



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 204***

LCO No. 1327



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPERS' EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
2 2015, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Public Health, in  
3 consultation with groups representing Lyme disease and other tick-  
4 borne disease prevention, education and awareness programs in the  
5 state, shall (1) identify or develop best practices for the prevention,  
6 identification, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-  
7 borne diseases, including, but not limited to, bartonellosis, babesiosis,  
8 anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis; and (2) disseminate information on  
9 Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases through the Department of  
10 Public Health's Internet web site and printed materials published by  
11 the department to notify members of the public of such best practices  
12 and to increase coordination among the state, local government  
13 agencies and health care providers in the state.

14 (b) Not later than July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the  
15 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
16 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the

17 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
18 health and children on the status of the department's initiative  
19 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

20 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than July 1,  
21 2015, and annually thereafter, each youth camp licensed pursuant to  
22 chapter 368r of the general statutes shall develop or approve a Lyme  
23 disease education program utilizing the information disseminated by  
24 the Department of Public Health pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1  
25 of this act. Such program shall consist of written and oral components,  
26 including, but not limited to, information regarding: (1) Identification  
27 of ticks and other parasitic or potentially harmful insects; (2)  
28 identification of early warning signs associated with Lyme disease and  
29 other tick-borne diseases, including, but not limited to, bartonellosis,  
30 babesiosis, anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis; (3) proper procedures for  
31 campers to notify youth camp staff members of a suspected tick bite;  
32 (4) proper methods of conducting tick checks; and (5) current best  
33 practices for avoiding exposure to ticks and other parasitic or  
34 potentially harmful insects.

35 (b) Prior to each new youth camp session, the director or assistant  
36 director of the youth camp shall distribute the written components of  
37 the education program developed or approved pursuant to subsection  
38 (a) of this section to the parent or legal guardian of each camper  
39 enrolled in the youth camp.

40 (c) Not later than the first day of each new youth camp session, the  
41 director or assistant director of each youth camp shall present the oral  
42 components of the education program developed or approved  
43 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to each camper.

44 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
45 2015, and annually thereafter, each youth camp licensed pursuant to  
46 chapter 368r of the general statutes shall develop or approve a camper  
47 injury and abuse education program. Such program shall consist of

48 written and oral components, including, but not limited to,  
49 information regarding: (1) Physical injury, sexual abuse and emotional  
50 abuse; (2) identification of the early warning signs associated with  
51 such injury or abuse; (3) proper procedures for notifying the director,  
52 assistant director, injury or abuse resource counselor or other staff  
53 member at the youth camp of the suspected or actual injury or abuse of  
54 a camper; and (4) current best practices for preventing and treating  
55 injury or abuse in the youth camp setting.

56 (b) Prior to each new youth camp session, the director or assistant  
57 director of the youth camp shall distribute the written components of  
58 the education program developed or approved pursuant to subsection  
59 (a) of this section to the parent or legal guardian of each camper  
60 enrolled in the youth camp.

61 (c) Not later than the first day of each new youth camp session, the  
62 director or assistant director of each youth camp shall present the oral  
63 components of the education program developed or approved  
64 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to each camper.

65 (d) Each youth camp shall provide the option for any camper who is  
66 attending the youth camp and who (1) is the victim of injury or abuse,  
67 or (2) has witnessed or suspects that a camper is the victim of injury or  
68 abuse, to report or disclose such injury or abuse to such youth camp  
69 anonymously, provided maintaining the confidentiality of such  
70 camper does not result in a violation of state or federal law.

71 (e) Prior to each new youth camp session, the director or assistant  
72 director of the youth camp shall designate a staff member at the youth  
73 camp as an injury or abuse resource counselor. Not later than the first  
74 day of each new youth camp session, the director or assistant director  
75 of each youth camp shall identify the injury or abuse resource  
76 counselor to all campers and describe to each camper the procedure  
77 for contacting the counselor if any camper suffers injury or abuse or  
78 suspects that a camper has suffered injury or abuse.

79 (f) Not later than twenty-four hours after a camper reports an  
80 incident of injury or abuse, the director or assistant director of the  
81 youth camp shall notify the camper's parent or legal guardian or the  
82 camper's emergency contact on file with the youth camp of the report.

83 (g) No youth camp shall prohibit a camper from contacting his or  
84 her parent or legal guardian or his or her emergency contact on file  
85 with the youth camp within twelve hours of requesting to do so.

86 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) (1) Except as provided in  
87 subsection (c) of this section, each youth camp licensed pursuant to  
88 chapter 368r of the general statutes shall require each director or  
89 assistant director who is (A) a paid employee, or (B) a volunteer  
90 providing ongoing services at the youth camp to submit to state and  
91 national criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with  
92 section 29-17a of the general statutes prior to such director or assistant  
93 director performing his or her duties at the youth camp.

94 (2) If such director or assistant director is performing his or her  
95 duties at the youth camp on the effective date of this section, the youth  
96 camp shall require such director or assistant director to submit to such  
97 state and national criminal history records checks prior to the renewal  
98 of the youth camp's license pursuant to chapter 368r of the general  
99 statutes.

100 (3) The criminal history records checks required under this  
101 subsection shall not be required for any director or assistant director  
102 who (A) has successfully completed a state and national criminal  
103 history records check for immigration purposes in accordance with  
104 federal law not more than six months prior to the date such director or  
105 assistant director (i) begins employment at the camp, or (ii) begins  
106 volunteering at the camp, or (B) has previously submitted to state and  
107 national criminal history records checks pursuant to subsection (a) of  
108 this section.

109 (b) (1) Each youth camp licensed pursuant to chapter 368r of the

110 general statutes shall require each director or assistant director who is  
111 (A) a paid employee, or (B) a volunteer providing ongoing services at  
112 the youth camp to certify to such youth camp that he or she is not  
113 listed on the state child abuse or neglect registry established pursuant  
114 to section 17a-101k of the general statutes prior to such director or  
115 assistant director performing his or her duties at the youth camp.

116 (2) If such director or assistant director is performing his or her  
117 duties at the youth camp on the effective date of this section, the youth  
118 camp shall require such director or assistant director to certify to such  
119 youth camp that he or she is not listed on the state child abuse or  
120 neglect registry prior to the renewal of the youth camp's license  
121 pursuant to chapter 368r of the general statutes.

122 (c) Pursuant to section 29-17a of the general statutes, the  
123 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may  
124 charge a youth camp fees for conducting the state and national  
125 criminal history records checks required under the provisions of  
126 subsection (a) of this section.

127 (d) In the course of inspecting the facilities of a youth camp  
128 pursuant to section 19a-426 of the general statutes, the Department of  
129 Public Health shall verify that each director or assistant director of the  
130 youth camp has (1) submitted to state and national criminal history  
131 records checks pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2)  
132 certified to such youth camp that he or she is not listed on the state  
133 child abuse or neglect registry pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
134 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To improve the safety of children attending youth camps by requiring youth camps to (1) educate campers on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, (2) establish procedures for campers to report instances of injury and abuse, and (3) require directors and assistant directors at the youth camp to submit to certain background checks.

*[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.]*