



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4628



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.
SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.
SEN. CICARELLA, 34th Dist.
SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.
SEN. FAZIO, 36th Dist.
SEN. GORDON, 35th Dist.
SEN. KISSEL, 7th Dist.
SEN. PERILLO J., 21st Dist.

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

File No. 405

Cal. No. 452

(As Amended)

"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 Section 10-204a of the general statutes is repealed and the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
19 the case of a child enrolled in a preschool program or other
20 prekindergarten program who, prior to April 28, 2021, was exempt from
21 the appropriate provisions of this section upon presentation of a
22 statement that such immunizations would be contrary to the religious
23 beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child, as such
24 additional immunizations are recommended, in a written declaration,
25 in a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, for such
26 child by a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice
27 registered 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) presents a
33 statement from the parents or guardian of such child that such
34 immunization would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or
35 the parents or guardian of such child, which statement shall be
36 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34
37 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a court of record or a family support
38 magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (C) a town
39 clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice of the peace, (F) an attorney
40 admitted to the bar of this state, or (G) notwithstanding any provision
41 of chapter 6, a school nurse; or (4) in the case of measles, mumps or
42 rubella, presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant or
43 advanced practice registered nurse or from the director of health in such
44 child's present or previous town of residence, stating that the child has
45 had a confirmed case of such disease; or [(4)] (5) in the case of

46 haemophilus influenzae type B has passed such child's fifth birthday; or
47 [(5)] (6) in the case of pertussis, has passed such child's sixth birthday,
48 shall be exempt from the appropriate provisions of this section. [The
49 statement described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
50 subsection shall be acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of
51 sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by a judge of a court of record or a family
52 support magistrate, a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a
53 town clerk, a notary public, a justice of the peace, an attorney admitted
54 to the bar of this state, or notwithstanding any provision of chapter 6, a
55 school nurse.] If the parents or guardian of any child are unable to pay
56 for such immunizations, the expense of such immunizations shall, on
57 the recommendations of such board of education, be paid by the town.
58 Before being permitted to enter seventh grade, the parents or guardian
59 of any child who is exempt on religious grounds from the immunization
60 requirements of this section, pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
61 subsection, shall present to such school a statement that such
62 immunization requirements are contrary to the religious beliefs of such
63 child or the parents or guardian of such child, which statement shall be
64 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34
65 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a court of record or a family support
66 magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (C) a town
67 clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice of the peace, (F) an attorney
68 admitted to the bar of this state, or (G) notwithstanding any provision
69 of chapter 6, a school nurse.

70 [(b) The immunization requirements provided for in subsection (a) of
71 this section shall not apply to any child who is enrolled in kindergarten
72 through twelfth grade on or before April 28, 2021, if such child
73 presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, from the parents or
74 guardian of such child that such immunization is contrary to the
75 religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child,
76 and such statement was acknowledged, in accordance with the
77 provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (1) a judge of a court of
78 record or a family support magistrate, (2) a clerk or deputy clerk of a
79 court having a seal, (3) a town clerk, (4) a notary public, (5) a justice of

80 the peace, (6) an attorney admitted to the bar of this state, or (7)
81 notwithstanding any provision of chapter 6, a school nurse.

82 (c) Any child who is enrolled in a preschool program or other
83 prekindergarten program prior to April 28, 2021, who presented a
84 statement, prior to April 28, 2021, from the parents or guardian of such
85 child that the immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of such
86 child or the parents or guardian of such child, which statement was
87 acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34
88 and 1-35, by (1) a judge of a court of record or a family support
89 magistrate, (2) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, (3) a town
90 clerk, (4) a notary public, (5) a justice of the peace, (6) an attorney
91 admitted to the bar of this state, or (7) notwithstanding any provision of
92 chapter 6, a school nurse, but did not present a written declaration from
93 a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered
94 nurse stating that additional immunizations are in process as
95 recommended by such physician, physician assistant or advanced
96 practice registered nurse, rather than as recommended under guidelines
97 and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Public Health, shall
98 comply with the immunization requirements provided for in
99 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section on
100 or before September 1, 2022, or not later than fourteen days after
101 transferring to a program operated by a public or nonpublic school
102 under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education or similar
103 body governing a nonpublic school or schools, whichever is later.

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

109 [(e)] (b) The definitions of adequate immunization shall reflect the
110 schedule for active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f
111 and be established by regulation adopted in accordance with the
112 provisions of chapter 54 by the Commissioner of Public Health, who

113 shall also be responsible for providing procedures under which such
114 boards and such similar governing bodies shall collect and report
115 immunization data on each child to the Department of Public Health for
116 (1) compilation and analysis by the department, and (2) release by the
117 department of annual immunization rates for each public and nonpublic
118 school in the state, provided such immunization data may not contain
119 information that identifies a specific individual.

120 ~~[(f)]~~ (c) The Commissioner of Public Health may issue a temporary
121 waiver to the schedule for active immunization for any vaccine if the
122 National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes a
123 nation-wide shortage of supply for such vaccine.

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

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

132 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
133 any student who (1) presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by the
134 Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7q, from a
135 physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse
136 stating that in the opinion of such physician, physician assistant or
137 advanced practice registered nurse such immunization is medically
138 contraindicated, (2) [prior to April 28, 2021, provided] provides a
139 statement that such immunization is contrary to his or her religious
140 beliefs, (3) presents a certificate from a physician, a physician assistant,
141 an advanced practice registered nurse or the director of health in the
142 student's present or previous town of residence, stating that the student
143 has had a confirmed case of such disease, (4) is enrolled exclusively in a
144 program for which students do not congregate on campus for classes or

145 to participate in institutional-sponsored events, such as students
146 enrolled in distance learning programs for individualized home study
147 or programs conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting
148 without other students present, or (5) graduated from a public or
149 nonpublic high school in this state in 1999 or later and was not exempt
150 from the measles, rubella and mumps vaccination requirement
151 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-204a, as
152 amended by this act, shall be exempt from the appropriate provisions of
153 this section.

154 (c) Each institution of higher education shall keep uniform records of
155 the immunizations and immunization status of each student, based on
156 the certificate of immunization or other evidence acceptable pursuant to
157 subsection (b) of this section. The record shall be part of the student's
158 permanent record. By November first of each year, the chief
159 administrative officer of each institution of higher education shall cause
160 to be submitted to the Commissioner of Public Health, on a form
161 provided by the commissioner, a summary report of the immunization
162 status of all students enrolling in such institution.

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

166 (a) For students who first enroll in the 2014-2015 school year, and first
167 enroll in each school year thereafter, each public or private college or
168 university in this state shall require that each student who resides in on-
169 campus housing be vaccinated against meningitis and submit evidence
170 of having received a meningococcal conjugate vaccine not more than
171 five years before enrollment as a condition of such residence. The
172 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any such student who (1)
173 presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by the Commissioner of
174 Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7q, from a physician, an advanced
175 practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stating that, in the
176 opinion of such physician, advanced practice registered nurse or
177 physician assistant, such vaccination is medically contraindicated

178 because of the physical condition of such student, or (2) [prior to April
179 28, 2021, presented] presents a statement that such vaccination is
180 contrary to the religious beliefs of such student.

181 Sec. 4. Section 19a-79 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
182 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
183 *passage*):

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

211 controlled drugs specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a
212 child receiving child care services at such child care center or group
213 child care home pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to
214 practice medicine or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this
215 or another state, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to
216 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician assistant
217 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written
218 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child, (3) specify that an
219 operator of a child care center or group child care home, licensed before
220 January 1, 1986, or an operator who receives a license after January 1,
221 1986, for a facility licensed prior to January 1, 1986, shall provide a
222 minimum of thirty square feet per child of total indoor usable space, free
223 of furniture except that needed for the children's purposes, exclusive of
224 toilet rooms, bathrooms, coatrooms, kitchens, halls, isolation room or
225 other rooms used for purposes other than the activities of the children,
226 (4) specify that a child care center or group child care home licensed
227 after January 1, 1986, shall provide thirty-five square feet per child of
228 total indoor usable space, (5) establish appropriate child care center
229 staffing requirements for employees certified in cardiopulmonary
230 resuscitation by the American Red Cross, the American Heart
231 Association, the National Safety Council, American Safety and Health
232 Institute, Medic First Aid International, Inc. or an organization using
233 guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency
234 cardiovascular care published by the American Heart Association and
235 International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation, (6) specify that a
236 child care center or group child care home (A) shall not deny services to
237 a child on the basis of a child's known or suspected allergy or because a
238 child has a prescription for an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or
239 similar automatic injectable equipment, nasal spray or any other
240 medical equipment approved by the United States Food and Drug
241 Administration that is used to treat an allergic reaction, or for injectable
242 equipment, nasal spray or any other medical equipment approved by
243 the United States Food and Drug Administration that is used to
244 administer glucagon, (B) shall, not later than three weeks after such
245 child's enrollment in such a center or home, have staff trained in the use

246 of such equipment on-site during all hours when such a child is on-site,
247 (C) shall require such child's parent or guardian to provide the
248 equipment and a copy of the prescription for such medication upon
249 enrollment of such child, and (D) shall require a parent or guardian
250 enrolling such a child to replace such medication and equipment prior
251 to its expiration date, (7) specify that a child care center or group child
252 care home (A) shall not deny services to a child on the basis of a child's
253 diagnosis of asthma or because a child has a prescription for an inhalant
254 medication to treat asthma, and (B) shall, not later than three weeks after
255 such child's enrollment in such a center or home, have staff trained in
256 the administration of such medication on-site during all hours when
257 such a child is on-site, (8) establish physical plant requirements for
258 licensed child care centers and licensed group child care homes that
259 exclusively serve school-age children, (9) specify that a child care center
260 or group child care home shall immediately notify the parent or
261 guardian of a child enrolled in such center or home if such child exhibits
262 or develops an illness or is injured while in the care of such center or
263 home, (10) specify that a child care center or group child care home shall
264 create a written record of any such illness or injury, which shall, (A)
265 include, but not be limited to, (i) a description of such illness or injury,
266 (ii) the date, time of occurrence and location of such illness or injury, (iii)
267 any responsive action taken by an employee of such center or home, and
268 (iv) whether such child was transported to a hospital emergency room,
269 doctor's office or other medical facility as a result of such illness or
270 injury, (B) be provided to the parent or guardian of such child not later
271 than the next business day, and (C) be maintained by such center or
272 home for a period of not less than two years and be made immediately
273 available upon the request of the Office of Early Childhood, and (11)
274 specify that a child care center or group child care home shall maintain
275 any video recordings created at such center or home for a period of not
276 less than thirty days, and make such recordings immediately available
277 upon the request of the Office of Early Childhood. When establishing
278 such requirements, the Office of Early Childhood shall give
279 consideration to child care centers and group child care homes that are
280 located in private or public school buildings. With respect to

281 subdivision (8) of this subsection, the commissioner shall implement
282 policies and procedures necessary to implement the physical plant
283 requirements established pursuant to this subdivision while in the
284 process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form.
285 Until replaced by policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
286 subdivision, any physical plant requirement specified in the office's
287 regulations that is generally applicable to child care centers and group
288 child care homes shall continue to be applicable to such centers and
289 homes that exclusively serve school-age children. The commissioner
290 shall post notice of the intent to adopt regulations pursuant to this
291 subdivision on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after
292 the date of implementation of such policies and procedures. Policies and
293 procedures implemented pursuant to this subdivision shall be valid
294 until the time final regulations are adopted. For purposes of this
295 subsection, "illness" means fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, headache,
296 persistent coughing, persistent crying or any other condition deemed an
297 illness by the Commissioner of Early Childhood.

298 [(b) Any child who (1) presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by
299 the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-7q, signed
300 by a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered
301 nurse stating that, in the opinion of such physician, physician assistant
302 or advanced practice registered nurse, the immunizations required
303 pursuant to regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of
304 subsection (a) of this section are medically contraindicated, (2) in the
305 case of a child who is enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade,
306 presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, that such immunizations
307 are contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or
308 guardian of such child, or (3) in the case of a child who is enrolled in a
309 preschool program or other prekindergarten program or below, (A)
310 presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, that such immunizations
311 are contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or
312 guardian of such child, and (B) presents a written declaration, in a form
313 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, from a physician, a
314 physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse stating that

315 an immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis,
316 measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenzae type B and any other
317 vaccine required by the schedule of active immunization adopted
318 pursuant to section 19a-7f has been given to such child and that any
319 additional necessary immunizations of such student against diphtheria,
320 pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus
321 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by such schedule of
322 active immunization are in process under guidelines specified by the
323 Commissioner of Public Health or as recommended for the child by the
324 physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse,
325 shall be exempt from the immunization requirements set forth in such
326 regulations. The statement described in subparagraph (A) of
327 subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be acknowledged, in accordance
328 with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by a judge of a court
329 of record or a family support magistrate, a clerk or deputy clerk of a
330 court having a seal, a town clerk, a notary public, a justice of the peace,
331 or an attorney admitted to the bar of this state.

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

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

348 under section 19a-87b, as amended by this act, to operate a family child
349 care home.

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

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

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

378 [(h)] (f) Any child care center or group child care home may provide
379 child care services to a foster child for a period not to exceed forty-five

380 days without complying with any provision in regulations adopted
381 pursuant to this section relating to immunization and physical
382 examination requirements. Any child care center or group child care
383 home that provides child care services to a foster child at such center or
384 home under this subsection shall maintain a record on file of such foster
385 child for a period of two years after such foster child is no longer
386 receiving child care services at such center or home. For purposes of this
387 subsection, "foster child" means a child who is in the care and custody
388 of the Commissioner of Children and Families and placed in a foster
389 home licensed pursuant to section 17a-114, foster home approved by a
390 child-placing agency licensed pursuant to section 17a-149, facility
391 licensed pursuant to section 17a-145 or with a relative or fictive kin
392 caregiver pursuant to section 17a-114.

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

396 (a) No person, group of persons, association, organization,
397 corporation, institution or agency, public or private, shall maintain a
398 family child care home, as described in section 19a-77, without a license
399 issued by the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Licensure forms shall
400 be obtained from the Office of Early Childhood. Applications for
401 licensure shall be made to the commissioner on forms provided by the
402 office and shall contain the information required by regulations adopted
403 under this section. The licensure and application forms shall contain a
404 notice that false statements made therein are punishable in accordance
405 with section 53a-157b. Applicants shall state, in writing, that they are in
406 compliance with the regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant
407 to subsection (f) of this section. Before a family child care home license
408 is granted, the office shall make an inquiry and investigation which shall
409 include a visit and inspection of the premises for which the license is
410 requested. Any inspection conducted by the office shall include an
411 inspection for evident sources of lead poisoning. The office shall provide
412 for a chemical analysis of any paint chips found on such premises.

413 Neither the commissioner nor the commissioner's designee shall require
414 an annual inspection for homes seeking license renewal or for licensed
415 homes, except that the commissioner or the commissioner's designee
416 shall make an unannounced visit, inspection or investigation of each
417 licensed family child care home at least once every year. A licensed
418 family child care home shall not be subject to any conditions on the
419 operation of such home by local officials, other than those imposed by
420 the office pursuant to this subsection, if the home complies with all
421 codes and ordinances applicable to single and multifamily dwellings.

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

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

445 (c) The commissioner shall require each initial applicant or

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

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

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

477 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
478 provisions of chapter 54, to ensure that family child care homes, as

479 described in section 19a-77, meet the health, educational and social
480 needs of children utilizing such homes. Such regulations shall (1) ensure
481 that the family child care home is treated as a residence, and not an
482 institutional facility, (2) specify that each child be protected as age-
483 appropriate by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis,
484 tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus
485 influenzae type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule of
486 active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f and provide
487 appropriate exemptions for children for whom such immunization is
488 medically contraindicated and for children whose parents or guardian
489 objects to such immunization on religious grounds and require that any
490 such objection be accompanied by a statement from such parents or
491 guardian that such immunization would be contrary to the religious
492 beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child, which
493 statement shall be acknowledged, in accordance with the provisions of
494 sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a court of record or a family
495 support magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal,
496 (C) a town clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice of the peace, or (F) an
497 attorney admitted to the bar of this state, (3) specify conditions under
498 which family child care home providers may administer tests to monitor
499 glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and
500 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs specified
501 in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving child care
502 services at a family child care home pursuant to a written order of a
503 physician licensed to practice medicine in this or another state, an
504 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
505 with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
506 accordance with section 20-12d, and the written authorization of a
507 parent or guardian of such child, (4) specify appropriate standards for
508 extended care and intermittent short-term overnight care, (5) specify
509 that a family child care home shall immediately notify the parent or
510 guardian of a child enrolled in such home if such child exhibits or
511 develops an illness or is injured while in the care of such home, (6)
512 specify that a family child care home shall create a written record of any
513 such illness or injury, which shall, (A) include, but not be limited to, (i)

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

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

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

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

577 [(i)] (g) Upon the declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness
578 emergency pursuant to section 28-9 or a public health emergency
579 pursuant to section 19a-131a, the commissioner may waive the
580 provisions of any regulation adopted pursuant to this section if the

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

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

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

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

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

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

666 Sec. 6. Section 10-204d of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 667 *from passage*)"

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
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section