



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Amendment

LCO No. 8095



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 2

File No. 246

Cal. No. 175

**"AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL EQUITY AND THE HEALTH,
SAFETY AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN."**

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
4 "evidence-based" describes a training program that (A) incorporates
5 methods demonstrated to be effective for the intended population
6 through scientifically based research, including statistically controlled
7 evaluations or randomized trials, (B) can be implemented with a set of
8 procedures to allow successful replication in the state, (C) achieves
9 sustained, desirable outcomes, and (D) when possible, has been
10 determined to be cost-beneficial, and (2) "Question, Persuade and Refer

11 (QPR) Institute Gatekeeper Training" means an educational program
12 designed to teach lay and professional persons who work with youth
13 the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond.

14 (b) The Youth Suicide Advisory Board, established pursuant to
15 section 17a-52 of the general statutes, and the Office of the Child
16 Advocate, shall jointly administer an evidence-based youth suicide
17 prevention training program in each local health department and
18 district department of health formed pursuant to section 19a-241 of the
19 general statutes. The training program shall provide certification in QPR
20 Institute Gatekeeper Training, utilizing a training model that will enable
21 participants to provide QPR Institute Gatekeeper Training to other
22 individuals upon completion of the training program. Such training
23 program shall be offered not later than July 1, 2022, and at least once
24 every three years thereafter.

25 (c) The director of health for each local health department and district
26 department of health shall determine the eligibility criteria for
27 participation in the youth suicide prevention training program.
28 Participants shall be members of the following groups within such
29 district: (1) Employees of such local health department and district
30 department of health, (2) employees of youth service bureaus
31 established pursuant to section 10-19m of the general statutes, (3) school
32 employees, as defined in section 10-222d of the general statutes, (4)
33 employees and volunteers of youth-serving organizations, (5)
34 employees and volunteers of operators of youth athletic activities, as
35 defined in section 21a-432 of the general statutes, (6) employees of
36 municipal social service agencies, (7) members of paid municipal or
37 volunteer fire departments, and (8) members of local police
38 departments. With respect to school employees, such training program
39 may be included as part of an in-service training program provided
40 pursuant to section 10-220a of the general statutes, as amended by this
41 act.

42 (d) Any individual who has received certification in QPR Institute
43 Gatekeeper Training through the training program administered

44 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may, during the period in
45 which such certification is valid, provide QPR Institute Gatekeeper
46 Training to any member of a group described in subdivisions (1) to (8),
47 inclusive, of subsection (c) of this section and members of the public.

48 (e) The Youth Suicide Advisory Board and the Office of the Child
49 Advocate may contract with a nongovernmental entity that provides
50 evidence-based suicide prevention training to carry out the provisions
51 of this section.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

53 (1) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing
54 education and activities; and

55 (2) "Registration period" means the one-year period for which a
56 license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 of the
57 general statutes and is current and valid.

58 (b) For registration periods beginning on and after January 1, 2022, a
59 physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general
60 statutes applying for license renewal shall, during the first renewal
61 period and not less than once every six years thereafter, earn not less
62 than two contact hours of training or education administered by the
63 American Association of Physician Assistants, a hospital or other
64 licensed health care institution or a regionally accredited institution of
65 higher education, on (1) screening for post-traumatic stress disorder,
66 risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (2) suicide prevention training.

67 (c) Each physician assistant applying for license renewal pursuant to
68 section 19a-88 of the general statutes shall sign a statement attesting that
69 he or she has satisfied the continuing education requirements of
70 subsection (b) of this section on a form prescribed by the Department of
71 Health. Each licensee shall retain records of attendance or certificates of
72 completion that demonstrate compliance with the continuing education
73 requirements of subsection (b) of this section for a minimum of three
74 years following the year in which the continuing education was

75 completed and shall submit such records or certificates to the
76 department for inspection not later than forty-five days after a request
77 by the department for such records or certificates.

78 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 20-73b of the general statutes is
79 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
80 *2021*):

81 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each physical
82 therapist licensed pursuant to this chapter shall complete a minimum of
83 twenty hours of continuing education during each registration period.
84 For purposes of this section, registration period means the twelve-
85 month period for which a license has been renewed in accordance with
86 section 19a-88 and is current and valid. The continuing education shall
87 be in areas related to the individual's practice, except, on and after
88 January 1, 2022, shall include not less than two hours of training or
89 education on (1) screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of
90 suicide, depression and grief, and (2) suicide prevention training,
91 during the first registration period in which continuing education is
92 required and not less than once every six years thereafter. The
93 requirement described in subdivision (2) of this subsection may be
94 satisfied by the completion of the evidence-based youth suicide
95 prevention training program administered pursuant to section 1 of this
96 act. Qualifying continuing education activities include, but are not
97 limited to, courses offered or approved by the American Physical
98 Therapy Association or any component of the American Physical
99 Therapy Association, a hospital or other licensed health care institution
100 or a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

101 Sec. 4. Section 20-74h of the general statutes is repealed and the
102 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

103 Licenses for occupational therapists and occupational therapy
104 assistants issued under this chapter shall be subject to renewal once
105 every two years and shall expire unless renewed in the manner
106 prescribed by regulation upon the payment of two times the

107 professional services fee payable to the State Treasurer for class B as
108 defined in section 33-182l, plus five dollars. The department shall notify
109 any person or entity that fails to comply with the provisions of this
110 section that the person's or entity's license shall become void ninety days
111 after the time for its renewal unless it is so renewed. Any such license
112 shall become void upon the expiration of such ninety-day period. The
113 commissioner shall establish additional requirements for licensure
114 renewal which provide evidence of continued competency, which, on
115 and after January 1, 2022, shall include not less than two hours of
116 training or education, offered or approved by the Connecticut
117 Occupational Therapy Association, a hospital or other licensed health
118 care institution or a regionally accredited institution of higher
119 education, on (1) screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of
120 suicide, depression and grief, and (2) suicide prevention training during
121 the first renewal period and not less than once every six years thereafter.
122 The requirement described in subdivision (2) of this section may be
123 satisfied by the completion of the evidence-based youth suicide
124 prevention training program administered pursuant to section 1 of this
125 act. The holder of an expired license may apply for and obtain a valid
126 license only upon compliance with all relevant requirements for
127 issuance of a new license. A suspended license is subject to expiration
128 and may be renewed as provided in this section, but such renewal shall
129 not entitle the licensee, while the license remains suspended and until it
130 is reinstated, to engage in the licensed activity, or in any other conduct
131 or activity in violation of the order or judgment by which the license was
132 suspended. If a license revoked on disciplinary grounds is reinstated,
133 the licensee, as a condition of reinstatement, shall pay the renewal fee.

134 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

135 (1) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing
136 education and activities; and

137 (2) "Registration period" means the one-year period for which a
138 license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 of the
139 general statutes and is current and valid.

140 (b) For registration periods beginning on and after January 1, 2022, a
141 registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes
142 who is actively practicing in this state, and a licensed practical nurse
143 licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes who is actively
144 practicing in this state, applying for license renewal shall, during the
145 first renewal period and not less than once every six years thereafter,
146 earn not less than two contact hours of training or education on (1)
147 screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of
148 suicide, depression and grief, and (2) suicide prevention training. For
149 purposes of this section, qualifying continuing education activities
150 include, but are not limited to, in-person and online courses offered or
151 approved by the American Nurses Association, Connecticut Hospital
152 Association, Connecticut Nurses Association, Connecticut League for
153 Nursing, a specialty nursing society or an equivalent organization in
154 another jurisdiction, an educational offering sponsored by a hospital or
155 other health care institution or a course offered by a regionally
156 accredited academic institution or a state or local health department.

157 (c) Each registered nurse and licensed practical nurse applying for
158 license renewal pursuant to section 19a-88 of the general statutes shall
159 sign a statement attesting that he or she has satisfied the continuing
160 education requirements of subsection (b) of this section on a form
161 prescribed by the Department of Public Health. Each licensee shall
162 retain records of attendance or certificates of completion that
163 demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirements of
164 subsection (b) of this section for a minimum of three years following the
165 year in which the continuing education was completed and shall submit
166 such records or certificates to the department for inspection not later
167 than forty-five days after a request by the department for such records
168 or certificates.

169 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 20-102ee of the general statutes is
170 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
171 *2021*):

172 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in

173 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the regulation
174 of nurse's aides. Such regulations shall require a training program for
175 nurse's aides of not less than one hundred hours. Not less than seventy-
176 five of such hours shall include, but not be limited to, basic nursing
177 skills, personal care skills, care of cognitively impaired residents,
178 recognition of mental health and social service needs, basic restorative
179 services and residents' rights. Not less than twenty-five of such hours
180 shall include, but not be limited to, specialized training in
181 understanding and responding to challenging behaviors related to
182 physical, psychiatric, psychosocial and cognitive disorders. On and after
183 January 1, 2022, not less than two of such hours shall include (1)
184 screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression
185 and grief, and (2) suicide prevention training offered or approved by the
186 American Nurses Association, Connecticut Hospital Association,
187 Connecticut Nurses Association or Connecticut League for Nursing, a
188 specialty nursing society or equivalent organization in another
189 jurisdiction, a hospital or other health care institution, a regionally
190 accredited academic institution, or a state or local health department.
191 The requirement described in subdivision (2) of this section may be
192 satisfied by the completion of the evidence-based youth suicide
193 prevention training program administered pursuant to section 1 of this
194 act.

195 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 20-185k of the general statutes is
196 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
197 *2021*):

198 (b) A license issued under this section may be renewed annually. The
199 license shall be renewed in accordance with the provisions of section
200 19a-88, for a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars. Each behavior
201 analyst applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory
202 to the commissioner of (1) having current certification with the Behavior
203 Analyst Certification Board, and (2) on and after January 1, 2022,
204 completing not less than two hours of training or education, offered or
205 approved by the Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis, a
206 hospital or other licensed health care institution or a regionally

207 accredited institution of higher education, on (A) screening for post-
208 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (B)
209 suicide prevention training, during the first renewal period and not less
210 than once every six years thereafter. The requirement described in
211 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may be satisfied by the completion
212 of the evidence-based youth suicide prevention training program
213 administered pursuant to section 1 of this act.

214 Sec. 8. Subsection (f) of section 20-195ttt of the general statutes is
215 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
216 *2021*):

217 (f) A certification issued under this section may be renewed every
218 three years. The license shall be renewed in accordance with the
219 provisions of section 19a-88 for a fee of one hundred dollars. Each
220 certified community health worker applying for license renewal shall
221 furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having completed
222 a minimum of thirty hours of continuing education requirements,
223 including two hours focused on cultural competency, systemic racism
224 or systemic oppression, [and] two hours focused on social determinants
225 of health and on and after January 1, 2022, two hours of training on (1)
226 screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression
227 and grief, and (2) suicide prevention, provided by the Community
228 Health Worker Advisory Body or training or education providers
229 approved by the Community Health Worker Advisory Body. The
230 requirement described in subdivision (2) of this subsection may be
231 satisfied by the completion of the evidence-based youth suicide
232 prevention training program administered pursuant to section 1 of this
233 act.

234 Sec. 9. Section 20-206mm of the general statutes is repealed and the
235 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

236 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, an
237 applicant for a license as a paramedic shall submit evidence satisfactory
238 to the Commissioner of Public Health that the applicant has successfully

239 (1) completed a paramedic training program approved by the
240 commissioner, (2) for applicants applying on and after January 1, 2020,
241 completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided
242 by an instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health,
243 and (3) passed an examination prescribed by the commissioner.

244 (b) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present evidence
245 satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (1) is licensed or
246 certified as a paramedic in another state or jurisdiction whose
247 requirements for practicing in such capacity are substantially similar to
248 or higher than those of this state and that the applicant has no pending
249 disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against him or her, or (2)
250 (A) is currently licensed or certified as a paramedic in good standing in
251 any New England state, New York or New Jersey, (B) has completed an
252 initial training program consistent with the National Emergency
253 Medical Services Education Standards, as promulgated by the National
254 Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the paramedic scope of
255 practice model conducted by an organization offering a program that is
256 recognized by the national emergency medical services program
257 accrediting organization, (C) for applicants applying on or after January
258 1, 2020, has completed mental health first aid training as part of a
259 program provided by an instructor certified by the National Council for
260 Behavioral Health, and (D) has no pending disciplinary action or
261 unresolved complaint against him or her.

262 (c) Any person who is certified as an emergency medical technician-
263 paramedic by the Department of Public Health on October 1, 1997, shall
264 be deemed a licensed paramedic. Any person so deemed shall renew his
265 license pursuant to section 19a-88 for a fee of one hundred fifty-five
266 dollars.

267 (d) On or after January 1, 2020, each person seeking certification as an
268 emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or
269 advanced emergency medical technician shall apply to the department
270 on forms prescribed by the commissioner. Applicants for certification
271 shall comply with the following requirements: (1) For initial

272 certification, an applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the
273 commissioner that the applicant (A) has completed an initial training
274 program consistent with the National Emergency Medical Services
275 Education Standards, as promulgated by the National Highway Traffic
276 Safety Administration for the emergency medical responder, emergency
277 medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician
278 curriculum, (B) has passed the examination administered by the
279 national organization for emergency medical certification for an
280 emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or
281 advanced emergency medical technician as necessary for the type of
282 certification sought by the applicant or an examination approved by the
283 department, and (C) has no pending disciplinary action or unresolved
284 complaints against such applicant, (2) a certificate issued under this
285 subsection shall be renewed once every two years in accordance with
286 the provisions of section 19a-88 upon presentation of evidence
287 satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (A) has successfully
288 completed continuing education for an emergency medical responder,
289 emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical
290 technician as required by the national organization for emergency
291 medical certification or as approved by the department, or (B) presents
292 a current certification as an emergency medical responder, emergency
293 medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician from the
294 national organization for emergency medical certification, or (3) for
295 certification by endorsement from another state, an applicant shall
296 present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (A)
297 is currently certified as an emergency medical responder, emergency
298 medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician in good
299 standing by a state that maintains certification or licensing requirements
300 that the commissioner determines are equal to or greater than those in
301 this state, or (B) holds a current certification as an emergency medical
302 responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency
303 medical technician from the national organization for emergency
304 medical certification.

305 (e) On or after January 1, 2022, each person seeking renewal of a

306 certification as an emergency medical responder or emergency medical
307 technician under subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, shall
308 present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such person has,
309 in the previous six year period, completed (1) the evidence-based youth
310 suicide prevention training program administered pursuant to section 1
311 of this act, or (2) not less than two hours of training or education,
312 approved by the Commissioner of Public Health, on (A) screening for
313 post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and
314 (B) suicide prevention.

315 [(e)] (f) On or after January 1, 2020, each person seeking certification
316 as an emergency medical services instructor shall apply to the
317 department on forms prescribed by the commissioner. Applicants for
318 certification shall comply with the following requirements: (1) For initial
319 certification, an applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the
320 commissioner that the applicant (A) is currently certified by the
321 department as an emergency medical technician or advanced
322 emergency medical technician or licensed by the department as a
323 paramedic, (B) has completed a program of training as an emergency
324 medical instructor based on current national education standards
325 within the prior two years, (C) has completed twenty-five hours of
326 teaching activity under the supervision of a currently certified
327 emergency medical services instructor, (D) has completed written and
328 practical examinations as prescribed by the commissioner, (E) has no
329 pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaints against the
330 applicant, and (F) effective on a date prescribed by the commissioner,
331 presents documentation satisfactory to the commissioner that the
332 applicant is currently certified as an emergency medical technician,
333 advanced emergency medical technician or paramedic by the national
334 organization for emergency medical certification, or (2) for renewal
335 certification, an applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the
336 commissioner that the applicant (A) has successfully completed
337 continuing education and teaching activity as required by the
338 department, which, on and after January 1, 2022, shall include not less
339 than two hours of training or education, approved by the Commissioner

340 of Public Health, on (i) screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, risk
341 of suicide, depression and grief, and (ii) suicide prevention training,
342 during the first renewal period and not less than once every six years
343 thereafter, (B) maintains current certification by the department as an
344 emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician
345 or licensure by the department as a paramedic, and (C) effective on a
346 date as prescribed by the commissioner, presents documentation
347 satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant is currently certified
348 as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical
349 technician or paramedic by the national organization for emergency
350 medical certification.

351 [(f)] (g) A certified emergency medical responder, emergency medical
352 technician, advanced emergency medical technician or emergency
353 medical services instructor shall document the completion of his or her
354 continuing educational requirements through the continuing education
355 platform Internet web site. A certified emergency medical responder,
356 emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician
357 or emergency medical services instructor who is not engaged in active
358 professional practice in any form during a certification period shall be
359 exempt from the continuing education requirements of this section,
360 provided the emergency medical responder, emergency medical
361 technician, advanced emergency medical technician or emergency
362 medical services instructor submits to the department, prior to the
363 expiration of the certification period, an application for inactive status
364 on a form prescribed by the department and such other documentation
365 as may be required by the department. The application for inactive
366 status pursuant to this subsection shall contain a statement that the
367 emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician,
368 advanced emergency medical technician or emergency medical services
369 instructor may not engage in professional practice until the continuing
370 education requirements of this section have been met.

371 [(g)] (h) The commissioner may issue a temporary emergency
372 medical technician certificate to an applicant who presents evidence
373 satisfactory to the commissioner that (1) the applicant was certified by

374 the department as an emergency medical technician prior to becoming
375 licensed as a paramedic pursuant to section 20-206ll, or (2) the
376 applicant's certification as an emergency medical technician has expired
377 and the applicant's license as a paramedic has become void pursuant to
378 section 19a-88. Such temporary certificate shall be valid for a period not
379 to exceed one year and shall not be renewable.

380 [(h)] (i) An applicant who is issued a temporary emergency medical
381 technician certificate pursuant to subsection [(g)] (h) of this section may,
382 prior to the expiration of such temporary certificate, apply to the
383 department for: (1) Renewal of such person's paramedic license, giving
384 such person's name in full, such person's residence and business address
385 and such other information as the department requests, provided the
386 application for license renewal is accompanied by evidence satisfactory
387 to the commissioner that the applicant was under the medical oversight
388 of a sponsor hospital, as those terms are defined in section 19a-175, on
389 the date the applicant's paramedic license became void for nonrenewal;
390 or (2) recertification as an emergency medical technician, provided the
391 application for recertification is accompanied by evidence satisfactory
392 to the commissioner that the applicant completed emergency medical
393 technician refresher training approved by the commissioner not later
394 than one year after issuance of the temporary emergency medical
395 technician certificate. The department shall recertify such person as an
396 emergency medical technician without the examination required for
397 initial certification specified in regulations adopted by the commissioner
398 pursuant to section 20-206oo.

399 [(i)] (j) Any person certified as an emergency medical responder,
400 emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician
401 or emergency medical services instructor pursuant to this chapter and
402 the regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-206oo whose
403 certification has expired may apply to the Department of Public Health
404 for reinstatement of such certification, provided such person completes
405 the requirements for renewal certification specified in this section. Any
406 certificate issued pursuant to this section shall remain valid for ninety
407 days after the expiration date of such certificate and become void upon

408 the expiration of such ninety-day period.

409 [(j)] (k) The Commissioner of Public Health shall issue an emergency
410 medical technician certification to an applicant who is a member of the
411 armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran and who (1) presents
412 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant holds a
413 current certification as a person entitled to perform similar services
414 under a different designation by the National Registry of Emergency
415 Medical Technicians, or (2) satisfies the regulations promulgated
416 pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-179. Such
417 applicant shall be exempt from any written or practical examination
418 requirement for certification.

419 [(k)] (l) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person
420 who was discharged or released under conditions other than
421 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and "armed forces"
422 has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

423 Sec. 10. Section 19a-14c of the general statutes is repealed and the
424 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

425 (a) For the purposes of this section, "outpatient mental health
426 treatment" means the treatment of mental disorders, emotional
427 problems or maladjustments with the object of (1) removing, modifying
428 or retarding existing symptoms; (2) improving disturbed patterns of
429 behavior; and (3) promoting positive personality growth and
430 development. Treatment shall not include prescribing or otherwise
431 dispensing any medication which is a legend drug as defined in section
432 20-571.

433 (b) A psychiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 370, a psychologist
434 licensed pursuant to chapter 383, an independent social worker certified
435 pursuant to chapter 383b or a marital and family therapist licensed
436 pursuant to chapter 383a may provide outpatient mental health
437 treatment to a minor without the consent or notification of a parent or
438 guardian at the request of the minor if (1) requiring the consent or
439 notification of a parent or guardian would cause the minor to reject such

440 treatment; (2) the provision of such treatment is clinically indicated; (3)
441 the failure to provide such treatment would be seriously detrimental to
442 the minor's well-being; (4) the minor has knowingly and voluntarily
443 sought such treatment; and (5) in the opinion of the provider of
444 treatment, the minor is mature enough to participate in treatment
445 productively. The provider of such treatment shall document the
446 reasons for any determination made to treat a minor without the consent
447 or notification of a parent or guardian and shall include such
448 documentation in the minor's clinical record, along with a written
449 statement signed by the minor stating that (A) [he] the minor is
450 voluntarily seeking such treatment; (B) [he] the minor has discussed
451 with the provider the possibility of involving his or her parent or
452 guardian in the decision to pursue such treatment; (C) [he] the minor
453 has determined it is not in his or her best interest to involve his or her
454 parent or guardian in such decision; and (D) [he] the minor has been
455 given adequate opportunity to ask the provider questions about the
456 course of his or her treatment.

457 (c) [After the sixth session of outpatient mental health treatment
458 provided to a minor pursuant to this section, the provider of such
459 treatment shall notify the minor that the consent, notification or
460 involvement of a parent or guardian is required to continue treatment,
461 unless such a requirement would be seriously detrimental to the minor's
462 well-being. If the provider determines such a requirement would be
463 seriously detrimental to the minor's well-being, he shall document such
464 determination in the minor's clinical record, review such determination
465 every sixth session thereafter and document each such review. If the
466 provider determines such a requirement would no longer be seriously
467 detrimental to the minor's well-being, he shall require the consent,
468 notification or involvement of a parent or guardian as a condition of
469 continuing treatment.] (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision
470 (2) of this subsection, a minor may request and receive as many
471 outpatient mental health treatment sessions as necessary without the
472 consent or notification of a parent or guardian. No provider shall notify
473 a parent or guardian of treatment provided pursuant to this section or

474 disclose any information concerning such treatment to a parent or
475 guardian without the consent of the minor.

476 (2) A provider may notify a parent or guardian of treatment provided
477 pursuant to this section or disclose certain information concerning such
478 treatment without the consent of the minor who receives such treatment
479 provided (A) such provider determines such notification or disclosure
480 is necessary for the minor's well-being, (B) the treatment provided to the
481 minor is solely for mental health and not for a substance use disorder,
482 and (C) the minor is provided an opportunity to express any objection
483 to such notification or disclosure. The provider shall document his or
484 her determination concerning such notification or disclosure and any
485 objections expressed by the minor in the minor's clinical record. A
486 provider may disclose to a minor's parent or guardian the following
487 information concerning such minor's outpatient mental health
488 treatment: (i) Diagnosis; (ii) treatment plan and progress in treatment;
489 (iii) recommended medications, including risks, benefits, side effects,
490 typical efficacy, dose and schedule; (iv) psychoeducation about the
491 minor's mental health; (v) referrals to community resources; (vi)
492 coaching on parenting or behavioral management strategies; and (vii)
493 crisis prevention planning and safety planning. A provider shall release
494 a minor's entire clinical record to another provider upon the request of
495 the minor or such minor's parent or guardian.

496 (d) A parent or guardian who is not informed of the provision of
497 outpatient mental health treatment for his or her minor child pursuant
498 to this section shall not be liable for the costs of the treatment provided.

499 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 10-148a of the general statutes is
500 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
501 *2021*):

502 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, [2019] 2021, and each
503 school year thereafter, each certified employee shall participate in a
504 program of professional development. Each local and regional board of
505 education shall make available, annually, at no cost to its certified

506 employees, a program of professional development that is not fewer
507 than eighteen hours in length, of which a preponderance is in a small
508 group or individual instructional setting. Such program of professional
509 development shall (1) be a comprehensive, sustained and intensive
510 approach to improving teacher and administrator effectiveness in
511 increasing student knowledge achievement, (2) focus on refining and
512 improving various effective teaching methods that are shared between
513 and among educators, (3) foster collective responsibility for improved
514 student performance, (4) be comprised of professional learning that (A)
515 is aligned with rigorous state student academic achievement standards,
516 (B) is conducted among educators at the school and facilitated by
517 principals, coaches, mentors, distinguished educators, as described in
518 section 10-145s, or other appropriate teachers, (C) occurs frequently on
519 an individual basis or among groups of teachers in a job-embedded
520 process of continuous improvement, and (D) includes a repository of
521 best practices for teaching methods developed by educators within each
522 school that is continuously available to such educators for comment and
523 updating, and (5) include training in culturally responsive pedagogy
524 and practice. Each program of professional development shall include
525 professional development activities in accordance with the provisions
526 of subsection (b) of this section. The principles and practices of social-
527 emotional learning shall be integrated throughout the components of
528 such program of professional development described in subdivisions (1)
529 to (5), inclusive, of this subsection.

530 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
531 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
532 *2021*):

533 (b) Not later than a date prescribed by the commissioner, each local
534 and regional board of education shall establish a professional
535 development and evaluation committee. Such professional
536 development and evaluation committee shall consist of (1) at least one
537 teacher, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-144d, selected by the
538 exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees chosen
539 pursuant to section 10-153b, (2) at least one administrator, as defined in

540 subsection (a) of section 10-144e, selected by the exclusive bargaining
541 representative for certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-
542 153b, and (3) such other school personnel as the board deems
543 appropriate. The duties of such committees shall include, but not be
544 limited to, participation in the development or adoption of a teacher
545 evaluation and support program for the district, pursuant to section 10-
546 151b, and the development, evaluation and annual updating of a
547 comprehensive local professional development plan for certified
548 employees of the district. Such plan shall: (A) Be directly related to the
549 educational goals prepared by the local or regional board of education
550 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-220, as amended by this act, (B)
551 on and after July 1, [2011] 2021, be developed with full consideration of
552 the priorities and needs related to student social-emotional learning, in
553 accordance with the provisions of section 10-148a, as amended by this
554 act, and student academic outcomes as determined by the State Board
555 of Education, [and] (C) provide for the ongoing and systematic
556 assessment and improvement of both teacher evaluation and
557 professional development of the professional staff members of each
558 such board, including personnel management and evaluation training
559 or experience for administrators, [shall] and (D) be related to regular
560 and special student needs and may include provisions concerning
561 career incentives and parent involvement. The State Board of Education
562 shall develop guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education
563 in determining the objectives of the plans and in coordinating staff
564 development activities with student needs and school programs.

565 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
566 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
567 *2021*):

568 (b) The board of education of each local or regional school district
569 shall, with the participation of parents, students, school administrators,
570 teachers, citizens, local elected officials and any other individuals or
571 groups such board shall deem appropriate, prepare a statement of
572 educational goals for such local or regional school district. The
573 statement of goals shall be consistent with state-wide goals pursuant to

574 subsection (c) of section 10-4 and include goals for the integration of
575 principles and practices of social-emotional learning in the program of
576 professional development for the school district, in accordance with the
577 provisions of section 10-148a, as amended by this act, and career
578 placement for students who do not pursue an advanced degree
579 immediately after graduation. Each local or regional board of education
580 shall annually establish student objectives for the school year which
581 relate directly to the statement of educational goals prepared pursuant
582 to this subsection and which identify specific expectations for students
583 in terms of skills, knowledge and competence.

584 Sec. 14. Section 10-221 of the general statutes is repealed and the
585 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

586 (a) As used in this section, "virtual learning" means instruction by
587 means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of an
588 in-person or remote learning model.

589 ~~[(a)]~~ (b) Boards of education shall prescribe rules for the management,
590 studies, classification and discipline of the public schools and, subject to
591 the control of the State Board of Education, the textbooks to be used;
592 shall make rules for the control, within their respective jurisdictions, of
593 school library media centers, including Internet access and content, and
594 approve the selection of books and other educational media therefor,
595 and shall approve plans for public school buildings and superintend
596 any high or graded school in the manner specified in this title.

597 ~~[(b) Not later than July 1, 1985, each]~~ (c) Each local and regional board
598 of education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies
599 concerning homework, attendance, promotion and retention. The
600 Department of Education shall make available model policies and
601 guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education in meeting
602 the responsibilities enumerated in this subsection.

603 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Boards of education may prescribe rules to impose sanctions
604 against pupils who damage or fail to return textbooks, library materials
605 or other educational materials. Said boards may charge pupils for such

606 damaged or lost textbooks, library materials or other educational
607 materials and may withhold grades, transcripts or report cards until the
608 pupil pays for or returns the textbook, library book or other educational
609 material.

610 [(d) Not later than July 1, 1991, each] (e) Each local and regional board
611 of education shall develop, adopt and implement policies and
612 procedures in conformity with section 10-154a for (1) dealing with the
613 use, sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs, as defined in
614 subdivision (8) of section 21a-240, by public school students on school
615 property, including a process for coordination with, and referral of such
616 students to, appropriate agencies, and (2) cooperating with law
617 enforcement officials.

618 [(e) Not later than July 1, 1990, each] (f) Each local and regional board
619 of education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing
620 with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. Each such
621 board of education may establish a student assistance program to
622 identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such
623 youths, referral services and training for teachers and other school
624 professionals and students who provide assistance in the program.

625 [(f) Not later than September 1, 1998, each] (g) (1) Each local and
626 regional board of education shall develop, adopt and implement written
627 policies and procedures to encourage parent-teacher communication.
628 These policies and procedures may include monthly newsletters,
629 required regular contact with all parents, flexible parent-teacher
630 conferences, drop-in hours for parents, home visits and the use of
631 technology such as homework hot lines to allow parents to check on
632 their children's assignments and students to [get] receive assistance if
633 needed. [For the school year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school
634 year thereafter, such] Such policies and procedures shall require the
635 district to conduct two flexible parent-teacher conferences for each
636 school year.

637 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year

638 thereafter, the policies and procedures described in subdivision (1) of
639 this subsection shall require the district to (A) offer parents the option
640 of attending any parent-teacher conference by telephonic, video or other
641 conferencing platform, (B) conduct one parent-teacher conference, in
642 addition to those required pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection,
643 during periods when such district provides virtual learning for more
644 than three consecutive weeks, and one additional parent-teacher
645 conference every six months thereafter for the duration of such period
646 of virtual learning, and (C) request from each student's parent the name
647 and contact information of an emergency contact person who may be
648 contacted if the student's parent cannot be reached to schedule a parent-
649 teacher conference required pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this
650 subdivision.

651 (3) On and after January 1, 2022, such policies and procedures shall
652 require (A) a teacher conducting a parent-teacher conference required
653 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection to
654 provide a copy of the document developed pursuant to section 15 of this
655 act to the parent prior to the parent-teacher conference, and (B) if a
656 teacher is unable to make contact with a student's parent in order to
657 schedule a parent-teacher conference required pursuant to
658 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection after making three
659 attempts, such teacher shall report such inability to the school principal,
660 school counselor or other school administrator designated by the local
661 or regional board of education. Such principal, counselor or
662 administrator shall contact any emergency contact person designated by
663 the student's parent pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of
664 this subsection to ascertain such student and family's health and safety.

665 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 1,
666 2021, the Department of Education shall develop, and annually update,
667 a document for use by local and regional boards of education that
668 provides information concerning educational, safety, mental health and
669 food insecurity resources and programs available for students and their
670 families. Such document shall contain, but need not be limited to, (1)
671 providers of such resources and programs, including, but not limited to,

672 the Departments of Education, Children and Families and Mental
673 Health and Addiction Services, the United Way of Connecticut and local
674 food banks, (2) descriptions of the relevant resources and programs
675 offered by each provider, including, but not limited to, any program that
676 provides laptop computers, public Internet access or home Internet
677 service to students, (3) contact information for each provider, resource
678 and program, and (4) relevant Internet web sites. The Department of
679 Education shall annually distribute such document electronically to
680 each local and regional board of education.

681 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
682 "virtual learning" means instruction by means of one or more Internet-
683 based software platforms as part of an in-person or remote learning
684 model.

685 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Education
686 shall develop, and update as necessary, standards for virtual learning.
687 The standards shall not be deemed to be regulations, as defined in
688 section 4-166 of the general statutes.

689 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
690 thereafter, a local or regional board of education may authorize virtual
691 learning to students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, provided such
692 board (1) provides such instruction in compliance with the standards
693 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (2) adopts a
694 policy regarding the requirements for student attendance during virtual
695 learning, which shall (A) be in compliance with the Department of
696 Education's guidance on student attendance during virtual learning,
697 and (B) count the attendance of any student who spends not less than
698 one-half of the school day during such instruction engaged in (i) virtual
699 classes, (ii) virtual meetings, (iii) activities on time-logged electronic
700 systems, and (iv) the completion and submission of assignments.

701 Sec. 17. Section 10-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
702 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

703 Each school district shall provide in each school year no less than one

704 hundred and eighty days of actual school sessions for grades
705 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, nine hundred hours of actual school
706 work for full-day kindergarten and grades one to twelve, inclusive, and
707 four hundred and fifty hours of half-day kindergarten, provided school
708 districts shall not count more than seven hours of actual school work in
709 any school day towards the total required for the school year. Virtual
710 learning shall be considered an actual school session for purposes of this
711 section, provided such virtual learning is conducted in compliance with
712 the standards developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16 of this
713 act. If weather conditions result in an early dismissal or a delayed
714 opening of school, a school district which maintains separate morning
715 and afternoon half-day kindergarten sessions may provide either a
716 morning or afternoon half-day kindergarten session on such day. As
717 used in this section, "virtual learning" means instruction by means of
718 one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of an in-person
719 or remote learning model.

720 Sec. 18. Section 10-198b of the general statutes is repealed and the
721 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

722 [On or before July 1, 2012, the] The State Board of Education shall
723 define "excused absence", [and] "unexcused absence" [, and on or before
724 January 1, 2016, the State Board of Education shall define] and
725 "disciplinary absence" for use by local and regional boards of education
726 for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of section 10-198a,
727 reporting truancy, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-220, and
728 calculating the district chronic absenteeism rate and the school chronic
729 absenteeism rate pursuant to section 10-198c. On or before July 1, 2021,
730 the State Board of Education shall amend the definitions of "excused
731 absence" and "unexcused absence" to exclude a student's engagement in
732 (1) virtual classes, (2) virtual meetings, (3) activities on time-logged
733 electronic systems, and (4) the completion and submission of
734 assignments, if such engagement accounts for not less than one-half of
735 the school day during virtual learning authorized pursuant to section 16
736 of this act. As used in this section, "virtual learning" means instruction
737 by means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of an

738 in-person or remote learning model.

739 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section and
740 section 10-198b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, "mental
741 health wellness day" describes a school day during which a student
742 attends to such student's emotional and psychological well-being in lieu
743 of attending school.

744 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year
745 thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall permit any
746 student enrolled in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, to take two
747 mental health wellness days during the school year, during which day
748 such student shall not be required to attend school. No student shall
749 take mental health wellness days during consecutive school days.

750 Sec. 20. Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the
751 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

752 (a) Any local or regional board of education may establish and
753 operate a school lunch program for public school children, may operate
754 lunch services for its employees, may establish and operate a school
755 breakfast program, as provided under federal laws governing said
756 programs, or may establish and operate such other child feeding
757 programs as it deems necessary. Charges for such lunches, breakfasts or
758 other such feeding may be fixed by such boards and shall not exceed the
759 cost of food, wages and other expenses directly incurred in providing
760 such services. When such services are offered, a board shall provide free
761 lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding to children whose economic
762 needs require such action under the standards promulgated by said
763 federal laws. Such board is authorized to purchase equipment and
764 supplies that are necessary, to employ the necessary personnel, to utilize
765 the services of volunteers and to receive and expend any funds and
766 receive and use any equipment and supplies which may become
767 available to carry out the provisions of this section. Any town board of
768 education may vote to designate any volunteer organization within the
769 town to provide a school lunch program, school breakfast program or

770 other child feeding program in accordance with the provisions of this
771 section.

772 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year
773 thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall include in any
774 policy or procedure for the collection of unpaid charges for school
775 lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding applicable to employees and
776 third-party vendors of such school lunches, breakfasts or such feeding
777 (1) a prohibition on publicly identifying or shaming a child for any such
778 unpaid charges, including, but not limited to, delaying or refusing to
779 serve a meal to such child, designating a specific meal option for such
780 child or otherwise taking any disciplinary action against such child, (2)
781 a declaration of the right for any child to purchase a meal, which meal
782 may exclude any a la carte items or be limited to one meal for any school
783 lunch, breakfast or other such feeding, and (3) a procedure for
784 communicating with the parent or legal guardian of a child for the
785 purpose of collecting such unpaid charges. Such communication shall
786 include, but not be limited to, (A) information regarding local food
787 pantries, (B) applications for the school district's program for free or
788 reduced priced meals and for the supplemental nutrition assistance
789 program administered by the Department of Social Services, and (C) a
790 link to the Internet web site maintained by the town for such school
791 district listing any community services available to the residents of such
792 town. In the event the unpaid charges for school lunches, breakfasts or
793 other such feeding due from any parent or legal guardian are equal to
794 or more than the cost of thirty meals, the local or regional board of
795 education shall refer such parent or legal guardian to the local homeless
796 education liaison designated by such board, pursuant to Subtitle B of
797 Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431
798 et seq., as amended from time to time.

799 (c) A local or regional board of education may accept gifts, donations
800 or grants from any public or private sources for the purpose of paying
801 off any unpaid charges for school lunches, breakfasts or other such
802 feeding.

803 Sec. 21. Section 17a-10a of the general statutes is repealed and the
804 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

805 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall ensure that a
806 child placed in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to an
807 order of temporary custody or an order of commitment is provided
808 visitation with such child's parents and siblings, unless otherwise
809 ordered by the court.

810 (b) The commissioner shall ensure that such child's visits with his or
811 her parents, or opportunities to communicate with such child's parents
812 and siblings by telephonic, video or other conferencing platform in
813 accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, shall
814 occur as frequently as reasonably possible, based upon consideration of
815 the best interests of the child, including the age and developmental level
816 of the child, and shall be sufficient in number and duration to ensure
817 continuation of the relationship.

818 (c) If such child has an existing relationship with a sibling and is
819 separated from such sibling as a result of intervention by the
820 commissioner including, but not limited to, placement in a foster home
821 or in the home of a relative, the commissioner shall, based upon
822 consideration of the best interests of the child, ensure that such child has
823 access to and visitation rights with such sibling throughout the duration
824 of such placement. In determining the number, frequency and duration
825 of sibling visits, the commissioner shall consider the best interests of
826 each sibling, given each child's age and developmental level and the
827 continuation of the sibling relationship. If the child and his or her sibling
828 both reside within the state and within fifty miles of each other, the
829 commissioner shall, within available appropriations, ensure that such
830 child's visits with his or her sibling occur, on average, not less than once
831 per week, unless the commissioner finds that the frequency of such
832 visitation is not in the best interests of each sibling.

833 (d) In the event of a pandemic or outbreak of a communicable disease
834 resulting in a declaration of a public health emergency by the Governor

835 pursuant to section 19a-131a, or a declaration of a national emergency
836 by the President of the United States, such child shall be provided
837 opportunities to communicate with such child's parents and siblings by
838 telephonic, video or other conferencing platform in lieu of in-person
839 visitation, for the duration of any such declaration. Not later than
840 January 1, 2022, the commissioner shall develop a policy that requires
841 the temporary cessation of in-person visitation provided pursuant to
842 this section, on a case-by-case basis, in the event that a child or such
843 child's parent or sibling is seriously ill due to a communicable disease,
844 and visitation could result in the contraction of such disease by one or
845 more participants in the visitation. Such policy shall require that such
846 child be provided an opportunity to communicate with such child's
847 parents and siblings by telephonic, video or other conferencing platform
848 in lieu of such visitation. The commissioner shall define "seriously ill"
849 and "communicable disease" for the purposes of carrying out this
850 subsection.

851 [(d)] (e) The commissioner shall include in each child's case record
852 information relating to the factors considered in making visitation
853 determinations pursuant to this section. If the commissioner determines
854 that such visits are not in the best interests of the child, that the
855 occurrence of, on average, not less than one visit per week with his or
856 her sibling is not in the best interests of each sibling, or that the number,
857 frequency or duration of the visits requested by the child's attorney or
858 guardian ad litem is not in the best interests of the child, the
859 commissioner shall include the reasons for such determination in the
860 child's case record.

861 [(e)] (f) On or before October first of each year, the commissioner shall
862 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
863 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
864 matters relating to children, data sufficient to demonstrate compliance
865 with subsections (a), (c) and [(d)] (e) of this section. Such data shall
866 include the total annual number of children in out-of-home placements
867 who have siblings, the total number of child cases with documented
868 sibling visitation and the number of individual siblings involved in each

869 case.

870 Sec. 22. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than February 1, 2022,
871 the Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and maintain
872 a software application for use on computers and mobile devices to
873 facilitate (1) the reporting of nonemergent incidents to the Department
874 of Children and Families by mandated reporters, and (2)
875 communication between children in the care and custody of the
876 commissioner and social workers assigned to such children.

877 Sec. 23. Section 17a-103d of the general statutes is repealed and the
878 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

879 (a) Upon receiving a complaint of abuse or neglect of a child, the
880 Department of Children and Families shall, at the time of any initial
881 face-to-face contact with the child's parent or guardian on or after
882 October 1, [2011] 2021, provide the parent or guardian with (1) written
883 notice, in plain language, that: [(1)] (A) The parent or guardian is not
884 required to permit the representative of the department to enter the
885 residence of the parent or guardian; [(2)] (B) the parent or guardian is
886 not required to speak with the representative of the department at that
887 time; [(3)] (C) the parent or guardian is entitled to seek the
888 representation of an attorney and to have an attorney present when the
889 parent or guardian is questioned by a representative of the department,
890 including at any meeting conducted to determine whether the parent or
891 guardian's child should be removed from the home; [(4)] (D) any
892 statement made by the parent, guardian or other family member may
893 be used against the parent or guardian in an administrative or court
894 proceeding; [(5)] (E) the representative of the department is not an
895 attorney and cannot provide legal advice to the parent or guardian; [(6)]
896 (F) the parent or guardian is not required to sign any document
897 presented by the representative of the department, including, but not
898 limited to, a release of claims or a service agreement, and is entitled to
899 have an attorney review such document before agreeing to sign the
900 document; and [(7)] (G) a failure of the parent or guardian to
901 communicate with a representative of the department may have serious

902 consequences, which may include the department's filing of a petition
903 for the removal of the child from the home of the parent or guardian,
904 and therefore it is in the parent's or guardian's best interest to either
905 speak with the representative of the department or immediately seek
906 the advice of a qualified attorney; and (2) a list of providers of free and
907 low-cost legal services through which the parent or guardian may
908 obtain legal advice.

909 (b) The department shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the
910 notice and list provided to a parent or guardian pursuant to this section
911 [is] are written in a manner that will be understood by the parent or
912 guardian, which reasonable efforts shall include, but not be limited to,
913 ensuring that the notice [is] and list are written in a language
914 understood by the parent or guardian.

915 (c) The representative of the department shall request the parent or
916 guardian to sign and date the notice described in subsection (a) of this
917 section as evidence of having received the notice and list. If the parent
918 or guardian refuses to sign and date the notice upon such request, the
919 representative of the department shall specifically indicate on the notice
920 that the parent or guardian was requested to sign and date the notice
921 and refused to do so and the representative of the department shall sign
922 the notice as witness to the parent's or guardian's refusal to sign the
923 notice. The department shall provide the parent or guardian with a copy
924 of the signed notice at the time of the department's initial face-to-face
925 contact with the parent or guardian.

926 Sec. 24. Section 17a-248g of the general statutes is repealed and the
927 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

928 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, funds appropriated to the
929 lead agency for purposes of section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-
930 248f, inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a shall not
931 be used to satisfy a financial commitment for services that would have
932 been paid from another public or private source but for the enactment
933 of said sections, except for federal funds available pursuant to Part C of

934 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1431 et seq.,
935 except that whenever considered necessary to prevent the delay in the
936 receipt of appropriate early intervention services by the eligible child or
937 family in a timely fashion, funds provided under said sections may be
938 used to pay the service provider pending reimbursement from the
939 public or private source that has ultimate responsibility for the payment.

940 (b) Nothing in section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f,
941 inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a shall be
942 construed to permit the Department of Social Services or any other state
943 agency to reduce medical assistance pursuant to this chapter or other
944 assistance or services available to eligible children. Notwithstanding
945 any provision of the general statutes, costs incurred for early
946 intervention services that otherwise qualify as medical assistance that
947 are furnished to an eligible child who is also eligible for benefits
948 pursuant to this chapter shall be considered medical assistance for
949 purposes of payments to providers and state reimbursement to the
950 extent that federal financial participation is available for such services.

951 (c) Providers of early intervention services shall, in the first instance
952 and where applicable, seek payment from all third-party payers prior to
953 claiming payment from the birth-to-three system for services rendered
954 to eligible children, provided, for the purpose of seeking payment from
955 the Medicaid program or from other third-party payers as agreed upon
956 by the provider, the obligation to seek payment shall not apply to a
957 payment from a third-party payer who is not prohibited from applying
958 such payment, and who will apply such payment, to an annual or
959 lifetime limit specified in the third-party payer's policy or contract.

960 (d) The commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Policy and
961 Management and the Insurance Commissioner, shall adopt regulations,
962 pursuant to chapter 54, providing public reimbursement for deductibles
963 and copayments imposed under an insurance policy or health benefit
964 plan to the extent that such deductibles and copayments are applicable
965 to early intervention services.

966 (e) [The commissioner shall establish and periodically revise, in
967 accordance with this section, a schedule of fees based on a sliding scale
968 for early intervention services. The schedule of fees shall consider the
969 cost of such services relative to the financial resources of the state and
970 the parents or legal guardians of eligible children, provided that on and
971 after October 6, 2009, the commissioner shall (1) charge fees to such
972 parents or legal guardians that are sixty per cent greater than the
973 amount of the fees charged on the date prior to October 6, 2009; and (2)
974 charge fees for all services provided, including those services provided
975 in the first two months following the enrollment of a child in the
976 program. Fees may be charged to any such parent or guardian,
977 regardless of income, and shall be charged to any such parent or
978 guardian with a gross annual family income of forty-five thousand
979 dollars or more, except that no fee may be charged to the parent or
980 guardian of a child who is eligible for Medicaid. Notwithstanding the
981 provisions of subdivision (8) of section 17a-248, as used in this
982 subsection, "parent" means the biological or adoptive parent or legal
983 guardian of any child receiving early intervention services. The lead
984 agency may assign its right to collect fees to a designee or provider
985 participating in the early intervention program and providing services
986 to a recipient in order to assist the provider in obtaining payment for
987 such services. The commissioner may implement procedures for the
988 collection of the schedule of fees while in the process of adopting or
989 amending such criteria in regulation, provided the commissioner posts
990 notice of intention to adopt or amend the regulations on the
991 eRegulations System, established pursuant to section 4-173b, within
992 twenty days of implementing the policy. Such collection procedures and
993 schedule of fees shall be valid until the time the final regulations or
994 amendments are effective] The commissioner shall not charge a fee for
995 early intervention services to the parents or legal guardians of eligible
996 children.

997 (f) [The] With respect to early intervention services rendered prior to
998 the effective date of this section, the commissioner shall develop and
999 implement procedures to hold a recipient harmless for the impact of

1000 pursuit of payment for [early intervention] such services against lifetime
1001 insurance limits.

1002 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of title 38a relating to the
1003 permissible exclusion of payments for services under governmental
1004 programs, no such exclusion shall apply with respect to payments made
1005 pursuant to section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this
1006 section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a. Except as provided in this
1007 subsection, nothing in this section shall increase or enhance coverages
1008 provided for within an insurance contract subject to the provisions of
1009 section 10-94f, subsection (a) of section 10-94g, subsection (a) of section
1010 17a-219b, subsection (a) of section 17a-219c, sections 17a-248, 17a-248b
1011 to 17a-248f, inclusive, this section, and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a.

1012 Sec. 25. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the
1013 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1014 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1015 (10) (A) Each local and regional board of education responsible for
1016 providing special education and related services to a child or pupil shall
1017 notify the parent or guardian of a child who requires or who may
1018 require special education, a pupil if such pupil is an emancipated minor
1019 or eighteen years of age or older who requires or who may require
1020 special education or a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section
1021 10-94g, in writing, at least five school days before such board proposes
1022 to, or refuses to, initiate or change the child's or pupil's identification,
1023 evaluation or educational placement or the provision of a free
1024 appropriate public education to the child or pupil.

1025 (B) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
1026 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide such
1027 parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent an opportunity to meet with
1028 a member of the planning and placement team designated by such
1029 board prior to the referral planning and placement team meeting at
1030 which the assessments and evaluations of the child or pupil who
1031 requires or may require special education is presented to such parent,

1032 guardian, pupil or surrogate parent for the first time. Such meeting shall
1033 be for the sole purpose of discussing the planning and placement team
1034 process and any concerns such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate
1035 parent has regarding the child or pupil who requires or may require
1036 special education.

1037 (C) Such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent shall (i) be given
1038 at least five school days' prior notice of any planning and placement
1039 team meeting conducted for such child or pupil, (ii) have the right to be
1040 present at and participate in all portions of such meeting at which an
1041 educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or
1042 revised, [and] (iii) have the right to have (I) advisors of such person's
1043 own choosing and at such person's own expense, [and to have] (II) the
1044 school paraprofessional assigned to such child or pupil, if any, [to be
1045 present at and to] and (III) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service
1046 coordinator, if any, attend and participate in all portions of such meeting
1047 at which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed,
1048 reviewed or revised, and (iv) have the right to have each
1049 recommendation made in such child or pupil's birth-to-three
1050 individualized transition plan, as required by section 17a-248e, as
1051 amended by this act, if any, addressed by the planning and placement
1052 team during such meeting at which an educational program for such
1053 child or pupil is developed.

1054 (D) Immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a child
1055 requiring special education and at each planning and placement team
1056 meeting for such child, the responsible local or regional board of
1057 education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or surrogate
1058 parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen
1059 years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws relating to special
1060 education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or
1061 pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board
1062 of Education relating to special education, including the right of a
1063 parent, guardian or surrogate parent to (I) withhold from enrolling such
1064 child in kindergarten, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
1065 184, and (II) have advisors and the school paraprofessional assigned to

1066 such child or pupil [to be present at, and to] attend and participate in [,]
1067 all portions of such meeting at which an educational program for such
1068 child or pupil is developed, reviewed or revised, in accordance with the
1069 provisions of subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, and (iii) any relevant
1070 information and resources relating to individualized education
1071 programs created by the Department of Education, including, but not
1072 limited to, information relating to transition resources and services for
1073 high school students. If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil
1074 does not attend a planning and placement team meeting, the responsible
1075 local or regional board of education shall mail such information to such
1076 person.

1077 (E) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at
1078 the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child
1079 or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education.

1080 (F) At each initial planning and placement team meeting for a child
1081 or pupil, the responsible local or regional board of education shall
1082 inform the parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil of (i) the laws
1083 relating to physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to section 10-236b
1084 and the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil under
1085 such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education
1086 relating to physical restraint and seclusion, and (ii) the right of such
1087 parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil, during such meeting at
1088 which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed, to
1089 have (I) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator attend
1090 and participate in all portions of such meeting, and (II) each
1091 recommendation made in the transition plan, as required by section 17a-
1092 248e, as amended by this act, by such child or pupil's birth-to-three
1093 service coordinator addressed by the planning and placement team.

1094 (G) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
1095 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide the
1096 results of the assessments and evaluations used in the determination of
1097 eligibility for special education for a child or pupil to such parent,
1098 guardian, surrogate parent or pupil at least three school days before the

1099 referral planning and placement team meeting at which such results of
1100 the assessments and evaluations will be discussed for the first time.

1101 (H) Each local or regional board of education shall monitor the
1102 development of each child who, pursuant to subsection (a) of section
1103 17a-248e, as amended by this act, has been (i) referred for a registration
1104 on a mobile application designated by the Commissioner of Early
1105 Childhood, in partnership with such child's parent, guardian or
1106 surrogate parent, or (ii) provided a form for such child's parent,
1107 guardian or surrogate parent to complete and submit to such local or
1108 regional board of education that screens for developmental and social-
1109 emotional delays using a validated screening tool, such as the Ages and
1110 Stages Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional
1111 Questionnaire, or its equivalent. If such monitoring results in suspecting
1112 a child of having a developmental delay, the board shall schedule a
1113 planning and placement team meeting with such child's parent,
1114 guardian or surrogate parent for the purposes of identifying services for
1115 which such child may be eligible, including, but not limited to, a
1116 preschool program under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act,
1117 20 USC 1471 et seq. If a parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any child
1118 referred for a registration on the mobile application or provided a form
1119 to complete and submit pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-248e,
1120 as amended by this act, fails to complete such registration or complete
1121 and submit such form after a period of six months from the date of such
1122 referral or provision of such form, the board shall send a reminder, in
1123 the form and manner determined by the board, to such parent, guardian
1124 or surrogate parent to complete such registration or complete and
1125 submit such form. The board shall send another reminder after a period
1126 of one year from such referral or provision of such form if such
1127 registration remains incomplete or such form is not submitted.

1128 Sec. 26. Subsection (i) of section 10-76d of the general statutes is
1129 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1130 *2021*):

1131 (i) (1) No local or regional board of education shall discipline,

1132 suspend, terminate or otherwise punish any member of a planning and
1133 placement team employed by such board who discusses or makes
1134 recommendations concerning the provision of special education and
1135 related services for a child during a planning and placement team
1136 meeting for such child.

1137 (2) No birth-to-three service coordinator or qualified personnel, as
1138 those terms are defined in section 17a-248, who discusses or makes
1139 recommendations concerning the provision of special education and
1140 related services for a child during a planning and placement team
1141 meeting for such child or in a transition plan, as required by section 17a-
1142 248e, as amended by this act, shall be subject to discipline, suspension,
1143 termination or other punishment on the basis of such recommendations.

1144 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 17a-248e of the general statutes is
1145 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1146 *2021*):

1147 (a) Each eligible child and his or her family shall receive (1) a
1148 multidisciplinary assessment of the child's unique needs and the
1149 identification of services appropriate to meet such needs, (2) a written
1150 individualized family service plan developed by a multidisciplinary
1151 team, including the parent, within forty-five days after the referral,
1152 [and] (3) review of the individualized family service plan with the
1153 family at least every six months, with evaluation of the individualized
1154 family service plan at least annually, and (4) not later than two months
1155 after the date on which any child is determined to be ineligible for
1156 participation in preschool programs under Part B of the Individuals
1157 with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq., a referral to register for a
1158 mobile application designated by the Commissioner of Early Childhood
1159 for the purpose of continued screening for developmental and social-
1160 emotional delays in partnership with the local or regional board of
1161 education for the school district in which such child resides pursuant to
1162 subparagraph (H) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10a-
1163 76d, as amended by this act, provided a form used for screening for
1164 developmental and social-emotional delays using a validated screening

1165 tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages
1166 Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent, is provided to any
1167 family upon the request of such family for the purpose of completing
1168 and submitting such form to the local or regional board of education for
1169 the school district in which such child resides.

1170 Sec. 28. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2022, the
1171 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall develop and implement a plan
1172 to expand the birth-to-three program, established pursuant to section
1173 17a-248b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to provide early
1174 intervention services to any child who is (1) enrolled in the program, (2)
1175 turns three years of age on or after May first and not later than the first
1176 day of the next school year commencing July first, and (3) is eligible for
1177 participation in preschool programs under Part B of the Individuals
1178 with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq., provided such services shall
1179 terminate upon such child's participation in such a preschool program.
1180 The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54
1181 of the general statutes to implement the provisions of this section.

1182 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) For the school year commencing
1183 July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, in any school district that
1184 serves a town that has not convened or established a local or regional
1185 school readiness council pursuant to section 10-16r of the general
1186 statutes, the local or regional board of education for such school district
1187 shall designate a school readiness liaison. Such liaison shall (1) be an
1188 existing employee of such school district, and (2) serve as an
1189 informational resource for parents of children transitioning from the
1190 birth-to-three program established pursuant to section 17a-248 of the
1191 general statutes, to enrollment in a public elementary school in such
1192 school district.

1193 Sec. 30. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
1194 study the comprehensive needs of children in the state and the extent to
1195 which such needs are being met by educators, community members and
1196 local and state agencies. The task force shall (1) identify the needs of
1197 children using the following tenets of the whole child initiative

1198 developed by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum
1199 Development: (A) Each student enters school healthy and learns about
1200 and practices a healthy lifestyle, (B) each student learns in an
1201 environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and
1202 adults, (C) each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected
1203 to the school and broader community, (D) each student has access to
1204 personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults, and
1205 (E) each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in
1206 college or further study and for employment and participation in a
1207 global environment; (2) recommend new programs or changes to
1208 existing programs operated by educators or local or state agencies to
1209 better address the needs of children in the state; (3) recognize any
1210 exceptional efforts to meet the comprehensive needs of children by
1211 educators, community members or local or state agencies; (4) identify
1212 and advocate for resources, including, but not limited to, funds,
1213 required to meet the needs of children in the state; (5) identify
1214 redundancies in existing services or programs for children and advocate
1215 for the elimination of such redundancies; and (6) assess all publicly
1216 available data concerning the comprehensive needs of children
1217 identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and collect, or
1218 make recommendations for the state to collect, any data that is not being
1219 collected by educators, community members or local or state agencies.
1220 As used in this section, "community member" means any individual or
1221 private organization that provides services or programs for children.

1222 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

1223 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
1224 one of whom is an educator employed by a local or regional board of
1225 education and one of whom is a social worker licensed pursuant to
1226 chapter 383b of the general statutes who works with children;

1227 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
1228 whom is a representative of the board of directors of the Association for
1229 Supervision and Curriculum Development affiliate in the state, and one
1230 of whom is representative of an institution of higher education in the

1231 state;

1232 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
1233 Representatives, who is a school administrator employed by a local or
1234 regional board of education;

1235 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a
1236 chairperson of a local or regional board of education;

1237 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1238 Representatives, who is a director or employee of a private nonprofit
1239 organization in the state that provides services or programs for children;

1240 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
1241 director or employee of a private nonprofit organization in the state that
1242 provides health-related services or programs for children;

1243 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

1244 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's
1245 designee;

1246 (9) The Healthcare Advocate, or the advocate's designee;

1247 (10) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

1248 (11) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and
1249 Opportunities, or the executive director's designee;

1250 (12) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's
1251 designee;

1252 (13) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
1253 or the commissioner's designee;

1254 (14) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee;

1255 (15) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
1256 designee;

1257 (16) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
1258 commissioner's designee;

1259 (17) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
1260 the commissioner's designee;

1261 (18) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's
1262 designee;

1263 (19) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
1264 designee;

1265 (20) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career
1266 System, or the superintendent's designee;

1267 (21) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
1268 commissioner's designee;

1269 (22) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
1270 Administrator's designee; and

1271 (23) The director of Special Education Equity for Kids of Connecticut,
1272 or the director's designee.

1273 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to
1274 (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
1275 General Assembly.

1276 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
1277 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
1278 be filled by the appointing authority not later than thirty days after the
1279 vacancy occurs. If a vacancy is not filled by the appointing authority, the
1280 chairpersons of the task force may fill such vacancy.

1281 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
1282 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
1283 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
1284 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty

1285 days after the effective date of this section.

1286 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
1287 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
1288 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

1289 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report
1290 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
1291 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
1292 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
1293 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
1294 January 1, 2022, whichever is later."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	20-73b(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	20-74h
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	20-102ee(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	20-185k(b)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	20-195ttt(f)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	20-206mm
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	19a-14c
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-148a(a)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-220a(b)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-220(b)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-221
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-16
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	10-198b
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-215
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17a-10a
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17a-103d
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	17a-248g

Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-76d(a)(10)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-76d(i)
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17a-248e(a)
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 30	<i>from passage</i>	New section