



General Assembly

**Raised Bill No. 859**

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 3696



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-195sss of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "community health worker" means a  
4 public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of  
5 the experience, language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the  
6 community who (1) serves as a liaison between individuals within the  
7 community and health care and social services providers to facilitate  
8 access to such services and health-related resources, improve the  
9 quality and cultural competence of the delivery of such services and  
10 address social determinants of health with a goal toward reducing  
11 racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic health disparities, and (2)  
12 increases health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of  
13 services including outreach, engagement, education, coaching,  
14 informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination,  
15 research related to social determinants of health and basic screenings  
16 and assessments of any risks associated with social determinants of

17 health.

18 [(b) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy,  
19 established under section 19a-754a, shall, within available resources  
20 and in consultation with the Community Health Worker Advisory  
21 Committee established by said office and the Commissioner of Public  
22 Health, study the feasibility of creating a certification program for  
23 community health workers. Such study shall examine the fiscal impact  
24 of implementing such a certification program and include  
25 recommendations for (1) requirements for certification and renewal of  
26 certification of community health workers, including any training,  
27 experience or continuing education requirements, (2) methods for  
28 administering a certification program, including a certification  
29 application, a standardized assessment of experience, knowledge and  
30 skills, and an electronic registry, and (3) requirements for recognizing  
31 training program curricula that are sufficient to satisfy the  
32 requirements of certification.

33 (c) Not later than October 1, 2018, the executive director of the  
34 Office of Health Strategy shall report, in accordance with the  
35 provisions of section 11-4a, on the results of such study and  
36 recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General  
37 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and  
38 human services.]

39 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Department of Public Health  
40 shall establish a certification program for community health workers.  
41 The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations, in  
42 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the  
43 provisions of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	20-195sss

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

**APP**     *Joint Favorable*