



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 8032



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.

REP. LINEHAN, 103rd Dist.

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 Health. Each licensee shall retain
162 records of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate
163 compliance with the continuing education requirements of subsection
164 (b) of this section for a minimum of three years following the year in
165 which the continuing education was completed and shall submit such
166 records or certificates to the department for inspection not later than
167 forty-five days after a request by the department for such records or
168 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.

211 Sec. 8. Subsection (f) of section 20-195ttt of the general statutes is
212 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
213 *2021*):

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

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 Section 20-206mm of the general statutes is repealed and the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

232 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, an
233 applicant for a license as a paramedic shall submit evidence satisfactory
234 to the Commissioner of Public Health that the applicant has successfully
235 (1) completed a paramedic training program approved by the
236 commissioner, (2) for applicants applying on and after January 1, 2020,
237 completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided
238 by an instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health,

239 and (3) passed an examination prescribed by the commissioner.

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

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

263 (d) On or after January 1, 2020, each person seeking certification as an
264 emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or
265 advanced emergency medical technician shall apply to the department
266 on forms prescribed by the commissioner. Applicants for certification
267 shall comply with the following requirements: (1) For initial
268 certification, an applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the
269 commissioner that the applicant (A) has completed an initial training
270 program consistent with the National Emergency Medical Services
271 Education Standards, as promulgated by the National Highway Traffic

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

301 (e) On or after January 1, 2022, each person seeking renewal of a
302 certification as an emergency medical responder or emergency medical
303 technician under subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, shall
304 present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such person has,
305 in the previous six year period, completed (1) the evidence-based youth

306 suicide prevention training program administered pursuant to section 1
307 of this act, or (2) not less than two hours of training or education,
308 approved by the Commissioner of Public Health, on (A) screening for
309 post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and
310 (B) suicide prevention.

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

340 emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician
341 or licensure by the department as a paramedic, and (C) effective on a
342 date as prescribed by the commissioner, presents documentation
343 satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant is currently certified
344 as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical
345 technician or paramedic by the national organization for emergency
346 medical certification.

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

367 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The commissioner may issue a temporary emergency
368 medical technician certificate to an applicant who presents evidence
369 satisfactory to the commissioner that (1) the applicant was certified by
370 the department as an emergency medical technician prior to becoming
371 licensed as a paramedic pursuant to section 20-206ll, or (2) the
372 applicant's certification as an emergency medical technician has expired
373 and the applicant's license as a paramedic has become void pursuant to

374 section 19a-88. Such temporary certificate shall be valid for a period not
375 to exceed one year and shall not be renewable.

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

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

405 ~~[(j)]~~ (k) The Commissioner of Public Health shall issue an emergency
406 medical technician certification to an applicant who is a member of the

407 armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran and who (1) presents
408 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant holds a
409 current certification as a person entitled to perform similar services
410 under a different designation by the National Registry of Emergency
411 Medical Technicians, or (2) satisfies the regulations promulgated
412 pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-179. Such
413 applicant shall be exempt from any written or practical examination
414 requirement for certification.

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

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

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

429 (b) A psychiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 370, a psychologist
430 licensed pursuant to chapter 383, an independent social worker certified
431 pursuant to chapter 383b or a marital and family therapist licensed
432 pursuant to chapter 383a may provide outpatient mental health
433 treatment to a minor without the consent or notification of a parent or
434 guardian at the request of the minor if (1) requiring the consent or
435 notification of a parent or guardian would cause the minor to reject such
436 treatment; (2) the provision of such treatment is clinically indicated; (3)
437 the failure to provide such treatment would be seriously detrimental to
438 the minor's well-being; (4) the minor has knowingly and voluntarily

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

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

472 (2) A provider may notify a parent or guardian of treatment provided

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

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

495 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 10-148a of the general statutes is
496 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
497 *2021*):

498 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, [2019] 2021, and each
499 school year thereafter, each certified employee shall participate in a
500 program of professional development. Each local and regional board of
501 education shall make available, annually, at no cost to its certified
502 employees, a program of professional development that is not fewer
503 than eighteen hours in length, of which a preponderance is in a small
504 group or individual instructional setting. Such program of professional
505 development shall (1) be a comprehensive, sustained and intensive

506 approach to improving teacher and administrator effectiveness in
507 increasing student knowledge achievement, (2) focus on refining and
508 improving various effective teaching methods that are shared between
509 and among educators, (3) foster collective responsibility for improved
510 student performance, (4) be comprised of professional learning that (A)
511 is aligned with rigorous state student academic achievement standards,
512 (B) is conducted among educators at the school and facilitated by
513 principals, coaches, mentors, distinguished educators, as described in
514 section 10-145s, or other appropriate teachers, (C) occurs frequently on
515 an individual basis or among groups of teachers in a job-embedded
516 process of continuous improvement, and (D) includes a repository of
517 best practices for teaching methods developed by educators within each
518 school that is continuously available to such educators for comment and
519 updating, and (5) include training in culturally responsive pedagogy
520 and practice. Each program of professional development shall include
521 professional development activities in accordance with the provisions
522 of subsection (b) of this section. The principles and practices of social-
523 emotional learning shall be integrated throughout the components of
524 such program of professional development described in subdivisions (1)
525 to (5), inclusive, of this subsection.

526 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
527 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
528 *2021*):

529 (b) Not later than a date prescribed by the commissioner, each local
530 and regional board of education shall establish a professional
531 development and evaluation committee. Such professional
532 development and evaluation committee shall consist of (1) at least one
533 teacher, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-144d, selected by the
534 exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees chosen
535 pursuant to section 10-153b, (2) at least one administrator, as defined in
536 subsection (a) of section 10-144e, selected by the exclusive bargaining
537 representative for certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-
538 153b, and (3) such other school personnel as the board deems
539 appropriate. The duties of such committees shall include, but not be

540 limited to, participation in the development or adoption of a teacher
541 evaluation and support program for the district, pursuant to section 10-
542 151b, and the development, evaluation and annual updating of a
543 comprehensive local professional development plan for certified
544 employees of the district. Such plan shall: (A) Be directly related to the
545 educational goals prepared by the local or regional board of education
546 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-220, as amended by this act, (B)
547 on and after July 1, [2011] 2021, be developed with full consideration of
548 the priorities and needs related to student social-emotional learning, in
549 accordance with the provisions of section 10-148a, as amended by this
550 act, and student academic outcomes as determined by the State Board
551 of Education, [and] (C) provide for the ongoing and systematic
552 assessment and improvement of both teacher evaluation and
553 professional development of the professional staff members of each
554 such board, including personnel management and evaluation training
555 or experience for administrators, [shall] and (D) be related to regular
556 and special student needs and may include provisions concerning
557 career incentives and parent involvement. The State Board of Education
558 shall develop guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education
559 in determining the objectives of the plans and in coordinating staff
560 development activities with student needs and school programs.

561 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
562 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
563 *2021*):

564 (b) The board of education of each local or regional school district
565 shall, with the participation of parents, students, school administrators,
566 teachers, citizens, local elected officials and any other individuals or
567 groups such board shall deem appropriate, prepare a statement of
568 educational goals for such local or regional school district. The
569 statement of goals shall be consistent with state-wide goals pursuant to
570 subsection (c) of section 10-4 and include goals for the integration of
571 principles and practices of social-emotional learning in the program of
572 professional development for the school district, in accordance with the
573 provisions of section 10-148a, as amended by this act, and career

574 placement for students who do not pursue an advanced degree
575 immediately after graduation. Each local or regional board of education
576 shall annually establish student objectives for the school year which
577 relate directly to the statement of educational goals prepared pursuant
578 to this subsection and which identify specific expectations for students
579 in terms of skills, knowledge and competence.

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

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

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

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

599 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Boards of education may prescribe rules to impose sanctions
600 against pupils who damage or fail to return textbooks, library materials
601 or other educational materials. Said boards may charge pupils for such
602 damaged or lost textbooks, library materials or other educational
603 materials and may withhold grades, transcripts or report cards until the
604 pupil pays for or returns the textbook, library book or other educational
605 material.

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

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

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

633 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year
634 thereafter, the policies and procedures described in subdivision (1) of
635 this subsection shall require the district to (A) offer parents the option
636 of attending any parent-teacher conference by telephonic, video or other
637 conferencing platform, (B) conduct one parent-teacher conference, in
638 addition to those required pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection,

639 during periods when such district provides virtual learning for more
640 than three consecutive weeks, and one additional parent-teacher
641 conference every six months thereafter for the duration of such period
642 of virtual learning, and (C) request from each student's parent the name
643 and contact information of an emergency contact person who may be
644 contacted if the student's parent cannot be reached to schedule a parent-
645 teacher conference required pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this
646 subdivision.

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

661 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 1,
662 2021, the Department of Education shall develop, and annually update,
663 a document for use by local and regional boards of education that
664 provides information concerning educational, safety, mental health and
665 food insecurity resources and programs available for students and their
666 families. Such document shall contain, but need not be limited to, (1)
667 providers of such resources and programs, including, but not limited to,
668 the Departments of Education, Children and Families and Mental
669 Health and Addiction Services, the United Way of Connecticut and local
670 food banks, (2) descriptions of the relevant resources and programs
671 offered by each provider, including, but not limited to, any program that
672 provides laptop computers, public Internet access or home Internet

673 service to students, (3) contact information for each provider, resource
674 and program, and (4) relevant Internet web sites. The Department of
675 Education shall annually distribute such document electronically to
676 each local and regional board of education.

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

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

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

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

699 Each school district shall provide in each school year no less than one
700 hundred and eighty days of actual school sessions for grades
701 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, nine hundred hours of actual school
702 work for full-day kindergarten and grades one to twelve, inclusive, and
703 four hundred and fifty hours of half-day kindergarten, provided school
704 districts shall not count more than seven hours of actual school work in

705 any school day towards the total required for the school year. Virtual
706 learning shall be considered an actual school session for purposes of this
707 section, provided such virtual learning is conducted in compliance with
708 the standards developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16 of this
709 act. If weather conditions result in an early dismissal or a delayed
710 opening of school, a school district which maintains separate morning
711 and afternoon half-day kindergarten sessions may provide either a
712 morning or afternoon half-day kindergarten session on such day. As
713 used in this section, "virtual learning" means instruction by means of
714 one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of an in-person
715 or remote learning model.

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

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

735 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section and
736 section 10-198b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, "mental
737 health wellness day" describes a school day during which a student

738 attends to such student's emotional and psychological well-being in lieu
739 of attending school.

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

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

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

768 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year
769 thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall include in any

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

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

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

801 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall ensure that a
802 child placed in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to an

803 order of temporary custody or an order of commitment is provided
804 visitation with such child's parents and siblings, unless otherwise
805 ordered by the court.

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

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

829 (d) In the event of a pandemic or outbreak of a communicable disease
830 resulting in a declaration of a public health emergency by the Governor
831 pursuant to section 19a-131a, or a declaration of a national emergency
832 by the President of the United States, such child shall be provided
833 opportunities to communicate with such child's parents and siblings by
834 telephonic, video or other conferencing platform in lieu of in-person
835 visitation, for the duration of any such declaration. Not later than

836 January 1, 2022, the commissioner shall develop a policy that requires
837 the temporary cessation of in-person visitation provided pursuant to
838 this section, on a case-by-case basis, in the event that a child or such
839 child's parent or sibling is seriously ill due to a communicable disease,
840 and visitation could result in the contraction of such disease by one or
841 more participants in the visitation. Such policy shall require that such
842 child be provided an opportunity to communicate with such child's
843 parents and siblings by telephonic, video or other conferencing platform
844 in lieu of such visitation. The commissioner shall define "seriously ill"
845 and "communicable disease" for the purposes of carrying out this
846 subsection.

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

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

866 Sec. 22. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than February 1, 2022,
867 the Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and maintain
868 a software application for use on computers and mobile devices to

869 facilitate (1) the reporting of nonemergent incidents to the Department
870 of Children and Families by mandated reporters, and (2)
871 communication between children in the care and custody of the
872 commissioner and social workers assigned to such children.

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

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

903 low-cost legal services through which the parent or guardian may
904 obtain legal advice.

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

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

922 Sec. 24. Section 17a-248g of the general statutes is repealed and the
923 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

924 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, funds appropriated to the
925 lead agency for purposes of section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-
926 248f, inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a shall not
927 be used to satisfy a financial commitment for services that would have
928 been paid from another public or private source but for the enactment
929 of said sections, except for federal funds available pursuant to Part C of
930 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1431 et seq.,
931 except that whenever considered necessary to prevent the delay in the
932 receipt of appropriate early intervention services by the eligible child or
933 family in a timely fashion, funds provided under said sections may be
934 used to pay the service provider pending reimbursement from the

935 public or private source that has ultimate responsibility for the payment.

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

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

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

962 (e) [The commissioner shall establish and periodically revise, in
963 accordance with this section, a schedule of fees based on a sliding scale
964 for early intervention services. The schedule of fees shall consider the
965 cost of such services relative to the financial resources of the state and
966 the parents or legal guardians of eligible children, provided that on and

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

993 (f) [The] With respect to early intervention services rendered prior to
994 July 1, 2021, the commissioner shall develop and implement procedures
995 to hold a recipient harmless for the impact of pursuit of payment for
996 [early intervention] such services against lifetime insurance limits.

997 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of title 38a relating to the
998 permissible exclusion of payments for services under governmental
999 programs, no such exclusion shall apply with respect to payments made
1000 pursuant to section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this

1001 section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a. Except as provided in this
1002 subsection, nothing in this section shall increase or enhance coverages
1003 provided for within an insurance contract subject to the provisions of
1004 section 10-94f, subsection (a) of section 10-94g, subsection (a) of section
1005 17a-219b, subsection (a) of section 17a-219c, sections 17a-248, 17a-248b
1006 to 17a-248f, inclusive, this section, and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a.

1007 Sec. 25. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the
1008 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1009 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

1010 (10) (A) Each local and regional board of education responsible for
1011 providing special education and related services to a child or pupil shall
1012 notify the parent or guardian of a child who requires or who may
1013 require special education, a pupil if such pupil is an emancipated minor
1014 or eighteen years of age or older who requires or who may require
1015 special education or a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section
1016 10-94g, in writing, at least five school days before such board proposes
1017 to, or refuses to, initiate or change the child's or pupil's identification,
1018 evaluation or educational placement or the provision of a free
1019 appropriate public education to the child or pupil.

1020 (B) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
1021 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide such
1022 parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent an opportunity to meet with
1023 a member of the planning and placement team designated by such
1024 board prior to the referral planning and placement team meeting at
1025 which the assessments and evaluations of the child or pupil who
1026 requires or may require special education is presented to such parent,
1027 guardian, pupil or surrogate parent for the first time. Such meeting shall
1028 be for the sole purpose of discussing the planning and placement team
1029 process and any concerns such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate
1030 parent has regarding the child or pupil who requires or may require
1031 special education.

1032 (C) Such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent shall (i) be given

1033 at least five school days' prior notice of any planning and placement
1034 team meeting conducted for such child or pupil, (ii) have the right to be
1035 present at and participate in all portions of such meeting at which an
1036 educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or
1037 revised, [and] (iii) have the right to have (I) advisors of such person's
1038 own choosing and at such person's own expense, [and to have] (II) the
1039 school paraprofessional assigned to such child or pupil, if any, [to be
1040 present at and to] and (III) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service
1041 coordinator, if any, attend and participate in all portions of such meeting
1042 at which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed,
1043 reviewed or revised, and (iv) have the right to have each
1044 recommendation made in such child or pupil's birth-to-three
1045 individualized transition plan, as required by section 17a-248e, as
1046 amended by this act, if any, addressed by the planning and placement
1047 team during such meeting at which an educational program for such
1048 child or pupil is developed.

1049 (D) Immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a child
1050 requiring special education and at each planning and placement team
1051 meeting for such child, the responsible local or regional board of
1052 education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or surrogate
1053 parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen
1054 years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws relating to special
1055 education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or
1056 pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board
1057 of Education relating to special education, including the right of a
1058 parent, guardian or surrogate parent to (I) withhold from enrolling such
1059 child in kindergarten, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
1060 184, and (II) have advisors and the school paraprofessional assigned to
1061 such child or pupil [to be present at, and to] attend and participate in [,]
1062 all portions of such meeting at which an educational program for such
1063 child or pupil is developed, reviewed or revised, in accordance with the
1064 provisions of subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, and (iii) any relevant
1065 information and resources relating to individualized education
1066 programs created by the Department of Education, including, but not

1067 limited to, information relating to transition resources and services for
1068 high school students. If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil
1069 does not attend a planning and placement team meeting, the responsible
1070 local or regional board of education shall mail such information to such
1071 person.

1072 (E) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at
1073 the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child
1074 or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education.

1075 (F) At each initial planning and placement team meeting for a child
1076 or pupil, the responsible local or regional board of education shall
1077 inform the parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil of (i) the laws
1078 relating to physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to section 10-236b
1079 and the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil under
1080 such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education
1081 relating to physical restraint and seclusion, and (ii) the right of such
1082 parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil, during such meeting at
1083 which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed, to
1084 have (I) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator attend
1085 and participate in all portions of such meeting, and (II) each
1086 recommendation made in the transition plan, as required by section 17a-
1087 248e, as amended by this act, by such child or pupil's birth-to-three
1088 service coordinator addressed by the planning and placement team.

1089 (G) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
1090 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide the
1091 results of the assessments and evaluations used in the determination of
1092 eligibility for special education for a child or pupil to such parent,
1093 guardian, surrogate parent or pupil at least three school days before the
1094 referral planning and placement team meeting at which such results of
1095 the assessments and evaluations will be discussed for the first time.

1096 (H) Each local or regional board of education shall monitor the
1097 development of each child who, pursuant to subsection (a) of section
1098 17a-248e, as amended by this act, has been (i) referred for a registration

1099 on a mobile application designated by the state-wide birth-to-three
1100 system in partnership with such child's parent, guardian or surrogate
1101 parent, or (ii) provided a form for such child's parent, guardian or
1102 surrogate parent to complete and submit to such local or regional board
1103 of education that screens for developmental and social-emotional delays
1104 using a validated assessment tool, such as the Ages and Stages
1105 Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire,
1106 or its equivalent. If such monitoring results in suspecting a child of
1107 having a developmental delay, the board shall schedule a planning and
1108 placement team meeting with such child's parent, guardian or surrogate
1109 parent for the purposes of identifying services for which such child may
1110 be eligible, including, but not limited to, a preschool program under Part
1111 B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq. If a parent,
1112 guardian or surrogate parent of any child referred for a registration on
1113 the mobile application or provided a form to complete and submit
1114 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-248e, as amended by this act,
1115 fails to complete such registration or complete and submit such form
1116 after a period of six months from the date of such referral or provision
1117 of such form, the board shall send a reminder, in the form and manner
1118 determined by the board, to such parent, guardian or surrogate parent
1119 to complete such registration or complete and submit such form. The
1120 board shall send another reminder after a period of one year from such
1121 referral or provision of such form if such registration remains
1122 incomplete or such form is not submitted.

1123 Sec. 26. Subsection (i) of section 10-76d of the general statutes is
1124 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1125 *2021*):

1126 (i) (1) No local or regional board of education shall discipline,
1127 suspend, terminate or otherwise punish any member of a planning and
1128 placement team employed by such board who discusses or makes
1129 recommendations concerning the provision of special education and
1130 related services for a child during a planning and placement team
1131 meeting for such child.

1132 (2) No birth-to-three service coordinator or qualified personnel, as
1133 those terms are defined in section 17a-248, 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 or in a transition plan, as required by section 17a-
1137 248e, as amended by this act, shall be subject to discipline, suspension,
1138 termination or other punishment on the basis of such recommendations.

1139 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 17a-248e of the general statutes is
1140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1141 *2021*):

1142 (a) Each eligible child and his or her family shall receive (1) a
1143 multidisciplinary assessment of the child's unique needs and the
1144 identification of services appropriate to meet such needs, (2) a written
1145 individualized family service plan developed by a multidisciplinary
1146 team, including the parent, within forty-five days after the referral,
1147 [and] (3) review of the individualized family service plan with the
1148 family at least every six months, with evaluation of the individualized
1149 family service plan at least annually, and (4) not later than two months
1150 after the date on which any child is determined to be ineligible for
1151 participation in preschool programs under Part B of the Individuals
1152 with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq., a referral to register for a
1153 mobile application designated by the state-wide birth-to-three system
1154 for the purpose of continued screening for developmental and social-
1155 emotional delays in partnership with the local or regional board of
1156 education for the school district in which such child resides pursuant to
1157 subparagraph (H) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10a-
1158 76d, as amended by this act, provided a form used for screening for
1159 developmental and social-emotional delays using a validated
1160 assessment tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the
1161 Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent, is
1162 provided to any family upon the request of such family for the purpose
1163 of completing and submitting such form to the local or regional board
1164 of education for the school district in which such child resides.

1165 Sec. 28. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2022, the
1166 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall develop and implement a plan
1167 to expand the birth-to-three program, established pursuant to section
1168 17a-248b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to provide early
1169 intervention services to any child who is (1) enrolled in the program, (2)
1170 turns three years of age on or after May first and not later than the first
1171 day of the next school year commencing July first, and (3) is eligible for
1172 participation in preschool programs under Part B of the Individuals
1173 with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq., provided such services shall
1174 terminate upon such child's participation in such a preschool program.
1175 The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54
1176 of the general statutes to implement the provisions of this section.

1177 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) For the school year commencing
1178 July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, in any school district that
1179 serves a town that has not convened or established a local or regional
1180 school readiness council pursuant to section 10-16r of the general
1181 statutes, the local or regional board of education for such school district
1182 shall designate a school readiness liaison. Such liaison shall (1) be an
1183 existing employee of such school district, and (2) serve as an
1184 informational resource for parents of children transitioning from the
1185 birth-to-three program established pursuant to section 17a-248 of the
1186 general statutes, to enrollment in a public elementary school in such
1187 school district.

1188 Sec. 30. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
1189 study the comprehensive needs of children in the state and the extent to
1190 which such needs are being met by educators, community members and
1191 local and state agencies. The task force shall (1) identify the needs of
1192 children using the following tenets of the whole child initiative
1193 developed by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum
1194 Development: (A) Each student enters school healthy and learns about
1195 and practices a healthy lifestyle, (B) each student learns in an
1196 environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and
1197 adults, (C) each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected
1198 to the school and broader community, (D) each student has access to

1199 personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults, and
1200 (E) each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in
1201 college or further study and for employment and participation in a
1202 global environment; (2) recommend new programs or changes to
1203 existing programs operated by educators or local or state agencies to
1204 better address the needs of children in the state; (3) recognize any
1205 exceptional efforts to meet the comprehensive needs of children by
1206 educators, community members or local or state agencies; (4) identify
1207 and advocate for resources, including, but not limited to, funds,
1208 required to meet the needs of children in the state; (5) identify
1209 redundancies in existing services or programs for children and advocate
1210 for the elimination of such redundancies; and (6) assess all publicly
1211 available data concerning the comprehensive needs of children
1212 identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and collect, or
1213 make recommendations for the state to collect, any data that is not being
1214 collected by educators, community members or local or state agencies.
1215 As used in this section, "community member" means any individual or
1216 private organization that provides services or programs for children.

1217 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

1218 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
1219 one of whom is an educator employed by a local or regional board of
1220 education and one of whom is a social worker licensed pursuant to
1221 chapter 383b of the general statutes who works with children;

1222 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
1223 whom is a representative of the board of directors of the Association for
1224 Supervision and Curriculum Development affiliate in the state, and one
1225 of whom is representative of an institution of higher education in the
1226 state;

1227 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
1228 Representatives, who is a school administrator employed by a local or
1229 regional board of education;

1230 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a

- 1231 chairperson of a local or regional board of education;
- 1232 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1233 Representatives, who is a director or employee of a private nonprofit
1234 organization in the state that provides services or programs for children;
- 1235 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
1236 director or employee of a private nonprofit organization in the state that
1237 provides health-related services or programs for children;
- 1238 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
- 1239 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's
1240 designee;
- 1241 (9) The Healthcare Advocate, or the advocate's designee;
- 1242 (10) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;
- 1243 (11) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and
1244 Opportunities, or the executive director's designee;
- 1245 (12) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's
1246 designee;
- 1247 (13) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
1248 or the commissioner's designee;
- 1249 (14) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee;
- 1250 (15) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
1251 designee;
- 1252 (16) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
1253 commissioner's designee;
- 1254 (17) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
1255 the commissioner's designee;
- 1256 (18) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's

1257 designee;

1258 (19) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
1259 designee;

1260 (20) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career
1261 System, or the superintendent's designee;

1262 (21) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
1263 commissioner's designee;

1264 (22) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
1265 Administrator's designee; and

1266 (23) The director of Special Education Equity for Kids of Connecticut,
1267 or the director's designee.

1268 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to
1269 (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
1270 General Assembly.

1271 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
1272 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
1273 be filled by the appointing authority not later than thirty days after the
1274 vacancy occurs. If a vacancy is not filled by the appointing authority, the
1275 chairpersons of the task force may fill such vacancy.

1276 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
1277 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
1278 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
1279 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
1280 days after the effective date of this section.

1281 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
1282 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
1283 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

1284 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report

1285 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
 1286 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
 1287 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
 1288 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
 1289 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>July 1, 2021</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