



**PA 19-96—SB 884**  
*Committee on Children*  
*Judiciary Committee*

**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 that is located in East Hartland, Connecticut and licensed as a youth camp by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC).

This act authorizes qualified wilderness school employees (i.e., appropriately trained employees age 18 or older) 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 prior written order from a qualified medical professional authorizing auto-injector use. The injector may be used only if a parent or guardian has previously provided written authorization.

The act 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 act 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, willful, or wanton negligence.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

**TRAINING**

In order to be “appropriately trained” for the act’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 common causes 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

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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)).