



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5239

LCO No. 1472



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE INDEPENDENT MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD AND FATALITY REVIEW BOARD.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17a-210 of the 2026 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) In the event of the death of a person with intellectual disability for
5 whom the department has direct or oversight responsibility for medical
6 care, the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall [ensure
7 that] conduct a comprehensive and timely review of the events, overall
8 care, quality of life issues and medical care preceding such death is
9 conducted by the department. [and shall, as requested, provide
10 information and assistance] The commissioner, or the commissioner's
11 designee, shall, if required by section 2 of this act, refer the case to the
12 Independent Mortality Review Board established [by Executive Order
13 No. 57 of Governor Dannel P. Malloy. The commissioner shall report to
14 the board and the board shall review any death: (1) Involving an

15 allegation of abuse or neglect; (2) for which the Office of the Chief
16 Medical Examiner or local medical examiner has accepted jurisdiction;
17 (3) in which an autopsy was performed; (4) which was sudden and
18 unexpected; or (5) in which the commissioner's review raises questions
19 about the appropriateness of care. The department's mortality review
20 process and the Independent Mortality Review Board shall operate in
21 accordance with the peer review provisions established under section
22 19a-17b for medical review teams and confidentiality of records
23 provisions established under section 19a-25 for the Department of
24 Public Health] pursuant to section 2 of this act. Each health care
25 provider, as defined in section 19a-17b, shall, at the request of the
26 commissioner, and to the extent permissible under the Health Insurance
27 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended
28 from time to time, and any other federal law, provide any information
29 deemed necessary by the commissioner to complete a review pursuant
30 to the provisions of this subsection, provided the commissioner, when
31 making such a request, identifies any provision of said act that allows a
32 health care provider to provide such information to the commissioner.

33 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established, within
34 the Department of Developmental Services, an Independent Mortality
35 Review Board. The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
36 commissioner's designee, shall report to the board and the board shall
37 review any death: (1) Involving an allegation of abuse or neglect; (2) for
38 which the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner or local medical
39 examiner has accepted jurisdiction; (3) that was sudden and unexpected
40 and the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, determines that
41 an independent investigation by the board is necessary; or (4) in which
42 the comprehensive and timely review conducted pursuant to section
43 17a-210 of the general statutes raises questions about the
44 appropriateness of care.

45 (b) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
46 commissioner's designee, shall serve as chairperson of the Independent
47 Mortality Review Board.

48 (c) The Independent Mortality Review Board may include, but need
49 not be limited to, any of the following members depending on the death
50 of the individual being reviewed:

51 (1) The Department of Developmental Services' director of quality
52 and systems improvement, or the director's designee;

53 (2) The Department of Developmental Services' director of
54 investigations, or the director's designee;

55 (3) The Chief Medical Examiner, or the Chief Medical Examiner's
56 designee;

57 (4) A medical doctor appointed by the Commissioner of
58 Developmental Services;

59 (5) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
60 designee;

61 (6) The executive director of the nonprofit entity designated by the
62 Governor in accordance with section 46a-10b of the general statutes to
63 serve as the Connecticut protection and advocacy system, or the
64 executive director's designee;

65 (7) A private provider representative appointed by the Commissioner
66 of Developmental Services; and

67 (8) Any additional members the chairperson deems beneficial to
68 serve as a member of the board, provided that a majority of members on
69 the board are not employees of the Department of Developmental
70 Services.

71 (d) The Independent Mortality Review Board may request
72 documentation and information as may be necessary for their review
73 pursuant to section 17a-210 of the general statutes. The department's
74 mortality review process and the Independent Mortality Review Board
75 shall operate in accordance with the peer review provisions for medical

76 review teams established under section 19a-17b of the general statutes
77 and confidentiality of records provisions established under section 19a-
78 25 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-210(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To codify the duties and responsibilities of the Independent Mortality Review Board and avoid duplication of such duties and responsibilities in the Fatality Review Board.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]