



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 7

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 157

Senate, March 9, 2026

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. MAHER, C. of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMP SAFETY.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: (1) Any
5 physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, (2)
6 any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or
7 not so licensed, (3) any registered nurse, (4) any licensed practical nurse,
8 (5) any medical examiner, (6) any dentist, (7) any dental hygienist, (8)
9 any psychologist, (9) any school employee, as defined in section 53a-65,
10 (10) any social worker, (11) any person who holds or is issued a coaching
11 permit by the State Board of Education, is a coach of intramural or
12 interscholastic athletics and is eighteen years of age or older, (12) any
13 individual who is employed as a coach or director of youth athletics and
14 is eighteen years of age or older, (13) any individual who is employed
15 as a coach or director of a private youth sports organization, league or

16 team and is eighteen years of age or older, (14) any paid administrator,
17 faculty, staff, athletic director, athletic coach or athletic trainer employed
18 by a public or private institution of higher education who is eighteen
19 years of age or older, excluding student employees, (15) any police
20 officer, (16) any juvenile or adult probation officer, (17) any juvenile or
21 adult parole officer, (18) any member of the clergy, (19) any pharmacist,
22 (20) any physical therapist, (21) any optometrist, (22) any chiropractor,
23 (23) any podiatrist, (24) any mental health professional, (25) any
24 physician assistant, (26) any person who is a licensed or certified
25 emergency medical services provider, (27) any person who is a licensed
26 or certified alcohol and drug counselor, (28) any person who is a
27 licensed marital and family therapist, (29) any person who is a sexual
28 assault counselor or a domestic violence counselor, as defined in section
29 52-146k, (30) any person who is a licensed professional counselor, (31)
30 any person who is a licensed foster parent, (32) any person paid to care
31 for a child in any public or private facility, child care center, group child
32 care home or family child care home licensed by the state, (33) any
33 employee of the Department of Children and Families or any person
34 who, in the performance of such person's duties, has regular contact
35 with and provides services to or on behalf of children pursuant to a
36 contract with or credential issued by the Department of Children and
37 Families, (34) any employee of the Office of Early Childhood who is
38 responsible for the licensing of child care centers, group child care
39 homes, family child care homes or youth camps, (35) any paid [youth
40 camp] director, assistant director and staff member of a youth camp, as
41 defined in section 19a-420, or a youth camp operated by a municipal
42 agency, who is twenty-one years of age or older, (36) the Child Advocate
43 and any employee of the Office of the Child Advocate, (37) any person
44 who is a licensed behavior analyst, (38) any family relations counselor,
45 family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor
46 employed by the Judicial Department, (39) any victim services advocate
47 employed by the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial
48 Department, (40) any employee of a juvenile justice program operated
49 by or pursuant to a contract with the Court Support Services Division of
50 the Judicial Department, and (41) any person employed, including any

51 person employed under contract and any independent ombudsperson,
 52 to work at a juvenile detention facility or any other facility where
 53 children under eighteen years of age are detained and who has direct
 54 contact with children as part of such employment.

55 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Office
 56 of Early Childhood, in consultation with a state-wide association
 57 advocating on behalf of municipal parks and recreation departments, a
 58 state-wide organization advocating for the interests of small towns and
 59 a state-wide organization of municipal leaders, shall submit a report, in
 60 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 61 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 62 cognizance of matters relating to children. Such report shall include, but
 63 need not be limited to, a list of each municipal youth camp in the state,
 64 details concerning the operational structure of each such camp, the
 65 number and age range of children served by each such camp in the prior
 66 calendar year and whether each such camp accepts child care assistance
 67 subsidy payments.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	17a-101(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "or operated by a municipal agency" was changed to "or a youth camp operated by a municipal agency" for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to submit a report on municipal youth camps and includes technical and conforming changes, all of which result in no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

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)