
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 157

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMP SAFETY.

SUMMARY

This bill specifies that the existing mandated reporter requirement for youth camp staff applies to camps operated by a municipal agency. By law, people in many designated occupations or professions who have contact with children are mandated reporters with a legal duty to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect (see BACKGROUND).

Current law designates all paid youth camp staff (including a director or assistant director) age 21 or older as mandated reporters, but it does not specify if this applies to both licensed and license-exempt municipal camps. The bill expressly states that it does.

The bill also requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), in consultation with three state-wide organizations, to develop a report with details about each municipal youth camp in the state and submit it to the Committee on Children by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the youth camp report requirement is upon passage.

YOUTH CAMP REPORT

The bill requires OEC, in consultation with a state-wide association advocating on behalf of municipal parks and recreation departments, a state-wide organization advocating for small towns, and a state-wide organization of municipal leaders, to submit a report on Connecticut municipal youth camps to the Committee on Children. The report is due by January 1, 2027, and must include:

1. a list of each municipal youth camp in the state,
2. details about each camp's operational structure,

3. the number and age range of children each camp served in the prior calendar year, and
4. whether each camp accepts child care assistance subsidy payments (i.e. Care 4 Kids).

BACKGROUND

Mandated Reporters

The mandated reporter law imposes a legal duty on specified occupations or individuals (e.g., doctors, nurses, athletic coaches, social workers, and school employees) to report to the appropriate authorities any reasonable suspicion or belief that a child is being abused or neglected.

By law, failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect within a statutorily set time subjects the mandated reporter to a class A misdemeanor. But it is a class E felony if the (1) violation is a repeat violation; (2) violation is willful, intentional, or due to gross negligence; or (3) mandated reporter had actual knowledge that a child was abused or neglected, or a student was the victim of sexual assault (CGS § 17a-101o(d)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 2 (02/24/2026)