



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

***Raised Bill No. 5474***

LCO No. 1948

\*01948 \_\_\_\_\_ PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING NURSE MIDWIFERY.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 20-86a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2006*):

4 For the purposes of sections 20-86a to 20-86e, inclusive, as amended  
5 by this act:

6 (1) "Nurse-midwifery" means the independent management of [care  
7 of essentially normal newborns and women, antepartally,  
8 intrapartally, postpartally and gynecologically, occurring within a  
9 health care team, directed by a qualified obstetrician-gynecologist]  
10 women's health care, focusing particularly on common primary care  
11 issues, family planning, gynecological needs, pregnancy, childbirth,  
12 the postpartum period and the care of newborns, occurring within a  
13 health care team.

14 Sec. 2. Section 20-86b of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes  
15 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

16 *October 1, 2006*):

17 [A clinical practice relationship shall exist between each nurse-  
18 midwife and an obstetrician-gynecologist and shall be based upon  
19 mutually agreed upon medical guidelines and protocols. Such  
20 protocols shall be in writing and contain a list of medications, devices  
21 and laboratory tests that may be prescribed, dispensed or administered  
22 by the nurse-midwife. Such protocols shall be provided to the  
23 Department of Public Health upon request of the department. The  
24 term "directed" does not necessarily imply the physical presence of an  
25 obstetrician-gynecologist while care is being given by a nurse-  
26 midwife.] Each nurse-midwife shall practice within a health care  
27 system that provides for consultation, collaborative management or  
28 referral, as indicated by the health status of the patient, that is  
29 consistent with the standards of care established by the American  
30 College of Nurse Midwives. Each nurse-midwife shall provide each  
31 patient with information regarding, or referral to, other providers and  
32 services upon request of the patient or when the care required by the  
33 patient is not within the midwife's scope of practice. Each nurse-  
34 midwife shall sign the birth certificate of each infant delivered by the  
35 nurse-midwife. A nurse-midwife may make the actual determination  
36 and pronouncement of death of an infant delivered by the nurse-  
37 midwife provided: (1) The death is an anticipated death; (2) the nurse-  
38 midwife attests to such pronouncement on the certificate of death; and  
39 (3) the nurse-midwife or a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370  
40 certifies the certificate of death not later than twenty-four hours after  
41 such pronouncement.

42 Sec. 3. Section 20-86c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

44 (a) The Department of Public Health may issue a license to practice  
45 nurse-midwifery upon receipt of a fee of one hundred dollars, to an  
46 applicant who (1) is eligible for registered nurse licensure in this state,  
47 under sections 20-93 or 20-94; (2) holds and maintains current

48 certification from the American College of Nurse-Midwives; and (3)  
49 has completed thirty hours of education in pharmacology for nurse-  
50 midwifery. No license shall be issued under this section to any  
51 applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or  
52 who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

53 (b) Any registered nurse who is licensed at the time of application in  
54 another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a  
55 commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United States,  
56 that has licensure requirements that are substantially similar to or  
57 higher than those of this state shall be eligible for licensure, provided  
58 the applicant (1) has completed or is enrolled in a nurse-midwifery  
59 program approved by the American College of Nurse-Midwifery that  
60 grants no less than a bachelor's degree, if the applicant does not  
61 already hold a bachelor's degree prior to enrolling in such nurse-  
62 midwifery program, (2) demonstrates proficiency in the English  
63 language, which may require evidence of successful completion of an  
64 English proficiency examination, if the applicant's dominant language  
65 is other than English, (3) provides evidence of formal recognition as a  
66 midwife in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia  
67 or a commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United  
68 States, and (4) provides documentation of his or her education in  
69 another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a  
70 commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the United States.

71 Sec. 4. Section 20-86d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

73 The Commissioner of Public Health shall appoint a committee of  
74 three nurse-midwives, each of whom shall be licensed under this  
75 chapter and actively engaged in the practice of nurse-midwifery for  
76 not less than five years, and shall seek their advice and assistance in  
77 the administration of the program of regulation of nurse-midwives.  
78 No person who holds an office in the Connecticut Chapter of the  
79 American College of Nurse Midwives may be appointed to the

80 committee.

81       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) Nothing in chapter 377 of  
 82 the general statutes shall be construed to prohibit graduates of nurse-  
 83 midwifery programs approved by the American College of Nurse-  
 84 Midwives from practicing midwifery for a period not to exceed (1)  
 85 ninety calendar days after the date of graduation, or (2) the date upon  
 86 which the graduate is notified that he or she has failed the licensure  
 87 examination, whichever is shorter, provided (A) such graduate nurses  
 88 are working in a hospital or organization where adequate supervision,  
 89 as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health, is provided, and  
 90 (B) such hospital or other organization has verified that the graduate  
 91 nurse has successfully completed a midwifery program approved by  
 92 the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	20-86a(1)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	20-86b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	20-86c
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	20-86d
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To revise scope of practice and licensure requirements for nurse-midwives.

*[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.]*