
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 157 (File 7, as amended by Senate “A”)*

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.

*Senate Amendment “A” broadens the scope of the required report in the underlying bill by specifying that it include details about, among other things, each camp’s physical environment and setting and whether each camp requires first aid training or criminal background checks for employees or has written policies and procedures.

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 a list of each municipal youth camp in the state and details about:

1. each camp's physical environment, facilities, and settings;
2. the number and age range of children served by each camp in the prior year;
3. the number of each camp's employees in the prior year;
4. each camp's operating schedule for the prior year, including the dates when children attended;
5. each camp's requirements for employee training, including frequency, in emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
6. whether each camp authorizes employees to administer medication to children and if they offer employee training for administering medication;
7. whether each camp accepts child care assistance subsidy payments (Care 4 Kids);
8. whether each camp has written policies and procedures for employee hiring and training, including if they do criminal background checks on prospective or current employees;
9. whether each camp has written policies and procedures for facilities and equipment safety and maintenance; and
10. the extent to which each camp's written policies and procedures meet the regulatory requirements for OEC-licensed youth camps.

BACKGROUND

Mandated Reporters

The mandated reporter law imposes a legal duty on specified occupations or individuals (for example, 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, a mandated reporter's failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect within a statutorily set time is 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)