
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6819

AN ACT CONCERNING LACTATION CONSULTANTS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to obtain a list from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners of all Connecticut residents on the board's registry of certified lactation consultants. The commissioner must do this annually, starting by January 1, 2024, and post the list on the DPH website.

The bill also creates a nine-member task force to study DPH lactation consultant licensure, including (1) licensure qualifications and (2) if DPH should license or certify lactation counselors certified in good standing by the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2024. It terminates on this date or the date it submits the report, whichever is later.

Lactation consultants are healthcare professionals who specialize in the clinical management of breastfeeding (e.g., low milk production, latching difficulties, or painful nursing). Connecticut does not currently certify or license these professionals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

LACTATION CONSULTANT LICENSURE TASK FORCE

Membership

Under the bill, task force members include the DPH commissioner, or her designee, and the following appointed members:

1. two each appointed by the House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore and

2. one each appointed by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders.

Under the bill, appointed members may be legislators. Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancy.

Leadership and Meetings

The bill requires the House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore to select the task force chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the task force's first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill's passage.

Under the bill, the Public Health Committee's administrative staff serve in that capacity for the task force.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/20/2023)