



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Committee Bill No. 5694**

LCO No. 4296

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***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 Section 19a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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] provided (A) before July 1, 2002, "day camp"  
30 shall not include programs operated by a municipal agency, and (B) on  
31 and after July 1, 2002, "day camp" shall include programs operated by  
32 a municipal agency, subject to such exemptions as the commissioner  
33 may grant pursuant to regulations adopted under subsection (d) of  
34 section 19a-428, as amended by this act;

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

37 [(e)] (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;  
38 and

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

40 Sec. 2. Section 19a-421 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

42 No person shall establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp  
43 without a license issued by the [Department of Public Health]  
44 department. Applications for such license shall be made in writing at  
45 least thirty days prior to the opening of the youth camp on forms  
46 provided and in accordance with procedures established by the

47 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner and shall be  
48 accompanied by a fee of six hundred fifty dollars or, if the applicant is  
49 a nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a fee of two hundred  
50 fifty dollars or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit  
51 organization, for no more than five days duration and for which labor  
52 and materials are donated, or, on and after July 1, 2002, a day camp  
53 operated by a municipal agency, no fee. All such licenses shall be valid  
54 for a period of one year from the date of issuance unless surrendered  
55 for cancellation or suspended or revoked by the commissioner for  
56 violation of this chapter or any regulations [promulgated hereunder]  
57 adopted under section 19a-428, as amended by this act, and shall be  
58 renewable upon payment of a six-hundred-fifty-dollar license fee or, if  
59 the licensee is a nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a two-  
60 hundred-fifty-dollar license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp  
61 affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for no more than five days  
62 duration and for which labor and materials are donated, or, on and  
63 after July 1, 2002, a day camp operated by a municipal agency, no fee.

64 Sec. 3. Section 19a-422 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

66 [To] Except as provided in subsection (d) of section 19a-428, as  
67 amended by this act, to be eligible for the issuance or renewal of a  
68 youth camp license pursuant to this chapter, the camp shall satisfy the  
69 following requirements: [(a)] (1) The location of the camp shall be such  
70 as to provide adequate surface drainage and afford facilities for  
71 obtaining a good water supply; [(b)] (2) each dwelling unit, building  
72 and structure shall be maintained in good condition, suitable for the  
73 use to which it is put, and shall present no health or fire hazard as so  
74 certified, within ninety days of such application, by the [Department of  
75 Public Health] department or State Fire Marshal, as the case may be;  
76 [(c)] (3) there shall be an adequate and competent staff, which includes  
77 the camp director, activities specialists, counselors and maintenance  
78 personnel, of good character and reputation; [(d)] (4) all hazardous  
79 activities, including, but not limited to, archery, aquatics, horseback

80 riding and firearms instruction, shall be supervised by a qualified  
81 activities specialist who has adequate experience and training in [his]  
82 such specialist's area of specialty; [(e)] (5) the staff of a resident and  
83 nonresident camp shall at all times include an adult trained in the  
84 administration of first aid as required by the commissioner; [(f)] (6)  
85 records of personal data for each camper shall be kept in any  
86 reasonable form the camp director may choose, [including therein] and  
87 shall include (A) the camper's name, age and address, [;] (B) the name,  
88 address and telephone number of the parents or guardian, [;] (C) the  
89 dates of admission and discharge, [;] and (D) other such information as  
90 the commissioner shall require. Any youth camp licensed under this  
91 chapter shall operate only as the type of camp authorized by such  
92 license. Such camps shall not advertise any service they are not  
93 equipped or licensed to offer. The license shall be posted in a  
94 conspicuous place at camp headquarters and failure to so post the  
95 license shall result in the presumption that the camp is being operated  
96 in violation of this chapter.

97 Sec. 4. Section 19a-423 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
98 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

99 (a) Upon the denial of an application [of] for an original youth camp  
100 license under this chapter, the commissioner shall notify the applicant  
101 in writing of such denial, by mailing a notice to [him] the applicant at  
102 the applicant's address shown on [his] the application. Any applicant  
103 aggrieved by such denial may appeal therefrom in accordance with the  
104 provisions of section 19a-424.

105 (b) The commissioner may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew the  
106 license of any youth camp regulated and licensed under this chapter if  
107 the licensee: (1) Is convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude,  
108 the record of conviction being conclusive evidence thereof; (2) is  
109 legally adjudicated insane or mentally incompetent, the record of such  
110 adjudication being conclusive evidence thereof; (3) uses any narcotic or  
111 any controlled drug, as defined in section 21a-240, to an extent or in a

112 manner that such use impairs [his] the licensee's ability to properly  
113 care for children; (4) consistently fails to maintain standards prescribed  
114 and published by the [Department of Public Health] department; (5)  
115 furnishes or makes any misleading or any false statement or report to  
116 the department or the local director of health; (6) refuses to submit to  
117 the department any reports or refuses to make available to the  
118 department any records required by it in investigating the facility for  
119 licensing purposes; (7) fails or refuses to submit to an investigation or  
120 inspection by the department or the local director of health or to admit  
121 authorized representatives of the department or the local director of  
122 health at any reasonable time for the purpose of investigation,  
123 inspection or licensing; (8) fails to provide, maintain, equip and keep in  
124 safe and sanitary condition premises established for or used by the  
125 campers pursuant to minimum standards prescribed by the  
126 [Department of Public Health] department or by ordinances or  
127 regulations applicable to the location of such facility; or (9) wilfully or  
128 deliberately violates any of the provisions of this chapter.

129 Sec. 5. Section 19a-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
130 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

131 The [Department of Public Health] department shall inspect or  
132 cause to be inspected the facilities to be operated by an applicant for an  
133 original youth camp license under this chapter before the license shall  
134 be granted, and shall annually thereafter inspect or cause to be  
135 inspected the facilities of all youth camp licensees. On and after July 1,  
136 2002, the inspections of any day camp operated by a municipal agency  
137 as required under this section may be conducted by the local director  
138 of health.

139 Sec. 6. Section 19a-428 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

141 (a) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt  
142 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, relating to  
143 the safe operation of youth camps, including, but not limited to,

144 personnel qualifications for director and staff; ratio of staff to campers;  
145 sanitation and public health; personal health, first aid and medical  
146 services; food handling, mass feeding and cleanliness; water supply  
147 and waste disposal; water safety, including use of lakes and rivers,  
148 swimming and boating equipment and practices, vehicle condition and  
149 operation; building and site design; equipment; and condition and  
150 density of use, as the commissioner may deem necessary or desirable.  
151 Such regulations shall be construed to be minimum standards subject  
152 to the imposition and enforcement of higher standards by any town,  
153 city or borough.

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

161 (c) The [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner shall adopt  
162 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, that  
163 specify conditions under which youth camp directors and staff may  
164 administer tests to monitor glucose levels in a child with diagnosed  
165 diabetes mellitus, and administer medicinal preparations, including  
166 controlled drugs specified in the regulations adopted by the  
167 commissioner, to a child enrolled in a youth camp at such camp. The  
168 regulations shall require authorization pursuant to: (1) The written  
169 order of a physician licensed to practice medicine or a dentist licensed  
170 to practice dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced  
171 practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician  
172 assistant licensed under chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under  
173 chapter 375 or an optometrist licensed under chapter 380; and (2) the  
174 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child.

175 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with

176 the provisions of chapter 54, to establish exemptions from one or more  
177 of the requirements contained in subsection (a) of section 19a-422, as  
178 amended by this act, and the regulations adopted pursuant to  
179 subsection (a) of this section. Such exemptions shall only be applicable  
180 on and after July 1, 2002, to day camps operated by municipal  
181 agencies, provided, no exemption from water safety requirements or  
182 requirements concerning hazardous activities may be authorized by  
183 the commissioner. The regulations adopted under this subsection shall  
184 include provisions concerning the inspection and regulation of such  
185 municipal day camps by the local director of health.

186       Sec. 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the licensing of day camps operated by municipal agencies, to authorize certain exemptions from such licensing requirements and to make technical changes.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors:    REP. SAYERS, 60th Dist.