



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
February 28, 2012**

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**Senate Bill 193- An Act Mandated Reporters and Requiring Criminal History Records Checks For
Youth Camp Employees and Volunteers**

The Department provides the following information with regards to Senate Bill 193.

This bill **requires**:

- Youth camps to require all employees and volunteers of licensed youth camps and any individual responsible for transporting any camper to submit to criminal history records checks.
- Youth camps to recognize background checks conducted for immigration purposes not earlier than six months prior to the individual's employment, volunteering or transporting campers to meet this requirement
- That the costs for performing the records check be paid for by the prospective employee, prospective volunteer or individual seeking to transport campers.

Facts regarding youth camp licensing and background checks

- In 2011, DPH licensed 469 youth camps that employed approximately 15,000 staff each day throughout the summer.
- The cost for a complete background check is \$16.50.
- Some camps employ outside bus companies to transport their campers.
- Each year, many camps hire itinerant employees and volunteers (e.g. college students or those that live outside the state or country) that may appear in Connecticut just days prior to the start of camp.
- The processing time for fingerprint supported background check results is currently 14-16 weeks. With the addition of 15,000 more fingerprint checks, the processing time would increase and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection would need additional staffing to comply with this request. Additional response time for follow up on results that indicate criminal history can also be expected.
- The bill does not specifically indicate who is responsible for conducting the review and necessary follow-up of background check results that indicate a criminal history. Should the Department of Public Health be required to process the background checks on all youth camp employees significant resources would be needed for additional staffing.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's comments on this bill.

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