



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 355

LCO No. 2117



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-2a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 The Commissioner of Public Health shall employ the most efficient
4 and practical means for the prevention and suppression of disease and
5 shall administer all laws under the jurisdiction of the Department of
6 Public Health and the Public Health Code. The commissioner shall
7 have responsibility for the overall operation and administration of the
8 Department of Public Health. The commissioner shall have the power
9 and duty to: (1) Administer, coordinate and direct the operation of the
10 department; (2) adopt and enforce regulations, in accordance with
11 chapter 54, as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the
12 department as established by statute; (3) establish rules for the internal
13 operation and administration of the department; (4) establish and
14 develop programs and administer services to achieve the purposes of
15 the department as established by statute; (5) enter into a contract,
16 including, but not limited to, a contract with another state, for facilities,

17 services and programs to implement the purposes of the department
18 as established by statute; (6) designate a deputy commissioner or other
19 employee of the department to sign any license, certificate or permit
20 issued by said department; (7) conduct a hearing, issue subpoenas,
21 administer oaths, compel testimony and render a final decision in any
22 case when a hearing is required or authorized under the provisions of
23 any statute dealing with the Department of Public Health; (8) with the
24 health authorities of this and other states, secure information and data
25 concerning the prevention and control of epidemics and conditions
26 affecting or endangering the public health, and compile such
27 information and statistics and shall disseminate among health
28 authorities and the people of the state such information as may be of
29 value to them; (9) annually issue a list of reportable diseases,
30 emergency illnesses and health conditions and a list of reportable
31 laboratory findings and amend such lists as the commissioner deems
32 necessary and distribute such lists as well as any necessary forms to
33 each licensed physician and clinical laboratory in this state. The
34 commissioner shall prepare printed forms for reports and returns, with
35 such instructions as may be necessary, for the use of directors of
36 health, boards of health and registrars of vital statistics; and (10)
37 specify uniform methods of keeping statistical information by public
38 and private agencies, organizations and individuals, including a client
39 identifier system, and collect and make available relevant statistical
40 information, including the number of persons treated, frequency of
41 admission and readmission, and frequency and duration of treatment.
42 The client identifier system shall be subject to the confidentiality
43 requirements set forth in section 17a-688 and regulations adopted
44 thereunder. The commissioner may designate any person to perform
45 any of the duties listed in subdivision (7) of this section. The
46 commissioner shall have authority over directors of health and may,
47 for cause, remove any such director; but any person claiming to be
48 aggrieved by such removal may appeal to the Superior Court which
49 may affirm or reverse the action of the commissioner as the public
50 interest requires. The commissioner shall assist and advise local

51 directors of health in the performance of their duties, and may require
52 the enforcement of any law, regulation or ordinance relating to public
53 health. On or before October 1, 2017, and at least once every three
54 years thereafter, the commissioner shall audit the records of each local
55 health department and district for purposes of assessing their
56 performance and the compliance of the local directors of health with
57 their duties. When requested by local directors of health, the
58 commissioner shall consult with them and investigate and advise
59 concerning any condition affecting public health within their
60 jurisdiction. The commissioner shall investigate nuisances and
61 conditions affecting, or that he or she has reason to suspect may affect,
62 the security of life and health in any locality and, for that purpose, the
63 commissioner, or any person authorized by the commissioner, may
64 enter and examine any ground, vehicle, apartment, building or place,
65 and any person designated by the commissioner shall have the
66 authority conferred by law upon constables. Whenever the
67 commissioner determines that any provision of the general statutes or
68 regulation of the Public Health Code is not being enforced effectively
69 by a local health department, he or she shall forthwith take such
70 measures, including the performance of any act required of the local
71 health department, to ensure enforcement of such statute or regulation
72 and shall inform the local health department of such measures. In
73 September of each year the commissioner shall certify to the Secretary
74 of the Office of Policy and Management the population of each
75 municipality. The commissioner may solicit and accept for use any gift
76 of money or property made by will or otherwise, and any grant or or
77 contract for money, services or property from the federal government,
78 the state, any political subdivision thereof, any other state or any
79 private source, and do all things necessary to cooperate with the
80 federal government or any of its agencies in making an application for
81 any grant or contract. The commissioner may establish state-wide and
82 regional advisory councils.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	19a-2a

Statement of Purpose:

To require an audit, at least once every three years, of local health departments and districts.

[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.]