



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 8246



Offered by:

SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS, 13th
Dist.

REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.

SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

REP. PETIT, 22nd Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 859

File No. 721

Cal. No. 359

"AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) (a) Definitions. As used
4 in this section:

5 (1) "Community health worker" means a public health outreach
6 professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience,
7 language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the community and who
8 provides a range of services, including, but not limited to, outreach,
9 engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support,
10 advocacy, care coordination, research related to social determinants of
11 health and basic screenings and assessments of any risks associated
12 with social determinants of health;

13 (2) "Certified community health worker" means a community health
14 worker certified by the Department of Public Health;

15 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of
16 Public Health or the Commissioner's designee; and

17 (4) "Social determinants of health" means societal factors that
18 contribute to a person's state of health.

19 (b) There is established within the Office of Health Strategy a
20 Community Health Worker Advisory Body. Said body shall (1) advise
21 said office and the Department of Public Health on matters relating to
22 the educational and certification requirements for training programs
23 for community health workers, including the minimum number of
24 hours and internship requirements for certification of community
25 health workers, (2) conduct a continuous review of such educational
26 and certification programs, and (3) provide the department with a list
27 of approved educational and certification programs for community
28 health workers;

29 (c) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, or the
30 executive director's designee, shall act as the chair of the Community
31 Health Worker Advisory Body and shall appoint the following
32 members to said body:

33 (1) Six members who are actively practicing as community health
34 workers in the state;

35 (2) A member of the Community Health Workers Association of
36 Connecticut;

37 (3) A representative of a community-based community health
38 worker training organization;

39 (4) A representative of a regional community-technical college;

40 (5) An employer of community health workers;

41 (6) A representative of a health care organization that employs
42 community health workers;

43 (7) A health care provider who works directly with community
44 health workers; and

45 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
46 designee.

47 (d) On or after January 1, 2020, no person shall use the title "certified
48 community health worker" unless certified by the Department of
49 Public Health pursuant to subsection (e) this section.

50 (e) Each application for certification as a community health worker
51 shall be in writing on forms prescribed by the Commissioner of Public
52 Health, signed by the applicant and accompanied by a fee of one
53 hundred dollars and satisfactory proof that such applicant meets the
54 following requirements:

55 (1) (A) Is trained and educated as a community health worker by an
56 organization approved by the Community Health Worker Advisory
57 Body pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (B) is at least sixteen
58 years of age, (C) submits a professional reference from an employer
59 with direct knowledge of the applicant's experience as a community
60 health worker and a reference from a member of the community with
61 direct knowledge of the applicant's experience as a community health
62 worker, and (D) has a minimum of one thousand hours of experience
63 working as a community health worker during the three years prior to
64 the date of such application; or

65 (2) (A) Has a minimum of two thousand hours of paid or unpaid
66 experience as a community health worker, and (B) submits a
67 professional reference from an employer with direct knowledge of the
68 applicant's experience as a community health worker and a reference
69 from a member of the community with direct knowledge of the
70 applicant's experience as a community health worker.

71 (f) A certification issued under this section may be renewed every
72 three years. The license shall be renewed in accordance with the
73 provisions of section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended by this
74 act, for a fee of one hundred dollars. Each certified community health
75 worker applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory
76 to the commissioner of having completed a minimum of thirty hours
77 of continuing education requirements, including two hours focused on
78 cultural competency, systemic racism or systemic oppression and two
79 hours focused on social determinants of health.

80 (g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a community
81 health worker who is providing services, including, but not limited to,
82 outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social
83 support, advocacy, care coordination, research related to social
84 determinants of health and basic screenings and assessments of any
85 risks associated with social determinants of health, provided such
86 person does not hold himself or herself out to the public as a certified
87 community health worker.

88 (h) The Commissioner of Public Health may take any disciplinary
89 action set forth in section 19a-17 of the general statutes against a
90 certified community health worker for failure to conform to the
91 accepted standards of the profession including, but not limited to, any
92 of the following reasons: (1) Fraud or deceit in obtaining or seeking
93 reinstatement of a license to practice as a community health worker; (2)
94 engaging in fraud or material deception in the course of professional
95 services or activities; (3) negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in
96 professional activities; (4) aiding or abetting the use of the title
97 "certified community health worker by an individual who is not
98 certified"; (5) physical, mental or emotional illness or disorder resulting
99 in an inability to conform to the accepted standards of the profession;
100 or (6) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or
101 chemicals. The commissioner may order a license holder to submit to a
102 reasonable physical or mental examination if his or her physical or
103 mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. The
104 commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of

105 Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section
106 19a-17 of the general statutes. The commissioner shall give notice and
107 an opportunity to be heard on any contemplated action under section
108 19a-17 of the general statutes.

109 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes is
110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
111 *January 1, 2019*):

112 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under
113 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-185k, 20-185l, 20-195cc or 20-206ll
114 and chapters 370 to 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to
115 383c, inclusive, 384, 384a, 384b, 384d, 385, 393a, 395, 399 or 400a and
116 section 20-206n or 20-206o shall, annually, during the month of such
117 person's birth, apply for renewal of such license or certificate to the
118 Department of Public Health, giving such person's name in full, such
119 person's residence and business address and such other information as
120 the department requests.

121 (2) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under section
122 19a-514, section 20-266o and chapters 384a, 384c, 386, 387, 388 and 398
123 shall apply for renewal of such license or certificate once every two
124 years, during the month of such person's birth, giving such person's
125 name in full, such person's residence and business address and such
126 other information as the department requests.

127 (3) Each person holding a certificate issued under section 1 of this
128 act shall apply for renewal of such certificate once every three years,
129 during the month of such person's birth, giving such person's name in
130 full, such person's residence and business address and such other
131 information as the department requests.

132 [(3)] (4) Each person holding a license or certificate issued pursuant
133 to chapter 400c shall, annually, during the month of such person's
134 birth, apply for renewal of such license or certificate to the department.
135 Each lead training provider certified pursuant to chapter 400c and each
136 asbestos training provider certified pursuant to chapter 400a shall,

137 annually, during the anniversary month of such training provider's
138 initial certification, apply for renewal of such certificate to the
139 department.

140 [(4)] (5) Each entity holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-
141 475 shall, annually, during the anniversary month of initial licensure,
142 apply for renewal of such license or certificate to the department.

143 [(5)] (6) Each person holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-
144 162bb shall, annually, during the month of such person's birth, apply
145 for renewal of such license to the Department of Public Health, upon
146 payment of a fee of three hundred twenty dollars, giving such person's
147 name in full, such person's residence and business address and such
148 other information as the department requests."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2020	New section
Sec. 2	January 1, 2019	19a-88(e)