



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4630



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARTIN, 31<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SAMPSON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FAZIO, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GORDON, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. PERILLO J., 21<sup>st</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **5044**

File No. 405

Cal. No. 452

(As Amended by House Amendment Schedules "A" and "B")

**"AN ACT ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT VACCINE STANDARDS."**

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

3 "Section 1. Section 10-204a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5 (a) Each local or regional board of education, or similar body  
6 governing a nonpublic school or schools, shall require each child to be  
7 protected by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis,  
8 tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus  
9 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule for  
10 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f before being  
11 permitted to enroll in any program operated by a public or nonpublic

12 school under its jurisdiction. Before being permitted to enter seventh  
13 grade, a child shall receive a second immunization against measles. Any  
14 such child who (1) presents a certificate from a physician, physician  
15 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or local health agency  
16 stating that initial immunizations have been given to such child and  
17 additional immunizations are in process (A) under guidelines and  
18 schedules specified by the Commissioner of Public Health, or (B) in the  
19 case of a child enrolled in a preschool program or other prekindergarten  
20 program who, prior to April 28, 2021, was exempt from the appropriate  
21 provisions of this section upon presentation of a statement that such  
22 immunizations would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child  
23 or the parents or guardian of such child, as such additional  
24 immunizations are recommended, in a written declaration, in a form  
25 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, for such child by a  
26 physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered  
27 nurse; or (2) presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by the  
28 commissioner pursuant to section 19a-7q, from a physician, physician  
29 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that in the  
30 opinion of such physician, physician assistant or advanced practice  
31 registered nurse such immunization is medically contraindicated  
32 because of the physical condition of such child; or (3) in the case of  
33 measles, mumps or rubella, presents a certificate from a physician,  
34 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse or from the  
35 director of health in such child's present or previous town of residence,  
36 stating that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease; or (4) in  
37 the case of haemophilus influenzae type B has passed such child's fifth  
38 birthday; or (5) in the case of pertussis, has passed such child's sixth  
39 birthday; or (6) presents a statement from the parents or guardian of  
40 such child that such immunization would be contrary to the personal  
41 beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child, shall be  
42 exempt from the appropriate provisions of this section. The statement  
43 described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or  
44 the statement described in subdivision (6) of this subsection shall be  
45 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34  
46 and 1-35, by a judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate,

47 a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a notary  
48 public, a justice of the peace, an attorney admitted to the bar of this state,  
49 or notwithstanding any provision of chapter 6, a school nurse.

50 (b) The immunization requirements provided for in subsection (a) of  
51 this section shall not apply to any child who is enrolled in kindergarten  
52 through twelfth grade on or before April 28, 2021, if such child  
53 presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, from the parents or  
54 guardian of such child that such immunization is contrary to the  
55 religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child,  
56 and such statement was acknowledged, in accordance with the  
57 provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (1) a judge of a court of  
58 record or a family support magistrate, (2) a clerk or deputy clerk of a  
59 court having a seal, (3) a town clerk, (4) a notary public, (5) a justice of  
60 the peace, (6) an attorney admitted to the bar of this state, or (7)  
61 notwithstanding any provision of chapter 6, a school nurse.

62 (c) Any child who is enrolled in a preschool program or other  
63 prekindergarten program prior to April 28, 2021, who presented a  
64 statement, prior to April 28, 2021, from the parents or guardian of such  
65 child that the immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of such  
66 child or the parents or guardian of such child, which statement was  
67 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34  
68 and 1-35, by (1) a judge of a court of record or a family support  
69 magistrate, (2) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (3) a town  
70 clerk, (4) a notary public, (5) a justice of the peace, (6) an attorney  
71 admitted to the bar of this state, or (7) notwithstanding any provision of  
72 chapter 6, a school nurse, but did not present a written declaration from  
73 a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered  
74 nurse stating that additional immunizations are in process as  
75 recommended by such physician, physician assistant or advanced  
76 practice registered nurse, rather than as recommended under guidelines  
77 and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Public Health, shall  
78 comply with the immunization requirements provided for in  
79 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section on

80 or before September 1, 2022, or not later than fourteen days after  
81 transferring to a program operated by a public or nonpublic school  
82 under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education or similar  
83 body governing a nonpublic school or schools, whichever is later.

84 (d) If the parents or guardian of any child are unable to pay for any  
85 immunization required by subsection (a) of this section, the expense of  
86 such immunization shall, on the recommendation of such child's local  
87 or regional board of education, or similar body governing a nonpublic  
88 school or schools, be paid by the town.

89 (e) The definitions of adequate immunization shall reflect the  
90 schedule for active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f  
91 and be established by regulation adopted in accordance with the  
92 provisions of chapter 54 by the Commissioner of Public Health, who  
93 shall also be responsible for providing procedures under which such  
94 boards and such similar governing bodies shall collect and report  
95 immunization data on each child to the Department of Public Health for  
96 (1) compilation and analysis by the department, and (2) release by the  
97 department of annual immunization rates for each public and nonpublic  
98 school in the state, provided such immunization data may not contain  
99 information that identifies a specific individual.

100 (f) The Commissioner of Public Health may issue a temporary waiver  
101 to the schedule for active immunization for any vaccine if the National  
102 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes a nation-wide  
103 shortage of supply for such vaccine.

104 Sec. 2. Section 10a-155 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
105 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

106 (a) Each institution of higher education shall require each full-time or  
107 matriculating student born after December 31, 1956, to provide proof of  
108 adequate immunization against measles, rubella, mumps and varicella  
109 as recommended by the national Advisory Committee for  
110 Immunization Practices before permitting such student to enroll in such

111 institution.

112 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
113 any student who (1) presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by the  
114 Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7q, from a  
115 physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse  
116 stating that in the opinion of such physician, physician assistant or  
117 advanced practice registered nurse such immunization is medically  
118 contraindicated, (2) prior to April 28, 2021, provided a statement that  
119 such immunization is contrary to his or her religious beliefs, (3) presents  
120 a certificate from a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced  
121 practice registered nurse or the director of health in the student's present  
122 or previous town of residence, stating that the student has had a  
123 confirmed case of such disease, (4) is enrolled exclusively in a program  
124 for which students do not congregate on campus for classes or to  
125 participate in institutional-sponsored events, such as students enrolled  
126 in distance learning programs for individualized home study or  
127 programs conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting  
128 without other students present, [or] (5) graduated from a public or  
129 nonpublic high school in this state in 1999 or later and was not exempt  
130 from the measles, rubella and mumps vaccination requirement  
131 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-204a, as  
132 amended by this act, or (6) presents a statement that such immunization  
133 is contrary to his or her personal beliefs, which statement shall be  
134 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34  
135 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a court of record or a family support  
136 magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (C) a town  
137 clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice of the peace, (F) an attorney  
138 admitted to the bar of this state, or (G) notwithstanding any provision  
139 of chapter 6, a school nurse, shall be exempt from the appropriate  
140 provisions of this section.

141 (c) Each institution of higher education shall keep uniform records of  
142 the immunizations and immunization status of each student, based on  
143 the certificate of immunization or other evidence acceptable pursuant to

144 subsection (b) of this section. The record shall be part of the student's  
145 permanent record. By November first of each year, the chief  
146 administrative officer of each institution of higher education shall cause  
147 to be submitted to the Commissioner of Public Health, on a form  
148 provided by the commissioner, a summary report of the immunization  
149 status of all students enrolling in such institution.

150 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10a-155b of the general statutes is  
151 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
152 *passage*):

153 (a) For students who first enroll in the 2014-2015 school year, and first  
154 enroll in each school year thereafter, each public or private college or  
155 university in this state shall require that each student who resides in on-  
156 campus housing be vaccinated against meningitis and submit evidence  
157 of having received a meningococcal conjugate vaccine not more than  
158 five years before enrollment as a condition of such residence. The  
159 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any such student who (1)  
160 presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by the Commissioner of  
161 Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7q, from a physician, an advanced  
162 practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stating that, in the  
163 opinion of such physician, advanced practice registered nurse or  
164 physician assistant, such vaccination is medically contraindicated  
165 because of the physical condition of such student, [or] (2) prior to April  
166 28, 2021, presented a statement that such vaccination is contrary to the  
167 religious beliefs of such student, or (3) presents a statement that such  
168 immunization is contrary to his or her personal beliefs, which statement  
169 shall be acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-  
170 32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a court of record or a family support  
171 magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (C) a town  
172 clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice of the peace, (F) an attorney  
173 admitted to the bar of this state, or (G) notwithstanding any provision  
174 of chapter 6, a school nurse.

175 Sec. 4. Section 19a-79 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
176 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

177 *passage*):

178 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall adopt regulations, in  
179 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes  
180 of sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive,  
181 and to assure that child care centers and group child care homes meet  
182 the health, educational and social needs of children utilizing such child  
183 care centers and group child care homes. Such regulations shall (1)  
184 specify that before being permitted to attend any child care center or  
185 group child care home, each child shall be protected as age-appropriate  
186 by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus,  
187 poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenzae type B  
188 and any other vaccine required by the schedule of active immunization  
189 adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f, including appropriate exemptions  
190 for children for whom such immunization is medically contraindicated  
191 and for children whose parent or guardian objects to such immunization  
192 on personal grounds, and that any objection by a parent or a guardian  
193 to immunization of a child on personal grounds shall be accompanied  
194 by a statement from such parent or guardian that such immunization  
195 would be contrary to the personal beliefs of such child or the parent or  
196 guardian of such child, which statement shall be acknowledged, in  
197 accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (A) a  
198 judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate, (B) a clerk or  
199 deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (C) a town clerk, (D) a notary  
200 public, (E) a justice of the peace, or (F) an attorney admitted to the bar  
201 of this state, (2) specify conditions under which child care center  
202 directors and teachers and group child care home providers may  
203 administer tests to monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed  
204 diabetes mellitus, and administer medicinal preparations, including  
205 controlled drugs specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a  
206 child receiving child care services at such child care center or group  
207 child care home pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to  
208 practice medicine or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this  
209 or another state, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to  
210 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician assistant

211 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written  
212 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child, (3) specify that an  
213 operator of a child care center or group child care home, licensed before  
214 January 1, 1986, or an operator who receives a license after January 1,  
215 1986, for a facility licensed prior to January 1, 1986, shall provide a  
216 minimum of thirty square feet per child of total indoor usable space, free  
217 of furniture except that needed for the children's purposes, exclusive of  
218 toilet rooms, bathrooms, coatrooms, kitchens, halls, isolation room or  
219 other rooms used for purposes other than the activities of the children,  
220 (4) specify that a child care center or group child care home licensed  
221 after January 1, 1986, shall provide thirty-five square feet per child of  
222 total indoor usable space, (5) establish appropriate child care center  
223 staffing requirements for employees certified in cardiopulmonary  
224 resuscitation by the American Red Cross, the American Heart  
225 Association, the National Safety Council, American Safety and Health  
226 Institute, Medic First Aid International, Inc. or an organization using  
227 guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency  
228 cardiovascular care published by the American Heart Association and  
229 International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation, (6) specify that a  
230 child care center or group child care home (A) shall not deny services to  
231 a child on the basis of a child's known or suspected allergy or because a  
232 child has a prescription for an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or  
233 similar automatic injectable equipment, nasal spray or any other  
234 medical equipment approved by the United States Food and Drug  
235 Administration that is used to treat an allergic reaction, or for injectable  
236 equipment, nasal spray or any other medical equipment approved by  
237 the United States Food and Drug Administration that is used to  
238 administer glucagon, (B) shall, not later than three weeks after such  
239 child's enrollment in such a center or home, have staff trained in the use  
240 of such equipment on-site during all hours when such a child is on-site,  
241 (C) shall require such child's parent or guardian to provide the  
242 equipment and a copy of the prescription for such medication upon  
243 enrollment of such child, and (D) shall require a parent or guardian  
244 enrolling such a child to replace such medication and equipment prior  
245 to its expiration date, (7) specify that a child care center or group child

246 care home (A) shall not deny services to a child on the basis of a child's  
247 diagnosis of asthma or because a child has a prescription for an inhalant  
248 medication to treat asthma, and (B) shall, not later than three weeks after  
249 such child's enrollment in such a center or home, have staff trained in  
250 the administration of such medication on-site during all hours when  
251 such a child is on-site, (8) establish physical plant requirements for  
252 licensed child care centers and licensed group child care homes that  
253 exclusively serve school-age children, (9) specify that a child care center  
254 or group child care home shall immediately notify the parent or  
255 guardian of a child enrolled in such center or home if such child exhibits  
256 or develops an illness or is injured while in the care of such center or  
257 home, (10) specify that a child care center or group child care home shall  
258 create a written record of any such illness or injury, which shall, (A)  
259 include, but not be limited to, (i) a description of such illness or injury,  
260 (ii) the date, time of occurrence and location of such illness or injury, (iii)  
261 any responsive action taken by an employee of such center or home, and  
262 (iv) whether such child was transported to a hospital emergency room,  
263 doctor's office or other medical facility as a result of such illness or  
264 injury, (B) be provided to the parent or guardian of such child not later  
265 than the next business day, and (C) be maintained by such center or  
266 home for a period of not less than two years and be made immediately  
267 available upon the request of the Office of Early Childhood, and (11)  
268 specify that a child care center or group child care home shall maintain  
269 any video recordings created at such center or home for a period of not  
270 less than thirty days, and make such recordings immediately available  
271 upon the request of the Office of Early Childhood. When establishing  
272 such requirements, the Office of Early Childhood shall give  
273 consideration to child care centers and group child care homes that are  
274 located in private or public school buildings. With respect to  
275 subdivision (8) of this subsection, the commissioner shall implement  
276 policies and procedures necessary to implement the physical plant  
277 requirements established pursuant to this subdivision while in the  
278 process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form.  
279 Until replaced by policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this  
280 subdivision, any physical plant requirement specified in the office's

281 regulations that is generally applicable to child care centers and group  
282 child care homes shall continue to be applicable to such centers and  
283 homes that exclusively serve school-age children. The commissioner  
284 shall post notice of the intent to adopt regulations pursuant to this  
285 subdivision on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after  
286 the date of implementation of such policies and procedures. Policies and  
287 procedures implemented pursuant to this subdivision shall be valid  
288 until the time final regulations are adopted. For purposes of this  
289 subsection, "illness" means fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, headache,  
290 persistent coughing, persistent crying or any other condition deemed an  
291 illness by the Commissioner of Early Childhood.

292 (b) Any child who (1) presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by  
293 the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7q, signed  
294 by a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered  
295 nurse stating that, in the opinion of such physician, physician assistant  
296 or advanced practice registered nurse, the immunizations required  
297 pursuant to regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
298 subsection (a) of this section are medically contraindicated, (2) in the  
299 case of a child who is enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade,  
300 presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, that such immunizations  
301 are contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or  
302 guardian of such child, [or] (3) in the case of a child who is enrolled in a  
303 preschool program or other prekindergarten program or below, (A)  
304 presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, that such immunizations  
305 are contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or  
306 guardian of such child, and (B) presents a written declaration, in a form  
307 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, from a physician, a  
308 physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse stating that  
309 an immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis,  
310 measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenzae type B and any other  
311 vaccine required by the schedule of active immunization adopted  
312 pursuant to section 19a-7f has been given to such child and that any  
313 additional necessary immunizations of such student against diphtheria,  
314 pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus

315 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by such schedule of  
316 active immunization are in process under guidelines specified by the  
317 Commissioner of Public Health or as recommended for the child by the  
318 physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, or  
319 (4) presents a statement from the parents or guardian of such child that  
320 such immunization would be contrary to the personal beliefs of such  
321 child or the parents or guardian of such child shall be exempt from the  
322 immunization requirements set forth in such regulations. The statement  
323 described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of this subsection or  
324 the statement described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be  
325 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34  
326 and 1-35, by a judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate,  
327 a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a notary  
328 public, a justice of the peace, or an attorney admitted to the bar of this  
329 state.

330 (c) Any child who is enrolled in a preschool program or other  
331 prekindergarten program or below on or before April 28, 2021, who  
332 presented, prior to April 28, 2021, the statement described in  
333 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, but  
334 did not present the written declaration described in subparagraph (B) of  
335 subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, shall comply, on or  
336 before September 1, 2022, or not later than fourteen days after applying  
337 to enroll in the child care center or group child care home, whichever is  
338 later, with the immunization requirements set forth in the regulations  
339 adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

340 (d) The commissioner may adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter 54,  
341 to establish civil penalties of not more than one hundred dollars per day  
342 for each day of violation and other disciplinary remedies that may be  
343 imposed, following a contested-case hearing, upon the holder of a  
344 license issued under section 19a-80 to operate a child care center or  
345 group child care home or upon the holder of a license issued under  
346 section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, to operate a family child care  
347 home.

348 (e) The commissioner shall exempt Montessori schools accredited by  
349 the American Montessori Society or the Association Montessori  
350 Internationale from any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to  
351 subsection (a) of this section which sets requirements on group size or  
352 child to staff ratios or the provision of cots.

353 (f) Upon the declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness  
354 emergency pursuant to section 28-9 or a public health emergency  
355 pursuant to section 19a-131a, the commissioner may waive the  
356 provisions of any regulation adopted pursuant to this section if the  
357 commissioner determines that such waiver would not endanger the life,  
358 safety or health of any child. The commissioner shall prescribe the  
359 duration of such waiver, provided such waiver shall not extend beyond  
360 the duration of the declared emergency. The commissioner shall  
361 establish the criteria by which a waiver request shall be made and the  
362 conditions for which a waiver will be granted or denied. The provisions  
363 of section 19a-84 shall not apply to a denial of a waiver request under  
364 this subsection.

365 (g) Any child care center or group child care home may provide child  
366 care services to homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC  
367 11434a, as amended from time to time, for a period not to exceed ninety  
368 days without complying with any provision in regulations adopted  
369 pursuant to this section relating to immunization and physical  
370 examination requirements. Any child care center or group child care  
371 home that provides child care services to homeless children and youths  
372 at such center or home under this subsection shall maintain a record on  
373 file of all homeless children and youths who have attended such center  
374 or home for a period of two years after such homeless children or youths  
375 are no longer receiving child care services at such center or home.

376 (h) Any child care center or group child care home may provide child  
377 care services to a foster child for a period not to exceed forty-five days  
378 without complying with any provision in regulations adopted pursuant  
379 to this section relating to immunization and physical examination  
380 requirements. Any child care center or group child care home that

381 provides child care services to a foster child at such center or home  
382 under this subsection shall maintain a record on file of such foster child  
383 for a period of two years after such foster child is no longer receiving  
384 child care services at such center or home. For purposes of this  
385 subsection, "foster child" means a child who is in the care and custody  
386 of the Commissioner of Children and Families and placed in a foster  
387 home licensed pursuant to section 17a-114, foster home approved by a  
388 child-placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149, facility  
389 licensed pursuant to section 17a-145 or with a relative or fictive kin  
390 caregiver pursuant to section 17a-114.

391 Sec. 5. Section 19a-87b of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
392 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
393 *passage*):

394 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,  
395 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a  
396 family child care home, as described in section 19a-77, without a license  
397 issued by the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Licensure forms shall  
398 be obtained from the Office of Early Childhood. Applications for  
399 licensure shall be made to the commissioner on forms provided by the  
400 office and shall contain the information required by regulations adopted  
401 under this section. The licensure and application forms shall contain a  
402 notice that false statements made therein are punishable in accordance  
403 with section 53a-157b. Applicants shall state, in writing, that they are in  
404 compliance with the regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant  
405 to subsection (f) of this section. Before a family child care home license  
406 is granted, the office shall make an inquiry and investigation which shall  
407 include a visit and inspection of the premises for which the license is  
408 requested. Any inspection conducted by the office shall include an  
409 inspection for evident sources of lead poisoning. The office shall provide  
410 for a chemical analysis of any paint chips found on such premises.  
411 Neither the commissioner nor the commissioner's designee shall require  
412 an annual inspection for homes seeking license renewal or for licensed  
413 homes, except that the commissioner or the commissioner's designee

414 shall make an unannounced visit, inspection or investigation of each  
415 licensed family child care home at least once every year. A licensed  
416 family child care home shall not be subject to any conditions on the  
417 operation of such home by local officials, other than those imposed by  
418 the office pursuant to this subsection, if the home complies with all  
419 codes and ordinances applicable to single and multifamily dwellings.

420 (b) (1) No person shall act as an assistant or substitute staff member  
421 to a person or entity maintaining a family child care home, as defined in  
422 section 19a-77, without an approval issued by the commissioner. Any  
423 person seeking to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a  
424 family child care home shall submit an application for such approval to  
425 the office. Applications for approval shall: (A) Be made to the  
426 commissioner on forms provided by the office, (B) contain the  
427 information required by regulations adopted under this section, and (C)  
428 be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. The approval application  
429 forms shall contain a notice that false statements made in such form are  
430 punishable in accordance with section 53a-157b.

431 (2) A licensee of a family child care home who is attending a medical  
432 appointment, receiving medical treatment or completing education or  
433 training may use a substitute staff member who has been approved  
434 pursuant to this subsection to provide child care services for a duration  
435 of time that is greater than one hour while such licensee is absent,  
436 provided such licensee provides advance notice to the parents or  
437 guardians of children enrolled in the family child care home of the dates  
438 and times such substitute staff member will be providing such child care  
439 services and such licensee continues to maintain control of the day-to-  
440 day operations of the family child care home. No such use of a substitute  
441 staff member under this subdivision shall constitute a transfer or  
442 franchise of the family child care home.

443 (c) The commissioner shall require each initial applicant or  
444 prospective employee of a family child care home in a position requiring  
445 the provision of care to a child, including an assistant or substitute staff  
446 member, and each household member who is eighteen years of age or

447 older, to submit to comprehensive background checks, including state  
448 and national criminal history records checks. The criminal history  
449 records checks required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted  
450 in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request  
451 a check of the state child abuse registry established pursuant to section  
452 17a-101k. The commissioner shall notify each licensee of the provisions  
453 of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "household member"  
454 means any person, other than the person who is licensed to conduct,  
455 operate or maintain a family child care home, who resides in the family  
456 child care home, such as the licensee's spouse or children, tenants and  
457 any other occupant.

458 (d) An application for initial licensure pursuant to this section shall  
459 be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars and such license shall be issued  
460 for a term of four years. An application for renewal of a license issued  
461 pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars  
462 and a certification from the licensee that any child enrolled in the family  
463 child care home has received age-appropriate immunizations in  
464 accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
465 section. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed for a  
466 term of four years. In the case of an applicant submitting an application  
467 for renewal of a license that has expired, and who has ceased operations  
468 of a family child care home due to such expired license, the  
469 commissioner may renew such expired license within thirty days of the  
470 date of such expiration upon receipt of an application for renewal that  
471 is accompanied by such fee and such certification.

472 (e) An application for initial staff approval or renewal of staff  
473 approval shall be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars. Such  
474 approvals shall be issued or renewed for a term of two years.

475 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
476 provisions of chapter 54, to ensure that family child care homes, as  
477 described in section 19a-77, meet the health, educational and social  
478 needs of children utilizing such homes. Such regulations shall (1) ensure  
479 that the family child care home is treated as a residence, and not an

480 institutional facility, (2) specify that each child be protected as age-  
481 appropriate by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis,  
482 tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus  
483 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule of  
484 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f and provide  
485 appropriate exemptions for children for whom such immunization is  
486 medically contraindicated and for children whose parents or guardian  
487 objects to such immunization on personal grounds and require that any  
488 such objection be accompanied by a statement from such parents or  
489 guardian that such immunization would be contrary to the personal  
490 beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child, which  
491 statement shall be acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of  
492 sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a court of record or a family  
493 support magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal,  
494 (C) a town clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice of the peace, or (F) an  
495 attorney admitted to the bar of this state, (3) specify conditions under  
496 which family child care home providers may administer tests to monitor  
497 glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and  
498 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs specified  
499 in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving child care  
500 services at a family child care home pursuant to a written order of a  
501 physician licensed to practice medicine in this or another state, an  
502 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance  
503 with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in  
504 accordance with section 20-12d, and the written authorization of a  
505 parent or guardian of such child, (4) specify appropriate standards for  
506 extended care and intermittent short-term overnight care, (5) specify  
507 that a family child care home shall immediately notify the parent or  
508 guardian of a child enrolled in such home if such child exhibits or  
509 develops an illness or is injured while in the care of such home, (6)  
510 specify that a family child care home shall create a written record of any  
511 such illness or injury, which shall, (A) include, but not be limited to, (i)  
512 a description of such illness or injury, (ii) the date, time of occurrence  
513 and location of such illness or injury, (iii) any responsive action taken  
514 by an employee of such home, and (iv) whether such child was

515 transported to a hospital emergency room, doctor's office or other  
516 medical facility as a result of such illness or injury, (B) be provided to  
517 the parent or guardian of such child not later than the next business day,  
518 and (C) be maintained by such home for a period of not less than two  
519 years and be made immediately available upon the request of the Office  
520 of Early Childhood, and (7) specify that a family child care home shall  
521 maintain any video recordings created at such home for a period of not  
522 less than thirty days, and make such recordings immediately available  
523 upon the request of the Office of Early Childhood. The commissioner  
524 shall inform each licensee, by way of a plain language summary  
525 provided not later than sixty days after the regulation's effective date, of  
526 any new or changed regulations adopted under this subsection with  
527 which a licensee must comply. For purposes of this subsection, "illness"  
528 means fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, headache, persistent coughing,  
529 persistent crying or any other condition deemed an illness by the  
530 Commissioner of Early Childhood.

531 (g) Any child who (1) presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by  
532 the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7q, signed  
533 by a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered  
534 nurse stating that, in the opinion of such physician, physician assistant  
535 or advanced practice registered nurse, the immunizations required  
536 pursuant to regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
537 section are medically contraindicated, (2) in the case of a child who is  
538 enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade, presented a statement,  
539 prior to April 28, 2021, that such immunizations are contrary to the  
540 religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child,  
541 [or] (3) in the case of a child who is enrolled in a preschool program or  
542 other prekindergarten program or below, (A) presented a statement,  
543 prior to April 28, 2021, that such immunizations are contrary to the  
544 religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child,  
545 and (B) presents a written declaration, in a form prescribed by the  
546 Commissioner of Public Health, from a physician, physician assistant or  
547 advanced practice registered nurse stating that an immunization against  
548 diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella,

549 haemophilus influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the  
550 schedule of active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f has  
551 been given to such child and that any additional necessary  
552 immunizations of such student against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus,  
553 poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenzae type B  
554 and any other vaccine required by such schedule of active immunization  
555 are in process under guidelines specified by the Commissioner of Public  
556 Health or as recommended for the child by the physician, physician  
557 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, or (4) presents a  
558 statement from the parents or guardian of such child that such  
559 immunization would be contrary to the personal beliefs of such child or  
560 the parents or guardian of such child, shall be exempt from the  
561 immunization requirements set forth in such regulations. The statement  
562 described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of this subsection or  
563 the statement described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be  
564 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34  
565 and 1-35, by (i) a judge of a court of record or a family support  
566 magistrate, (ii) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (iii) a  
567 town clerk, (iv) a notary public, (v) a justice of the peace, or (vi) an  
568 attorney admitted to the bar of this state.

569 (h) Any child who is enrolled in a preschool program or other  
570 prekindergarten program or below on or before April 28, 2021, who  
571 presented, prior to April 28, 2021, the statement described in  
572 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of this section, but  
573 did not present the written declaration described in subparagraph (B) of  
574 subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of this section shall comply, on or before  
575 September 1, 2022, or not later than fourteen days after applying to  
576 enroll in the family child care home, whichever is later, with the  
577 immunization requirements set forth in the regulations adopted  
578 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

579 (i) Upon the declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness  
580 emergency pursuant to section 28-9 or a public health emergency  
581 pursuant to section 19a-131a, the commissioner may waive the

582 provisions of any regulation adopted pursuant to this section if the  
583 commissioner determines that such waiver would not endanger the life,  
584 safety or health of any child. The commissioner shall prescribe the  
585 duration of such waiver, provided such waiver shall not extend beyond  
586 the duration of the declared emergency. The commissioner shall  
587 establish the criteria by which a waiver request shall be made and the  
588 conditions for which a waiver will be granted or denied. The provisions  
589 of section 19a-84 shall not apply to a denial of a waiver request under  
590 this subsection.

591 (j) Any family child care home may provide child care services to  
592 homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended  
593 from time to time, for a period not to exceed ninety days without  
594 complying with any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to this  
595 section relating to immunization and physical examination  
596 requirements. Any family child care home that provides child care  
597 services to homeless children and youths at such home under this  
598 subsection shall maintain a record on file of all homeless children and  
599 youths who have attended such home for a period of two years after  
600 such homeless children or youths are no longer receiving child care  
601 services at such home.

602 (k) Any family child care home may provide child care services to a  
603 foster child for a period not to exceed forty-five days without complying  
604 with any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section  
605 relating to immunization and physical examination requirements. Any  
606 family child care home that provides child care services to a foster child  
607 at such home under this subsection shall maintain a record on file of  
608 such foster child for a period of two years after such foster child is no  
609 longer receiving child care services at such home. For purposes of this  
610 subsection, "foster child" means a child who is in the care and custody  
611 of the Commissioner of Children and Families and placed in a foster  
612 home licensed pursuant to section 17a-114, foster home approved by a  
613 child-placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149, facility  
614 licensed pursuant to section 17a-145 or with a relative or fictive kin

615 caregiver pursuant to section 17a-114.

616 (l) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and each fiscal year  
617 thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may issue a license to  
618 maintain a family child care home anywhere in the state in accordance  
619 with the provisions of this chapter to a person or group of persons who  
620 have partnered with an association, organization, corporation,  
621 institution or agency, public or private, to provide child care services in  
622 a space provided by such association, organization, corporation,  
623 institution or agency, provided such space has been approved by the  
624 commissioner and is not in a private family home. The commissioner  
625 shall not approve more than twenty facilities throughout the state to be  
626 used for licenses issued under this subsection. The commissioner may  
627 approve more than one facility in each city or town to be used for  
628 licenses issued under this subsection. An application for a license under  
629 this subsection shall include a copy of the current fire marshal certificate  
630 of compliance with the Fire Safety Code, and written verification of  
631 compliance with the State Building Code, local zoning and building  
632 requirements and local health ordinances. The commissioner may  
633 require an applicant for a license under this subsection to comply with  
634 additional conditions relating to the health and safety of the children  
635 who will be served in such facility. The commissioner may waive any  
636 requirement that does not apply to such facility. Any license issued  
637 under this subsection shall be for a term of four years, except that the  
638 commissioner may suspend or revoke any such license at any time in  
639 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-87e.

640 (m) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2029,  
641 inclusive, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may issue, upon  
642 receipt of a proper application and following an inspection and  
643 approval by the office, a large family child care home endorsement to  
644 any family child care home licensee in the state who was issued such  
645 license prior to June 30, 2025. Such endorsement shall permit such  
646 licensee to maintain a family child care home, in accordance with the  
647 provisions of this chapter, that provides care for up to twelve children,

648 including the licensee's own children, provided such family child care  
 649 home is operated and staffed in accordance with regulations adopted by  
 650 the office and, in the case when such licensee is providing care for over  
 651 nine children, with the presence and assistance of an additional assistant  
 652 or substitute staff member approved by the commissioner. The  
 653 commissioner shall not issue more than thirty such endorsements in any  
 654 year under this subsection. The family child care home for which such  
 655 endorsement has been issued shall have a minimum of thirty-five  
 656 square feet of useable indoor space and seventy-five square feet per  
 657 child of outdoor space. An application for an endorsement under this  
 658 subsection shall include a copy of the current fire marshal certificate of  
 659 compliance with the Fire Safety Code, and written verification of  
 660 compliance with local zoning and building requirements and local  
 661 health ordinances. The commissioner may require an applicant for an  
 662 endorsement under this subsection to comply with additional  
 663 conditions relating to the health and safety of the children who will be  
 664 served in such facility. Any endorsement issued under this subsection  
 665 shall expire on June 30, 2029, except the commissioner may suspend or  
 666 revoke any such endorsement at any time in accordance with the  
 667 provisions of section 19a-87e."

|   |                     |             |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |             |
| Section 1   | <i>from passage</i> | 10-204a     |
| Sec. 2  | <i>from passage</i> | 10a-155     |
| Sec. 3  | <i>from passage</i> | 10a-155b(a) |
| Sec. 4  | <i>from passage</i> | 19a-79      |
| Sec. 5  | <i>from passage</i> | 19a-87b     |