



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 491**

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 5694

*House of Representatives, April 26, 2001*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL DAY CAMPS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

4 [(a)] (1) "Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or  
5 organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated by a  
6 person, partnership, corporation, association, the state or a municipal  
7 agency for recreational or educational purposes and accommodating  
8 for profit or under philanthropic or charitable auspices five or more  
9 children, under eighteen years of age, who are [(1)] (A) not bona fide  
10 personal guests in the private home of an individual, and [(2)] (B)  
11 living apart from their relatives, parents or legal guardian, for a period  
12 of three days or more per week or portions of three or more days per  
13 week, provided any such relative, parent or guardian who is an

14 employee of such camp shall not be considered to be in the position of  
15 loco parentis to [his] such employee's child for the purposes of this  
16 chapter, but does not include schools which operate a summer  
17 educational program or licensed day care centers;

18 [(b)] (2) "Resident camp" means any youth camp which is  
19 established, conducted or maintained on any parcel or parcels of land  
20 on which there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to  
21 accommodate five or more children for at least seventy-two  
22 consecutive hours and in which the campers attending such camps eat  
23 and sleep;

24 [(c)] (3) "Day camp" means any youth camp which is established,  
25 conducted or maintained on any parcel or parcels of land on which  
26 there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate  
27 five or more children during daylight hours for at least three days a  
28 week with the campers eating and sleeping at home, except for one  
29 meal per day, but does not include programs operated by a municipal  
30 agency, except as provided in and solely for the purposes of subsection  
31 (d) of section 19a-428, as amended by this act;

32 [(d)] (4) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association,  
33 organization, limited liability company or corporation;

34 [(e)] (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;  
35 and

36 [(f)] (6) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

37 Sec. 2. Section 19a-428 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

39 (a) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt  
40 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, relating to  
41 the safe operation of youth camps. The regulations shall contain such  
42 provisions as the commissioner deems necessary or desirable,

43 including, but not limited to: [, personnel] (1) Personnel qualifications  
44 for director and staff; (2) ratio of staff to campers; (3) sanitation and  
45 public health; (4) personal health, first aid and medical services; (5)  
46 food handling, mass feeding and cleanliness; (6) water supply and  
47 waste disposal; (7) water safety, including use of lakes and rivers,  
48 swimming and boating equipment and practices, vehicle condition and  
49 operation; (8) building and site design; (9) equipment; and (10)  
50 condition and density of use. [, as the commissioner may deem  
51 necessary or desirable.] Such regulations shall be construed to be  
52 minimum standards subject to the imposition and enforcement of  
53 higher standards by any town, city or borough.

54 (b) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt  
55 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, allowing  
56 physical examinations or health status certifications required by youth  
57 camps prior to the date of arrival at youth camps to be made by a  
58 physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse  
59 licensed pursuant to chapter 378 or a physician assistant licensed  
60 pursuant to chapter 370.

61 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt  
62 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, that  
63 specify conditions under which youth camp directors and staff may  
64 administer tests to monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed  
65 diabetes mellitus, and administer medicinal preparations, including  
66 controlled drugs specified in the regulations adopted by the  
67 commissioner, to a child enrolled in a youth camp at such camp. The  
68 regulations shall require authorization pursuant to: (1) The written  
69 order of a physician licensed to practice medicine or a dentist licensed  
70 to practice dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced  
71 practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician  
72 assistant licensed under chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under  
73 chapter 375 or an optometrist licensed under chapter 380; and (2) the  
74 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child.

75        (d) (1) The commissioner, in consultation with municipal officials,  
76 the Connecticut Park and Recreation Association and local directors of  
77 health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of  
78 chapter 54, to establish advisory standards for day camp programs  
79 operated by municipal agencies. Such regulations shall provide  
80 recommended model standards for the operation of municipal park  
81 and recreation programs for children in areas including, but not  
82 limited to, sanitation, public and personal health, first aid, medical  
83 services, food handling and water safety. In adopting such regulations,  
84 the commissioner shall consider the differences between various  
85 municipal day camp programs and shall conduct a state-wide cost-  
86 benefit analysis of the proposed advisory standards.

87        (2) On and after the effective date of the regulations adopted under  
88 subdivision (1) of this subsection, each municipality having one or  
89 more day camp programs operated by any agency of the municipality  
90 shall adopt written policies and procedures for the regulation of such  
91 programs. Such policies and procedures shall (A) address the areas  
92 identified in the advisory standards established by the commissioner  
93 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (B) provide for the  
94 inspection of such municipal day camp programs and the enforcement  
95 of such policies and procedures by the local director of health.

96        Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Public Health

**Municipal Impact:** Potential Indeterminate Cost, STATE MANDATE

**Explanation**

**State Impact:**

The Department of Public Health will be able to adopt regulations establishing standards for municipal day camp programs as specified in the bill within its anticipated budgetary resources.

**Municipal Impact:**

It is anticipated that the majority of communities operating day camps will be able to adopt written policies concerning their regulation within locally budgeted resources. However, certain small communities may not have sufficient local resources to meet this requirement without having to retain outside assistance, which may result in unbudgeted local expenses.

While the bill requires DPH to adopt advisory standards, it appears that towns with day camps will not be required to implement these standards, but merely address them in their written policy. As such, it is assumed that the degree to which any given municipality chooses to

implement some or all components of the advisory standards will be determined by the availability of locally budgeted resources. Any impact would be delayed until such time as the state's regulations take effect.

A workload increase will result for local health directors in these same communities to the extent that inspection and enforcement activities are undertaken.

There are approximately 260 municipal day camps in Connecticut.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5694

**AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL DAY CAMPS.**

**SUMMARY:**

The law exempts town-operated day camps from Department of Public Health (DPH) licensing and regulation. This bill requires the DPH commissioner to establish advisory standards for these camps by regulation. He must do this in consultation with town officials, local health directors, and the Connecticut Park and Recreation Association.

The standards for municipal park and recreation programs must cover sanitation, public and personal health, first aid and medical services, food handling, and water safety. The commissioner must consider differences among town programs and must assess the statewide costs and benefits of any proposed standards before adopting them.

After these regulations take effect, the bill requires each town operating a day camp to adopt written policies and procedures to govern them that address the areas covered by the state regulations. They must also provide for the local health director to inspect the camps and enforce the policies and procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25      Nay 0