (2) noncertified or untrained staff.

The bill also (1) adds an emergency drill requirement, with the same staff identification goal as for the child care facilities, to the law's youth camp licensure eligibility criteria and (2) requires that a drill happen before a camp can be responsible for campers. Under existing license requirements, camp staff must be trained, among other things, on the camp's policies and procedures for emergency health and safety procedures and camps must at all times have an adult trained in administering first aid as the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) commissioner requires.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

#### **CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HOMES**

Specifically, the bill requires the OEC commissioner to add the drills requirement to regulations that she must adopt for licensed child care centers and group child care homes (see BACKGROUND). By law the commissioner must already adopt health and safety regulations on child care center requirements for employees certified in CPR by certain qualified organizations.

For family child care homes (child care usually offered in the private home of the provider and which generally serves six to nine children),

the bill adds the same drill requirement to state regulations except it applies to the child care provider (the licensee) and any assistants working there.

By law, child care centers offer or provide care to more than 12 children outside their own homes on a regular basis. Group child care homes (1) offer or provide care to between 7 and 12 children (related or unrelated) on a regular basis or (2) meet the family child care home definition, except that they do not operate in a private home (CGS § 19a-77(a)(1) & (2)).

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Child Care Center and Home Regulations***

State child care center and group child care home regulations require each new staffer of either a center or home to complete health and safety training in accord with federal regulations, including pediatric first aid and CPR. Staff must also have annual training equal to at least 1% of the total hours worked in the same safety procedures (Conn Agencies Regs., § 19a-79-4a(f) & (h)).

A family child care home provider must have and maintain a current certification in first aid and CPR. Assistants do not need to meet this requirement, but they can only work while helping a provider or a substitute (the regulations require the substitute to have the same training and certification as the provider) (Conn Agencies Regs., §§ 19a-87b-6(c) & -8).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13    Nay 4    (03/05/2026)