
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 884

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WILDERNESS SCHOOL.

SUMMARY

The Department of Children and Families Wilderness School is a prevention, intervention, and transition program for youth located in East Hartland, Connecticut and licensed as a youth camp by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC).

This bill authorizes qualified wilderness school employees (i.e., appropriately trained employees over age 18) to administer epinephrine by a premeasured commercially prepared auto-injector (e.g., EpiPen) for emergency first aid purposes to a student who experiences a presumed allergic reaction and does not have a prescription from a qualified medical professional. The injector may only be used if a parent or guardian has previously provided written authorization.

The bill requires the school director to keep injectors on the premises for emergency purposes. He must also ensure that the injectors are stored and labeled, and records concerning injector use are maintained, in a manner consistent with OEC youth camp regulations.

No qualified employee who administers an injector as permitted by the bill may be held liable to the student or the student's parent or guardian for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions that may constitute ordinary negligence in administering the injector. The immunity does not extend to acts or omissions that constitute gross, wilful, or wanton negligence.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

TRAINING

In order to be “appropriately trained” for the bill’s purposes, an employee must successfully complete:

1. youth camp staff member training requirements, as prescribed by OEC youth camp regulations on administering medication to a student attending camp (see BACKGROUND), and
2. training within the last 12 months conducted by a pharmacist, physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse.

The latter training must cover (1) how to identify the common cause of allergic reactions, (2) signs and symptoms of mild and severe allergic reactions, (3) the ways anaphylaxis differs from other medical conditions, and (4) appropriate follow-up and reporting procedures after a child has experienced a presumed allergic reaction.

BACKGROUND

OEC Regulations

OEC regulations require youth camp staff members to receive training from a pharmacist, physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse before administering medication to a child attending a camp. Before staff members may administer a commercially prepared auto-injector, they must additionally complete a training program on their administration taught by one of the above mentioned health professionals. After completing the initial auto-injector training, staff members must annually have their skills and competency in administering an injector evaluated by a health professional (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 19a-428-6(a)(2)(A)(iv)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/07/2019)