



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 538

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5511

House of Representatives, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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 the administration or enforcement of any applicable statute,
45 regulation, permit or order, the department may resolve any dispute
46 regarding compliance by agreed settlement or consent order. The client
47 identifier system shall be subject to the confidentiality requirements set
48 forth in section 17a-688 and regulations adopted thereunder. The

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

84 statute or regulation and shall inform the local health department or
 85 health district of such measures. In September of each year the
 86 commissioner shall certify to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
 87 Management the population of each municipality. The commissioner
 88 may solicit and accept for use any gift of money or property made by
 89 will or otherwise, and any grant of or contract for money, services or
 90 property from the federal government, the state, any political
 91 subdivision thereof, any other state or any private source, and do all
 92 things necessary to cooperate with the federal government or any of its
 93 agencies in making an application for any grant or contract. The
 94 commissioner may enter into any contracts or agreements, in
 95 accordance with any established procedures, as may be necessary for
 96 the distribution or use of such money, services or property in
 97 accordance with any requirements to fulfill any conditions of a gift,
 98 grant or contract. The commissioner may establish state-wide and
 99 regional advisory councils. For purposes of this section, "employee of
 100 such director" means an employee of, a consultant employed or retained
 101 by or an independent contractor retained by a local director of health, a
 102 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	October 1, 2026	19a-2a

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes procedural changes to Department of Public Health compliance dispute resolution proceedings, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5511

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

SUMMARY

This bill explicitly allows the Department of Health (DPH) to enforce compliance with DPH laws, regulations, permits, and orders with an agreed settlement or consent order. (It appears this allows DPH to resolve cases or complaints against a licensee without holding a formal administrative hearing if the licensee agrees to a settlement or consent order.)

Existing law authorizes the department to use consent orders when regulating health professionals and institutions (CGS §§ 19a-14, 19a-491, & 19a-565). Additionally, the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act generally allows contested cases to be resolved by agreed settlement or consent order (CGS § 4-177).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 1 (03/23/2026)