



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 541

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6835

House of Representatives, April 12, 2023

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Health care facility" means an outpatient surgical facility, as
3 defined in section 19a-493b of the general statutes, or a hospital, as
4 defined in in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, but does not include
5 a chronic disease hospital, as defined in section 19a-550 of the general
6 statutes;

7 (2) "Health care provider" means a person or an entity that is licensed,
8 certified or registered by the Department of Public Health to provide
9 health care services pursuant to title 20 of the general statutes;

10 (3) "Surgical technologist" means a person who performs surgical
11 technology services who is not a health care provider;

12 (4) "Surgical technology services" means surgical patient care

13 including, but not limited to, one or more of the following:

14 (A) Preparing an operating room and the sterile operating field for
15 surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning
16 properly and safely and using sterile techniques to prepare surgical
17 supplies, instruments and equipment;

18 (B) Intraoperative anticipation and response to the needs of a surgeon
19 and other surgical team members by monitoring the sterile operating
20 field in an operating room and providing the required instruments or
21 supplies; and

22 (C) Performance of tasks at the sterile operating field, as directed, in
23 an operating room setting, including: (i) Passing surgical supplies,
24 instruments and equipment directly to a health care provider; (ii)
25 sponging or suctioning an operative site; (iii) preparing and cutting
26 suture material; (iv) transferring and irrigating with fluids; (v)
27 transferring, but not administering, drugs within the sterile field; and
28 (vi) handling surgical specimens.

29 (b) A health care facility shall not employ or otherwise retain any
30 person to perform surgical technology services unless such person (1)
31 has successfully completed a nationally accredited surgical technology
32 program, and (2) holds and maintains certification as a surgical
33 technologist from a national certifying body that certifies surgical
34 technologists recognized by the Department of Public Health.

35 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 20-206f of the general statutes is
36 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
37 *2023*):

38 (b) No more than [six] eighteen continuing education units shall be
39 completed via the Internet or distance learning and no more than twelve
40 continuing education units shall be obtained from providers that are not
41 approved by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage
42 and Bodywork. For purposes of this section, "continuing education unit"
43 means fifty to sixty minutes of participation in accredited continuing

44 professional education.

45 Sec. 3. Section 20-191a of the general statutes is repealed and the
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

47 Each license issued under this chapter shall be renewed annually in
48 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. Thirty days prior to
49 the expiration date of each license under section 19a-88, the department
50 shall mail to the last-known address of each licensed psychologist an
51 application for renewal or retirement in such form as said department
52 determines. [Each such] A licensed psychologist shall return an
53 application for renewal, on or before such expiration date, [shall be
54 returned] to said department, together with a fee of the professional
55 services fee for class I, as defined in section 33-182l, plus five dollars and
56 the department shall thereupon issue a renewal license. In the event of
57 failure of a psychologist to apply for such renewal license by such
58 expiration date, such psychologist may so apply subject to the
59 provisions of subsection (b) of section 19a-88. A licensed psychologist
60 shall return an application for retirement, on or before such expiration
61 date, to said department together with a one-time fee of fifty dollars and
62 the department shall thereupon note that the psychologist has retired
63 from the practice of psychology in good standing.

64 Sec. 4. Section 7-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

66 As used in this chapter and sections 19a-40 to 19a-45, inclusive, unless
67 the context otherwise requires:

68 (1) "Registrar of vital statistics" or "registrar" means the registrar of
69 births, marriages, deaths and fetal deaths or any public official charged
70 with the care of returns relating to vital statistics;

71 (2) "Registration" means the process by which vital records are
72 completed, filed and incorporated into the official records of the
73 department;

74 (3) "Institution" means any public or private facility that provides

75 inpatient medical, surgical or diagnostic care or treatment, or nursing,
76 custodial or domiciliary care, or to which persons are committed by law;

77 (4) "Vital records" means a certificate of birth, death, fetal death or
78 marriage;

79 (5) "Certified copy" means a copy of a birth, death, fetal death or
80 marriage certificate that (A) includes all information on the certificate
81 except such information that is nondisclosable by law, (B) is issued or
82 transmitted by any registrar of vital statistics, (C) includes an attested
83 signature and the raised seal of an authorized person, and (D) if
84 submitted to the department, includes all information required by the
85 commissioner;

86 (6) "Uncertified copy" means a copy of a birth, death, fetal death or
87 marriage certificate that includes all information contained in a certified
88 copy except an original attested signature and a raised seal of an
89 authorized person;

90 (7) "Authenticate" or "authenticated" means to affix to a vital record
91 in paper format the official seal, or to affix to a vital record in electronic
92 format the user identification, password, or other means of electronic
93 identification, as approved by the department, of the creator of the vital
94 record, or the creator's designee, by which affixing the creator of such
95 paper or electronic vital record, or the creator's designee, affirms the
96 integrity of such vital record;

97 (8) "Attest" means to verify a vital record in accordance with the
98 provisions of subdivision (5) of this section;

99 (9) "Correction" means to change or enter new information on a
100 certificate of birth, marriage, death or fetal death, within one year of the
101 date of the vital event recorded in such certificate, in order to accurately
102 reflect the facts existing at the time of the recording of such vital event,
103 where such changes or entries are to correct errors on such certificate
104 due to inaccurate or incomplete information provided by the informant
105 at the time the certificate was prepared, or to correct transcribing,

106 typographical or clerical errors;

107 (10) "Amendment" means to (A) change or enter new information on
108 a certificate of birth, marriage, death or fetal death, more than one year
109 after the date of the vital event recorded in such certificate, in order to
110 accurately reflect the facts existing at the time of the recording of the
111 event, (B) create a replacement certificate of birth for matters pertaining
112 to parentage and gender change, (C) create a replacement certificate of
113 marriage for matters pertaining to gender change, or (D) reflect a legal
114 name change in accordance with section 19a-42 or make a modification
115 to a cause of death;

116 (11) "Acknowledgment of paternity" means to legally acknowledge
117 paternity of a child pursuant to section 46b-570;

118 (12) "Adjudication of paternity" means to legally establish paternity
119 through an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

120 (13) "Parentage" includes matters relating to adoption, surrogacy
121 agreements, paternity and maternity;

122 (14) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

123 (15) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health or the
124 commissioner's designee;

125 (16) "Surrogacy agreement" means an agreement between one or
126 more intended parents and a person who is not an intended parent in
127 which such person agrees to become pregnant through assisted
128 reproduction and which provides that each intended parent is a parent
129 of a child conceived under the agreement. Unless the context otherwise
130 requires, "surrogacy agreement" includes an agreement with a person
131 acting as a gestational surrogate and an agreement with a person acting
132 as a genetic surrogate;

133 (17) "Intended parent" means a person, married or unmarried, who
134 manifests an intent to be legally bound as a parent of a child conceived
135 by assisted reproduction;

136 (18) "Foundling" means (A) a child of unknown parentage, or (B) an
137 infant voluntarily surrendered pursuant to the provisions of section 17a-
138 58;

139 (19) "Certified homeless youth" means a person who is at least fifteen
140 years of age but less than eighteen years of age, is not in the physical
141 custody of a parent or legal guardian, who is a homeless child or youth,
142 as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, and who
143 has been certified as homeless by (A) a school district homeless liaison,
144 (B) the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United
145 States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the
146 director's designee, (C) the director of a runaway or homeless youth
147 basic center or transitional living program funded by the United States
148 Department of Health and Human Services, or the director's designee,
149 or (D) the director of a program of a nonprofit organization or
150 municipality that is contracted with the homeless youth program
151 established pursuant to section 17a-62a; [and]

152 (20) "Certified homeless young adult" means a person who is at least
153 eighteen years of age but less than twenty-five years of age who has
154 been certified as homeless by (A) a school district homeless liaison, (B)
155 the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United
156 States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the
157 director's designee, (C) the director of a runaway or homeless youth
158 basic center or transitional living program funded by the United States
159 Department of Health and Human Services, or the director's designee,
160 or (D) the director of a program of a nonprofit organization or
161 municipality that is contracted with the homeless youth program
162 established pursuant to section 17a-62a; and

163 (21) "Jurisdiction" means a location in the state where land is held in
164 trust by the United States for a federally recognized Indian tribe.

165 Sec. 5. Section 7-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
166 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

167 (a) The [town] clerks of the several [towns] municipalities shall be, ex

168 officio, the registrars of vital statistics in their respective [towns]
169 municipalities, except in [towns] municipalities where such registrars
170 are elected or appointed under special laws, and shall be sworn to the
171 faithful performance of their duties as such.

172 (b) If a registrar of vital statistics is appointed under a special law or
173 a [town] municipal charter, the appointing authority or, if none, the
174 chief executive official of the [town] municipality, shall, not later than
175 ten days after such an appointment is made, file a notice of such
176 appointment with the Secretary of the State, indicating the name and
177 address of the person appointed, the date and method of such
178 appointment and the law under which the appointment was made. Not
179 later than ten days after a vacancy occurs in the appointed office of
180 registrar of vital statistics, the first selectman or chief executive official
181 of the [town] municipality shall notify the Secretary of the State of such
182 vacancy.

183 (c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this section,
184 any newly elected or appointed registrar of vital statistics shall, not later
185 than ten days after the date of assuming office, provide written
186 notification to the Commissioner of Public Health of such election or
187 appointment. In the event of a vacancy, the first selectman or chief
188 executive official of the [town] municipality shall notify the
189 Commissioner of Public Health of the vacancy not later than ten days
190 after the date of such vacancy.

191 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 7-38 of the general statutes is repealed
192 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

193 (a) The [town] clerk of any [town] municipality who is, ex officio,
194 registrar of vital statistics in such [town] municipality, and the registrar
195 of vital statistics of any [town] municipality who is elected under a
196 special law or otherwise appointed pursuant to law, may, unless
197 otherwise provided by charter or ordinance, appoint in writing suitable
198 persons as assistant registrars of vital statistics, who, on being sworn,
199 shall have the powers and perform the duties of such registrar during
200 the time for which they are appointed, not extending beyond the term

201 of office of such registrar. Not later than ten days after a [town]
202 municipal clerk or registrar of vital statistics appoints an assistant
203 registrar of vital statistics, the [town] clerk or registrar of vital statistics
204 shall file a notice of such appointment with the Secretary of the State,
205 indicating the name and address of the person appointed, the date and
206 method of such appointment and the law under which the appointment
207 was made. Not later than ten days after a vacancy occurs in the office of
208 assistant registrar of vital statistics, the [town] clerk or registrar of vital
209 statistics shall notify the Secretary of the State of such vacancy.

210 Sec. 7. Section 7-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the
211 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

212 The moderator of any [town] municipal election at which a registrar
213 of vital statistics elected under special law has been elected may
214 administer to such registrar the oath required by law.

215 Sec. 8. Section 7-40 of the general statutes is repealed and the
216 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

217 The registrar of vital statistics in each [town] municipality shall have
218 an official seal that shall be provided by the [town] municipality and
219 shall be used to authenticate certificates and copies of record. No person,
220 other than the registrar of vital statistics or the registrar's authorized
221 agent, may possess any such official seal or any facsimile thereof.

222 Sec. 9. Section 7-42 of the general statutes is repealed and the
223 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

224 Each registrar of vital statistics shall ascertain, as accurately as the
225 registrar [can] is able, all marriages, deaths and fetal deaths, and all
226 births, upon the affidavit of the father or mother, occurring in the
227 registrar's [town] municipality, and record the same in such form and
228 with such particulars as are prescribed by the department. The registrar
229 shall give licenses to marry, according to provisions of law, shall make
230 and perfect all records of the birth and death of the persons born or
231 deceased in the registrar's [town] municipality, and, when any birth or

232 death happens of which no certificate is returned to the registrar, shall
233 obtain the information required by law respecting such birth or death.
234 The registrar shall ensure that all certificates of birth, marriage, death
235 and fetal death are fully completed before accepting the certificate for
236 filing. The registrar shall include the Social Security numbers of both
237 persons on all marriage licenses. The registrar shall make available to all
238 persons in the registrar's [town] municipality who, in the registrar's
239 judgment, are likely to need them, blank forms for the certificates and
240 returns required by law to be made to the registrar, and shall amend or
241 correct certificates of births, marriages, deaths and fetal deaths that
242 occurred in the registrar's [town] municipality, and the records thereof,
243 whenever the registrar discovers transcribing, typographical or clerical
244 errors upon the face thereof. When the registrar makes a correction on a
245 certificate of birth, marriage, death or fetal death, the registrar shall,
246 [within] not later than ten days after making such correction, forward
247 an authenticated copy of the corrected certificate to the department and
248 any other registrar having a copy of the certificate. The registrar shall
249 maintain sufficient documentation, as prescribed by the commissioner,
250 to support such correction, and shall ensure the confidentiality of such
251 documentation as required by law. The date of the correction and a
252 summary description of the evidence submitted in support of the
253 correction shall be made part of the record. The certificate shall not be
254 marked "Amended" unless an amendment is made as provided in
255 subdivision (10) of section 7-36, as amended by this act. The registrar
256 shall record on each certificate of birth, marriage, death or fetal death
257 received for record the date of its receipt, by writing on the certificate or
258 through electronic means. The registrar of vital statistics from the [town]
259 municipality where a child was born may electronically access birth
260 data for such child to make corrections and amendments as requested
261 by the parent or parents, the reporting hospital, or the department,
262 excluding amendments regarding parentage and gender change.
263 Amendments to vital records made by the registrar of vital statistics in
264 the [town] municipality of occurrence shall be made in accordance with
265 section 19a-42. The registrar shall keep the records of the registrar's
266 office, when a fireproof safe is not provided for the registrar's use, in the

267 vaults provided for the land records of the [town] municipality. The
268 registrar may, with the approval of the department, store any records
269 not in current use in a location other than the registrar's office or such
270 vaults, provided such location shall be approved by the Public Records
271 Administrator, and provided such location is within the limits of such
272 [town] municipality. The registrar shall, on or before the fifteenth day
273 of each month, send to the commissioner an authenticated copy of each
274 certificate of birth, marriage, death and fetal death received by the
275 registrar for the calendar month next preceding or a notification that no
276 such certificate has been received. Such notification shall be in a format
277 prescribed by the department. Copies of certificates of births, marriages,
278 deaths and fetal deaths, transmitted to the commissioner as required
279 under this section, shall be plain, complete and legible transcripts of the
280 certificates. If a transcript is illegible or incomplete, the commissioner
281 shall require of the registrar a complete or legible copy. Each registrar
282 of vital statistics shall also transmit to the registrars of voters for the
283 registrar's [town] municipality a notice of the death of any person
284 seventeen years of age or older, at the same time the registrar transmits
285 the authenticated copy of the certificate of death, for such person to the
286 commissioner under this section.

287 Sec. 10. Section 7-44 of the general statutes is repealed and the
288 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

289 (a) When it appears from the certificate of a birth, marriage, death or
290 fetal death filed with any registrar of vital statistics that the residence of
291 the mother of the child or that of either of the parties to the marriage or
292 that of the deceased was in some other [town] municipality in this state
293 at the time of such birth, marriage, death or fetal death, such registrar
294 shall at once transmit an authenticated copy of such certificate of birth,
295 marriage, death or fetal death, including all information contained on
296 such certificate, to the registrar of the [town] municipality in which the
297 mother of such child or either of the contracting parties to such marriage
298 or such deceased resided at the time of such birth, marriage, death or
299 fetal death. Such copy shall be in the format prescribed by the
300 department. Any registrar of vital statistics of any [town or city]

301 municipality in this state, receiving such authenticated copy of a birth,
302 marriage, death or fetal death certificate from a registrar of a [town or
303 city] municipality in this state, shall record the same, but shall not
304 transmit a copy thereof to the commissioner.

305 (b) Any registrar of vital statistics of any [town or city] municipality
306 in this state who has authorized access to an electronic vital records
307 system may meet the certificate filing requirements of this section by
308 using such system, except that if the [town] municipality of residence
309 does not have access to such system, the registrar of the [town]
310 municipality in which the vital event occurred shall use manual
311 procedures to transmit an authenticated copy of the certificate to the
312 registrar of the [town] municipality of residence.

313 (c) Each registrar of vital statistics in this state with authorized access
314 to the electronic vital records system of the department may access vital
315 records through such system for the purpose of viewing, printing and
316 issuing certificates to authorized individuals in accordance with
317 sections 7-51, as amended by this act, and 7-51a, as amended by this act.
318 Only the registrar of the [town] municipality in which the vital event
319 occurred or the department may make corrections or amendments to
320 any such certificates.

321 Sec. 11. Section 7-46 of the general statutes is repealed and the
322 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

323 The registrars shall complete the records of their respective [towns]
324 municipalities by adding thereto a record of all the births, marriages,
325 deaths and fetal deaths that have occurred in such [towns]
326 municipalities since the date of incorporation of such [towns]
327 municipalities, of which no certificate has been returned to their office,
328 provided the facts upon which such record is made have been obtained
329 from the record of a public official, a church society or under section 7-
330 42, as amended by this act, 7-48, as amended by this act, or 7-62b, as
331 amended by this act, and such record shall indicate the source from
332 which such facts were obtained.

333 Sec. 12. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 7-48 of the general statutes
334 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
335 *October 1, 2023*):

336 (a) Not later than ten days after each live birth [which] that occurs in
337 this state, a birth certificate shall be filed with the registrar of vital
338 statistics in the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which the birth
339 occurred and the certificate shall be registered if properly filed, by
340 manual or electronic systems as prescribed by the commissioner. On
341 and after January 1, 1994, each hospital with two hundred or more live
342 births in calendar year 1990, or any subsequent calendar year, shall
343 electronically transmit birth information data to the department in a
344 computer format approved by the department. Each birth certificate
345 shall contain such information as the department may require and shall
346 be completed in its entirety. Medical and health information [which]
347 that is required by the department, including information regarding
348 voluntary acknowledgments of paternity and whether the child was
349 born out of wedlock, shall be recorded on a confidential portion of the
350 certificate to be sent directly to the department. Such confidential
351 records may be used for statistical and health purposes by the
352 department or by a local director of health, as authorized by the
353 department, for records related to the [town] municipality or
354 jurisdiction served by the local director of health and where the mother
355 was a resident at the time of the birth of the child. Such birth certificate
356 and confidential records may be used internally by the hospital for
357 records transmitted by the hospital for statistical, health and quality
358 assurance purposes. The department shall give due consideration to
359 national uniformity in vital statistics in prescribing the format and
360 content of such certificate.

361 (b) When a birth occurs in an institution or en route thereto, the
362 person in charge of the institution or such person's designated
363 representative shall obtain all available data required by the certificate,
364 prepare the certificate, certify that the child was born alive at the place
365 and time and on the date stated either by signature or by an electronic
366 process approved by the commissioner and file the certificate with the

367 registrar of vital statistics in the [town] municipality in which the birth
368 occurred, not later than ten days after such birth. The physician or other
369 person in attendance, and the physician, institution or other person
370 providing prenatal care, shall provide the medical information required
371 by the certificate not later than seventy-two hours after the birth.

372 Sec. 13. Subsection (c) of section 7-48a of the general statutes is
373 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
374 *1, 2023*):

375 (c) Immediately after a replacement certificate of birth has been
376 prepared, the department shall transmit an exact copy of such certificate
377 to the registrar of vital statistics of the [town of] municipality or
378 jurisdiction in which the birth occurred and to any other registrar as the
379 department deems appropriate. Such registrar shall proceed in
380 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-42.

381 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 7-50 of the general statutes is
382 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
383 *1, 2023*):

384 (a) No certificate of birth shall contain any specific statement that the
385 child was born to parents married or unmarried to each other, except
386 that information on whether the child was born to parents married or
387 unmarried to each other and the marital status of the person who gave
388 birth shall be recorded on a confidential portion of the certificate
389 pursuant to section 7-48, as amended by this act. Upon the completion
390 of an acknowledgment of parentage at a hospital, concurrent with the
391 hospital's electronic transmission of birth data to the department, or at
392 a [town] municipality in the case of a home birth, concurrent with the
393 registration of the birth data by the [town] municipality, the
394 acknowledgment shall be filed in the parentage registry maintained by
395 the department, as required by section 19a-42a, and the name of the
396 acknowledged parent shall be entered in or upon the birth certificate or
397 birth record of such child. All properly completed post birth
398 acknowledgments or certified adjudications of parentage received by
399 the department shall be filed in the parentage registry maintained by

400 the department, and the name of the acknowledged parent shall be
401 entered in or upon the birth record or certificate of such child by the
402 department, if there is no parentage, other than the person who gave
403 birth, already recorded on the birth certificate. If the certificate already
404 contains the information of a parent other than the person who gave
405 birth, information shall not be removed except upon receipt by the
406 department of a certified order by a court of competent jurisdiction in
407 which there is a finding that the individual recorded on the birth
408 certificate, specifically referenced by name, is not the child's parent, or a
409 finding that a different individual than the one recorded, specifically
410 referenced by name, is the child's parent. The name of the parent on a
411 birth certificate or birth record shall otherwise be removed or changed
412 only upon the filing of a rescission in such registry, as provided in
413 section 19a-42a. The Social Security number of the father of a nonmarital
414 child may be entered in or upon the birth certificate or birth record of
415 such child if such entry is done in accordance with 5 USC 552a.

416 Sec. 15. Section 7-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the
417 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

418 (a) (1) The department and registrars of vital statistics shall restrict
419 access to and issuance of a certified copy of birth and fetal death records
420 and certificates less than one hundred years old, to the following eligible
421 parties: (A) The person whose birth is recorded, if such person is (i) over
422 eighteen years of age, (ii) a certified homeless youth, as defined in
423 section 7-36, as amended by this act, or (iii) a minor emancipated
424 pursuant to sections 46b-150 to 46b-150e, inclusive; (B) such person's
425 child, grandchild, spouse, parent, guardian or grandparent; (C) the chief
426 executive officer of the municipality where the birth or fetal death
427 occurred, or the chief executive officer's authorized agent; (D) the local
428 director of health for the [town or city] municipality or jurisdiction
429 where the birth or fetal death occurred or where the person who gave
430 birth was a resident at the time of the birth or fetal death, or the director's
431 authorized agent; (E) attorneys-at-law representing such person or such
432 person's parent, guardian, child or surviving spouse; (F) a conservator
433 of the person appointed for such person; (G) a member of a genealogical

434 society incorporated or authorized by the Secretary of the State to do
435 business or conduct affairs in this state; (H) an agent of a state or federal
436 agency as approved by the department; and (I) a researcher approved
437 by the department pursuant to section 19a-25.

438 (2) Except as provided in section 7-53 and section 19a-42a, access to
439 confidential files on parentage, adoption, gender change or surrogacy
440 agreements, or information contained within such files, shall not be
441 released to any party, including the eligible parties listed in subdivision
442 (1) of this subsection, except upon an order of a court of competent
443 jurisdiction.

444 (b) No person other than the eligible parties listed in subsection (a) of
445 this section shall be entitled to examine or receive a copy of any birth or
446 fetal death record or certificate, access the information contained
447 therein, or disclose any matter contained therein, except upon written
448 order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this section shall
449 be construed to permit disclosure to any person, including the eligible
450 parties listed in subsection (a) of this section, of information contained
451 in the "information for health and statistical use only" section or the
452 "administrative purposes only" section of a birth certificate, unless
453 specifically authorized by the department for statistical or research
454 purposes. The Social Security number of the parent or parents listed on
455 any birth certificate shall not be released to any party, except to those
456 persons or entities authorized by state or federal law. Such confidential
457 information, other than the excluded information set forth in this
458 subsection, shall not be subject to subpoena or court order and shall not
459 be admissible before any court or other tribunal.

460 (c) (1) The registrar of the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which
461 the birth or fetal death occurred or of the [town] municipality or
462 jurisdiction in which the birth parent resided at the time of the birth or
463 fetal death, or the department, may issue a certified copy of the
464 certificate of birth or fetal death of any person born in this state that is
465 kept in paper form in the custody of the registrar. Except as provided in
466 subdivision (2) of this subsection, such certificate shall be issued upon

467 the written request of an eligible party listed in subsection (a) of this
468 section. Any registrar of vital statistics in this state with access, as
469 authorized by the department, to the electronic vital records system of
470 the department may issue a certified copy of the electronically filed
471 certificate of birth or fetal death of any person born in this state upon
472 the written request of an eligible party listed in subsection (a) of this
473 section. The registrar and the department may waive the fee for the
474 issuance of a certified copy of the certificate of birth of a certified
475 homeless [young adult] youth to such [young adult] certified homeless
476 youth under this subsection.

477 (2) In the case of a certified homeless youth, such certified homeless
478 youth and the person who is certifying the certified homeless youth as
479 homeless, as described in section 7-36, as amended by this act, shall
480 appear in person when the certified homeless youth is presenting the
481 written request described in subdivision (1) of this subsection at (A) the
482 office of the registrar of the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which
483 the certified homeless youth was born, (B) the office of the registrar of
484 the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which the birth parent of the
485 certified homeless youth resided at the time of the birth, (C) if the birth
486 certificate of the certified homeless youth has been electronically filed,
487 any registrar of vital statistics in the state with access, as authorized by
488 the department, to the electronic vital records system, or (D) the state
489 vital records office of the department. The certified homeless youth shall
490 present to the registrar or the department information sufficient to
491 identify [himself or herself] such certified homeless youth as may be
492 required by regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to
493 section 7-41. The person who is certifying the certified homeless youth
494 as homeless shall present to the registrar or the department information
495 sufficient to identify [himself or herself] the certified homeless youth as
496 meeting the certification requirements of section 7-36, as amended by
497 this act. The registrar and the department may waive the fee for the
498 issuance of a certified copy of the certificate of birth of a certified
499 homeless youth to such certified homeless youth under this subsection.

500 (d) The department and each registrar of vital statistics shall issue

501 only certified copies of birth certificates or fetal death certificates, except
502 as provided in sections 7-51a, as amended by this act, and 7-53.

503 Sec. 16. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 7-51a of the general statutes
504 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
505 *October 1, 2023*):

506 (c) For deaths occurring on or after July 1, 1997, the Social Security
507 number of the deceased person shall be recorded in the "administrative
508 purposes" section of the death certificate. Such administrative purposes
509 section, and the Social Security number contained therein, shall be
510 restricted and disclosed only to the following eligible parties: (1) All
511 parties specified on the death certificate, including the informant,
512 licensed funeral director, licensed embalmer, conservator, surviving
513 spouse, physician or advanced practice registered nurse and [town]
514 municipal clerk, for the purpose of processing the certificate, (2) the
515 surviving spouse, (3) the next of kin, or (4) any state and federal agencies
516 authorized by federal law. The department shall provide any other
517 individual, researcher or state or federal agency requesting a certified or
518 uncertified death certificate, or the information contained within such
519 certificate, for a death occurring on or after July 1, 1997, such certificate
520 or information. The decedent's Social Security number shall be removed
521 or redacted from such certificate or information or the administrative
522 purposes section shall be omitted from such certificate.

523 (d) The registrar of vital statistics of any [town or city] municipality
524 in this state that has access to an electronic vital records system, as
525 authorized by the department, may use such system to issue certified
526 copies of birth, death, fetal death or marriage certificates that are
527 electronically filed in such system.

528 Sec. 17. Section 7-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the
529 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

530 (a) The registrar of vital statistics of the [town] municipality or
531 jurisdiction in which the birth occurred, the registrar of vital statistics of
532 the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which the mother resided at

533 the time of the birth or the department shall issue, upon the request of
534 the person to whom the record of birth relates, if over sixteen years of
535 age, or of a parent, guardian, spouse, child, if over eighteen years of age,
536 grandparent or legal representative of such person, a certification of
537 birth registration, which shall contain the name, sex, date of birth, place
538 of birth and date of filing and registration of the certificate of birth of the
539 person to whom it relates, and any other identifying information
540 prescribed by the commissioner.

541 (b) The registrar of vital statistics of any [town or city] municipality
542 or jurisdiction in this state that has access to an electronic vital records
543 system, as authorized by the department, may use such system to issue,
544 in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a
545 certification of birth registration for such births that are electronically
546 filed in such system.

547 Sec. 18. Section 7-55 of the general statutes is repealed and the
548 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

549 Any certification of birth, when properly certified by the registrar of
550 the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which the birth occurred or of
551 the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which the mother resided at
552 the time of the birth or the Department of Public Health, shall be prima
553 facie evidence of the facts therein stated in all courts and places and in
554 all actions, proceedings or applications, judicial, administrative or
555 otherwise, and such certification of birth shall have the same force and
556 effect, wherever offered, with respect to the facts therein stated as an
557 original certificate of birth.

558 Sec. 19. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 7-57 of the general statutes
559 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
560 *October 1, 2023*):

561 (a) Any adult or the parent or legal guardian of any minor who is one
562 year of age or older, for whose birth there is no certificate [is] on file,
563 may request a delayed registration of birth by submitting to the
564 department [his or her] an affidavit and the affidavits of two other

565 persons having [first hand] first-hand knowledge of the facts relating to
566 such birth, made under oath and in the manner and form prescribed by
567 the commissioner. An adult, parent or legal guardian requesting a
568 delayed registration of birth shall also submit to the department
569 documentary evidence of the name, date and place of birth of the person
570 for whom a delayed registration of birth is requested. Such
571 documentary evidence shall be sufficient to enable the department to
572 determine that the birth did, in fact, occur on the date and at the place
573 alleged by the adult, parent or legal guardian making the request. If the
574 department determines that the evidence submitted is sufficient to
575 determine the facts of the birth, the department shall prepare a birth
576 certificate based upon the information contained in the affidavits and
577 other documentary evidence submitted to the department. The
578 department shall transmit a copy of such certificate to the registrar of
579 the [town] municipality where the birth occurred and to the registrar of
580 the [town] municipality where the mother resided at the time of birth.

581 (b) If the department denies the request for a delayed registration of
582 birth, such adult, parent or legal guardian may petition the court of
583 probate for the district where such birth occurred for an order requiring
584 the department to prepare a certificate of birth of such adult or such
585 minor. The petitioner shall include with the petition the affidavits and
586 other documentary evidence submitted to the department in accordance
587 with subsection (a) of this section. Such court shall schedule a hearing
588 and cause notice of the hearing to be given to the following persons: (1)
589 The petitioner; (2) if the delayed registration of birth is sought for a
590 minor, (A) the parent or legal guardian of the minor, and (B) if the minor
591 is twelve years of age or older, the minor; (3) the commissioner; and (4)
592 any such other person as the court may determine has an interest in the
593 hearing. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized
594 representative may appear and testify at such hearing. The petitioner
595 shall have the burden of proving the facts of the birth. If the court finds
596 by a preponderance of the evidence that the birth occurred on the date
597 and at the place alleged by the petitioner, the court shall issue an order
598 containing the person's name, sex, date of birth, place of birth and any
599 other identifying information as the court deems appropriate and

600 directing the department to issue a delayed birth certificate. Upon
601 receipt of a certified copy of any such order, the department shall
602 prepare a birth certificate based on the facts set forth in the court's order
603 and transmit a copy of the certificate to the registrar of the [town]
604 municipality where the birth occurred and to the registrar of the [town]
605 municipality where the mother resided at the time of birth.

606 Sec. 20. Section 7-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the
607 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

608 Any American citizen who becomes the parent of a child or children
609 born outside the United States, and who was a resident of this state at
610 the time of leaving the United States, may file, with the [town] clerk of
611 the [town] municipality in which [the parents reside] such parent
612 resides or resided, a certified copy of the record of birth of such child or
613 children issued to the [parents] parent by an official authorized to issue
614 such records of birth at the place of birth. When such certified copy has
615 been filed, copies of such record of birth may be issued by such [town]
616 clerk in the manner prescribed by law.

617 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 7-59 of the general statutes is
618 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
619 *1, 2023*):

620 (a) The executive authority of any agency or institution, upon
621 accepting the temporary custody of any foundling, shall, not later than
622 ten days after the date of such acceptance, report to the registrar of vital
623 statistics of the [town or city] municipality where such foundling was
624 found or voluntarily surrendered, in a format prescribed by the
625 department, as follows: The date and place of finding where voluntarily
626 surrendered, the sex, the race, the approximate age, the name and
627 address of such agency or institution and the name given to the child.
628 Except for an infant voluntarily surrendered pursuant to the provisions
629 of section 17a-58, if a child for whom a report of foundling has been
630 registered is later identified and a certificate of birth is found or
631 obtained, the certificate of birth shall be substituted and the report of
632 foundling shall be sealed and filed in a confidential file, and such seal

633 may be broken and the record inspected only upon order of a court of
634 competent jurisdiction. The certificate prescribed by this section shall
635 include such additional information as the department requires.

636 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 7-62b of the general statutes is
637 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
638 *1, 2023*):

639 (a) A death certificate for each death which occurs in this state shall
640 be completed in its entirety and filed with the registrar of vital statistics
641 in the [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which the death occurred
642 not later than five business days after death if filing a paper certificate
643 and not later than three calendar days after death if filing through an
644 electronic death registry system, in order to obtain a burial permit prior
645 to final disposition. The death certificate shall be registered if properly
646 filed. If the place of death is unknown but the body is found in this state,
647 the death certificate shall be completed and filed in accordance with this
648 section, provided the place where the body is found shall be shown as
649 the place of death.

650 Sec. 23. Section 7-65 of the general statutes is repealed and the
651 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

652 (a) The embalmer or funeral director licensed by the department, or
653 licensed in a state having a reciprocal agreement on file with the
654 department and complying with the terms of such agreement, who
655 assumes custody of a dead body shall obtain a removal, transit and
656 burial permit from the registrar of the [town] municipality or
657 jurisdiction in which the death occurred or the [town] municipality or
658 jurisdiction in which the embalmer or funeral director maintains a place
659 of business not later than five calendar days after death, and prior to
660 final disposition or removal of the body from the state. The embalmer
661 or funeral director who assumes custody and control of the body and
662 obtains a removal, transit and burial permit from the registrar of the
663 [town] municipality or jurisdiction in which the embalmer or funeral
664 director maintains a place of business shall [be obligated to] file the
665 death certificate, in accordance with the provisions of section 7-62b, as

666 amended by this act, in person, through an electronic registry system or
667 by certified mail, return receipt requested. The removal, transit and
668 burial permit shall specify the place of burial or other place of interment
669 and state that the death certificate and any other certificate required by
670 law have been returned and recorded.

671 (b) A local registrar shall appoint not less than two suitable persons
672 as subregistrars, who shall be authorized to issue removal, transit and
673 burial permits and cremation permits for any death that occurs in such
674 registrar's [town] municipality, during the hours in which the office of
675 the registrar of vital records is closed. The appointment of subregistrars
676 shall be made in writing, with the approval of the chief elected official
677 of such [town] municipality, and shall be made with reference to
678 locality, to best accommodate the inhabitants of the [town] municipality.
679 Such subregistrars shall be sworn, and their term of office shall not
680 extend beyond the term of office of the appointing registrar. The names
681 of such subregistrars shall be reported to the Department of Public
682 Health. The Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
683 and associate medical examiners shall be considered subregistrars of
684 any [town] municipality in which death occurs for the sole purpose of
685 issuing removal, transit and burial permits.

686 (c) A subregistrar shall issue a removal, transit and burial permit
687 upon receipt of a completed death certificate as provided in section 7-
688 62b, as amended by this act. A subregistrar shall forward any such
689 certificate upon which a removal, transit and burial permit is issued to
690 the registrar of the [town] municipality where the death occurred, not
691 later than seven days after receiving such certificate.

692 (d) The fee for such removal, transit and burial permit shall be paid
693 to the [town] municipality issuing the removal, transit and burial
694 permit.

695 Sec. 24. Section 7-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the
696 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

697 (a) The sexton of a cemetery shall specify on the removal, transit and

698 burial permit the place of burial, by section, lot or grave, or other place
699 of interment. If the removal, transit and burial permit is recorded in an
700 electronic death registry system, the sexton shall enter the place of burial
701 in such system not later than three days after the date of the burial. For
702 any removal, transit and burial permit in a paper format, the sexton shall
703 forward such completed and signed removal, transit and burial permit
704 to the registrar of the [town] municipality where the body is buried, and
705 send a copy of such removal, transit and burial permit to the registrar of
706 the [town where] municipality in which the death occurred. For any
707 disinterment of a body, the sexton who is in charge of reintering such
708 body shall: (1) Complete a disinterment permit as required pursuant to
709 section 7-67, as amended by this act, specifying the place of reinterment
710 by section, lot or grave, or other place of interment; (2) return a
711 completed disinterment permit to the registrar of the [town]
712 municipality where the body is buried; and (3) send a copy of such
713 disinterment permit to the registrar of the [town] municipality where
714 the death occurred. Any removal, burial and transit permit and
715 disinterment permit in a paper format shall be forwarded to the proper
716 registrar by the first week of the month following interment or
717 disinterment.

718 (b) For a body that is placed temporarily in a receiving vault of any
719 cemetery and subsequently buried in the same cemetery, no additional
720 removal, burial and transit permit shall be required. In each case herein
721 provided for, the sexton of such cemetery shall endorse upon the
722 removal, transit and burial permit the date when the body was placed
723 in the temporary receiving vault, and the date when and the place where
724 such body was subsequently buried. If such subsequent burial is to be
725 in any cemetery other than the cemetery where the body was
726 temporarily deposited or if the body is to be cremated, the sexton shall
727 return the original burial permit to the registrar of the [town]
728 municipality where death occurred, who shall thereupon issue another
729 removal, burial and transit, or cremation permit if necessary.

730 (c) Each sexton having charge of any burial place shall report all
731 interments, disinterments and removals made by such sexton to the

732 registrar of the [town] municipality where the cemetery is located. If the
733 death is recorded in an electronic death registry system, a sexton shall
734 fulfill the requirements of this subsection by completing the removal,
735 transit and burial permit in such registry system. For any removal,
736 transit and burial permit in a paper format, the sexton shall forward to
737 the registrar of the [town] municipality where the cemetery is located a
738 monthly list of all interments, disinterments and removals of bodies in
739 temporary receiving vaults. Such list shall be due during the first week
740 of the month following the month in which the sexton completed the
741 interments, disinterments and removals of bodies in temporary
742 receiving vaults.

743 (d) Any sexton who violates the provisions of subsections (a) and (b)
744 of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony. Any sexton who fails to
745 make the appropriate filing of reports as required by subsection (c) of
746 this section, by the end of the third week of a month to the registrar of
747 the [town] municipality where the cemetery is located, shall be subject
748 to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars per day.

749 Sec. 25. Section 7-67 of the general statutes is repealed and the
750 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

751 (a) No person shall open any grave for the disinterment of the body
752 of any person in any cemetery or burial place or disinter or remove any
753 dead body from the [town] municipality in which the death took place,
754 without having procured a disinterment permit from the local registrar
755 of vital statistics of the [town] municipality where the body is buried or
756 the local registrar of vital statistics where the death occurred, or an order
757 from a Superior Court judge as provided in section 19a-413.

758 (b) An embalmer or funeral director licensed by the department or
759 licensed by a state having a reciprocal agreement on file with the
760 department, or an individual designated by an order issued by a judge
761 of the Superior Court, pursuant to the provisions of section 19a-413, may
762 apply for a disinterment permit. Such application shall be made to the
763 registrar of vital statistics of the [town] municipality where the body is
764 buried or to the registrar of vital statistics of the [town] municipality

765 where the death occurred. The disinterment permit shall state the place
766 where the body is presently interred and the place where the body will
767 be reinterred.

768 (c) No permit for the disinterment of the body of any deceased person
769 shall be issued in any case where the death was caused by a
770 communicable disease, except by the permission and under the
771 direction of the local director of health of the [town] municipality where
772 the body is interred.

773 Sec. 26. Section 7-69 of the general statutes is repealed and the
774 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

775 No person except a licensed embalmer or funeral director licensed by
776 the department, or licensed in a state having a reciprocal agreement on
777 file with the department and complying with the terms of such
778 agreement, shall remove the body of a deceased person, except that once
779 the body of a deceased person has been embalmed or prepared in
780 accordance with the Public Health Code and applicable provisions of
781 the general statutes, a licensed embalmer or funeral director may
782 authorize an unlicensed employee to transport such body. No person
783 except a licensed embalmer or funeral director licensed by the
784 department, or licensed in a state having a reciprocal agreement on file
785 with the department, shall remove the body of any deceased person
786 from this state to another state until a removal, transit and burial permit
787 has been issued in accordance with section 7-65, as amended by this act.
788 No removal, transit and burial permit shall be issued unless the death
789 certificate has been signed by a licensed embalmer or funeral director
790 licensed by the department, or licensed in a state having a reciprocal
791 agreement on file with the department and complying with the terms of
792 such agreement. In the case of a deceased person who, at the time of
793 death, had a communicable disease specified by the Public Health Code,
794 the permit shall certify that the body was prepared in accordance with
795 [the regulations of] the Public Health Code. Such permit shall be
796 sufficient to permit the burial of such deceased person in any [town]
797 municipality in this state other than the [town] municipality in which

798 such person died, without a burial permit from the registrar of the
799 [town] municipality where such person is to be buried. If the body of a
800 deceased person is brought into the state for burial or cremation and is
801 accompanied by a removal, transit and burial permit, or a permit for
802 final disposition indicating the manner and place of final disposition of
803 the body, issued by the legally constituted authorities of the state from
804 which such body was brought, such permit shall be received as
805 sufficient authority for burial or cremation; except, [that,] if such body
806 is not accompanied by such permit, the person or persons in charge of
807 such body shall apply for a burial permit to the registrar of vital statistics
808 of the [town] municipality in which such body is to be buried, and such
809 registrar shall issue such permit when furnished with such information
810 as to the identity of the deceased person and the cause of death as is
811 required by section 7-62b, as amended by this act, concerning a person
812 dying in this state. Any person who violates any provision of this
813 section, or who knowingly signs a false permit or knowingly allows a
814 false permit to be used in lieu of a permit required by this section, shall
815 be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more
816 than six months, or both.

817 Sec. 27. Section 7-71 of the general statutes is repealed and the
818 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

819 The secretary or committee of each cemetery association in any
820 [town] municipality shall report to the registrar of the [town]
821 municipality in which the cemetery is situated the name of the sexton in
822 charge of the cemetery of such association.

823 Sec. 28. Section 7-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the
824 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

825 The fees due registrars of vital statistics for the making of records,
826 copies and endorsements relating to births, deaths, fetal deaths and
827 marriages, when the residence of the parents of the child or of the
828 deceased or of either party to a marriage is in some other [town]
829 municipality in this state than that in which the birth, death, fetal death
830 or marriage occurred, shall be paid by such other [town] municipality

831 except as they relate to vital statistics of inmates of any state institution.
832 The fees paid by such other [town] municipality shall not exceed two
833 dollars for each such record, copy or endorsement. All bills for such fees
834 shall be submitted by such registrars to such other [towns]
835 municipalities on or before February first of each year, provided if a bill
836 amounts to less than twenty-six dollars, no bill shall be sent and the
837 amount shall not be due. If the registrar of vital statistics of any [town
838 or city] municipality receives a salary for the performance of the
839 registrar's duties, the amount of fees due under the provisions of this
840 section shall be paid to such [town or city] municipality.

841 Sec. 29. Section 19a-409 of the general statutes is repealed and the
842 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

843 The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall complete its
844 investigation where reasonably possible within thirty days. Upon
845 completion of the investigation, the Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy
846 Chief Medical Examiner, an associate medical examiner, an authorized
847 assistant medical examiner or a pathologist designated by the Chief
848 Medical Examiner shall file a death certificate, or a certificate
849 supplementing that already filed, with the registrar of vital statistics for
850 the town or jurisdiction in which the death occurred, if known, or, if not
851 known, for the town or jurisdiction in which the body was found. If the
852 deceased is unidentified, fingerprints of both hands and a photograph
853 of the body, provided mortification has not proceeded so far or the
854 nature of the cause of death was not such as to make identification
855 impossible, shall be sent by said office to such registrar of vital statistics
856 and copies shall be sent to the Department of Public Health and to the
857 Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services
858 and Public Protection. As used in this section, "jurisdiction" means a
859 location in the state where land is held in trust by the United States for
860 a federally recognized Indian tribe.

861 Sec. 30. Section 20-14s of the general statutes is repealed and the
862 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

863 A prescribing practitioner, as defined in section 20-14c, who

864 prescribes an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o, for the treatment
865 of pain for a patient for a duration greater than twelve weeks shall
866 establish a treatment agreement with the patient or discuss a care plan
867 for the chronic use of opioids with the patient. The treatment agreement
868 or care plan shall, at a minimum, include treatment goals, risks of using
869 opioids, urine drug screens and expectations regarding the continuing
870 treatment of pain with opioids, such as situations requiring
871 discontinuation of opioid treatment and, to the extent possible,
872 nonopioid treatment options, including, but not limited to,
873 manipulation, chiropractic, spinal cord stimulation, massage therapy,
874 acupuncture, physical therapy and other treatment regimens or
875 modalities. A record of the treatment agreement or care plan shall be
876 recorded in the patient's medical record.

877 Sec. 31. Subdivision (1) of section 17b-307a of the general statutes is
878 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
879 *1, 2023*):

880 (1) "Collaborative Care Model" or "CoCM" means the integrated
881 delivery of behavioral health and primary care services by a primary
882 care team that includes a primary care provider, a behavioral care
883 manager, a psychiatric consultant and a [data base] database used by
884 the behavioral care manager to track patient progress;

885 Sec. 32. Subsection (g) of section 20-195n of the general statutes is
886 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
887 *1, 2023*):

888 (g) The commissioner shall notify each applicant who is approved to
889 take an examination required under subsection (b), (c), (d) or (e) of this
890 section that such applicant may be eligible for testing accommodations
891 pursuant to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101
892 et seq., as amended from time to time, or other accommodations, as
893 determined by the Association of Social Work Boards, or its successor
894 organization, which may include the use of a dictionary while taking
895 such examination and additional time within which to take such
896 examination.

897 Sec. 33. Subdivisions (104) and (105) of subsection (a) of section 10-
898 29a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted
899 in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

900 (104) [Maternal Mental Health Month.] The Governor shall proclaim
901 the month of May of each year to be Maternal Mental Health Month, to
902 raise awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental health. Suitable
903 exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the
904 Governor designates for the observance of the month.

905 (105) [Maternal Mental Health Day.] The Governor shall proclaim
906 May fifth of each year to be Maternal Mental Health Day, to raise
907 awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental health. Suitable
908 exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the
909 Governor designates for the observance of the day.

910 Sec. 34. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17a-476 of the general
911 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
912 (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

913 (a) Any general hospital, municipality or nonprofit organization in
914 Connecticut may apply to the Department of Mental Health and
915 Addiction Services for funds to establish, expand or maintain
916 psychiatric or mental health services. The application for funds shall be
917 submitted on forms provided by the Department of Mental Health and
918 Addiction Services, and shall be accompanied by (1) a definition of the
919 towns and areas to be served; (2) a plan by means of which the applicant
920 proposes to coordinate its activities with those of other local agencies
921 presently supplying mental health services or contributing in any way
922 to the mental health of the area; (3) a description of the services to be
923 provided, and the methods through which these services will be
924 provided; and (4) indication of the methods that will be employed to
925 effect a balance in the use of state and local resources so as to foster local
926 initiative, responsibility and participation. In accordance with
927 subdivision (4) of section 17a-480, as amended by this act, the regional
928 behavioral health action organization serving the mental health region
929 in which the applicant is located shall review each such application with

930 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and make
931 recommendations to the department with respect to each such
932 application.

933 (b) Upon receipt of the application with the recommendations of the
934 regional behavioral health action organization and approval by the
935 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the department
936 shall grant such funds by way of a contract or grant-in-aid within the
937 appropriation for any annual fiscal year. No funds authorized by this
938 section shall be used for the construction or renovation of buildings.

939 Sec. 35. Section 17a-480 of the general statutes is repealed and the
940 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

941 The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
942 consultation with regional behavioral health action organizations,
943 established pursuant to section 17a-484f, (1) may purchase services from
944 other public agencies and from municipal and private agencies, (2) shall
945 supervise, plan and coordinate mental health services with the goal of
946 improving and expanding existing services and providing new ones, (3)
947 shall develop joint programs in conformity with Department of Mental
948 Health and Addiction Services standards, (4) shall make
949 recommendations concerning all requests for grants and all contract
950 proposals emanating from the regions, (5) shall evaluate mental health
951 service delivery and monitor such services to insure that they are in
952 conformity with the plans and policies of the Department of Mental
953 Health and Addiction Services, and (6) shall report annually to the
954 Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services on the status of
955 programs and needs of the regions.

956 Sec. 36. Section 17a-482 of the general statutes is repealed and the
957 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

958 As used in this section, subsection (a) of section 17a-476, as amended
959 by this act, sections 17a-478 to 17a-480, inclusive, as amended by this act,
960 [and sections 17a-482] and section 17a-483, unless the context otherwise
961 requires: "Catchment area" means any geographical area within the state

962 established as such by the Commissioner of Mental Health and
963 Addiction Services, the boundaries of which may be redesignated by
964 said commissioner when deemed necessary to equalize the population
965 of each area and in such manner as is consistent with the boundaries of
966 the municipalities therein, provided such boundaries of any catchment
967 area shall be entirely within the boundaries of a mental health region
968 established under section 17a-478; "council" means the catchment area
969 council established under section 17a-483; "regional behavioral health
970 action organization" means the organization established pursuant to
971 section 17a-484f; and "provider" means any person who receives income
972 from private practice or any public or private agency which delivers
973 mental health services.

974 Sec. 37. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-7o of the
975 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
976 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

977 (3) "HIV infection" means infection with the human
978 immunodeficiency virus or any other related virus identified as a
979 probable causative agent of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as
980 defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United
981 States Public Health Service;

982 Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 20-90 of the general statutes is
983 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
984 *1, 2023*):

985 (a) The Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing shall have
986 the following duties: (1) Hear and decide matters concerning suspension
987 or revocation of licensure; (2) adjudicate complaints filed against
988 practitioners licensed under this chapter and impose sanctions where
989 appropriate; (3) approve schools of nursing in the state that prepare
990 persons for examination under the provisions of this chapter; and (4)
991 consult, where possible, with [national] nationally recognized
992 accrediting agencies when approving schools pursuant to subdivision
993 (3) of this subsection. The board may adopt a seal.

994 Sec. 39. Subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 53-344 of the
 995 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 996 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

997 (2) In determining whether a seller or seller's agent or employee has
 998 proven the affirmative defense provided by subdivision (1) of this
 999 [section] subsection, the trier of fact in such prosecution shall consider
 1000 that reasonable reliance upon the identification presented and the
 1001 completed transaction scan may require a seller or seller's agent or
 1002 employee to exercise reasonable diligence and that the use of a
 1003 transaction scan device does not excuse a seller or seller's agent or
 1004 employee from exercising such reasonable diligence to determine the
 1005 following: (A) Whether a person to whom the seller or seller's agent or
 1006 employee sells, gives away or otherwise distributes cigarettes or a
 1007 tobacco product is twenty-one years of age or older; and (B) whether the
 1008 description and picture appearing on the driver's license or identity card
 1009 presented by a cardholder is that of the cardholder.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2023</i> | 20-206f(b) |
| Sec. 3 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 20-191a |
| Sec. 4 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-36 |
| Sec. 5 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-37 |
| Sec. 6 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-38(a) |
| Sec. 7 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-39 |
| Sec. 8 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-40 |
| Sec. 9 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-42 |
| Sec. 10 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-44 |
| Sec. 11 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-46 |
| Sec. 12 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-48(a) and (b) |
| Sec. 13 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-48a(c) |
| Sec. 14 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-50(a) |
| Sec. 15 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-51 |
| Sec. 16 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-51a(c) and (d) |
| Sec. 17 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-52 |
| Sec. 18 | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 7-55 |

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Sec. 19 | October 1, 2023 | 7-57(a) and (b) |
| Sec. 20 | October 1, 2023 | 7-58 |
| Sec. 21 | October 1, 2023 | 7-59(a) |
| Sec. 22 | October 1, 2023 | 7-62b(a) |
| Sec. 23 | October 1, 2023 | 7-65 |
| Sec. 24 | October 1, 2023 | 7-66 |
| Sec. 25 | October 1, 2023 | 7-67 |
| Sec. 26 | October 1, 2023 | 7-69 |
| Sec. 27 | October 1, 2023 | 7-71 |
| Sec. 28 | October 1, 2023 | 7-76 |
| Sec. 29 | October 1, 2023 | 19a-409 |
| Sec. 30 | October 1, 2023 | 20-14s |
| Sec. 31 | October 1, 2023 | 17b-307a(1) |
| Sec. 32 | October 1, 2023 | 20-195n(g) |
| Sec. 33 | October 1, 2023 | 10-29a(a)(104) and (105) |
| Sec. 34 | October 1, 2023 | 17a-476(a) and (b) |
| Sec. 35 | October 1, 2023 | 17a-480 |
| Sec. 36 | October 1, 2023 | 17a-482 |
| Sec. 37 | October 1, 2023 | 19a-7o(a)(3) |
| Sec. 38 | October 1, 2023 | 20-90(a) |
| Sec. 39 | October 1, 2023 | 53-344(f)(2) |

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 24 \$ | FY 25 \$ |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Resources of the General Fund | GF - Revenue Gain | Minimal | Minimal |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 24 \$ | FY 25 \$ |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------|----------|
| Ledyard; Montville | Potential Revenue Loss | Minimal | Minimal |
| All Municipalities | Potential Revenue Gain | Minimal | Minimal |

Explanation

The bill results in a potential minimal revenue gain to the General Fund, a potential minimal revenue gain to municipalities, and a potential minimal revenue loss to Montville and Ledyard. The fiscal impacts of the bill are broken out by section below. Other provisions of the bill are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

Section 3, which creates a new retirement licensure category for psychologists with a fee of \$50, among other provisions, results in a minimal revenue gain to the General Fund. Currently, when psychologists retire, their licenses are not renewed, and are recorded by the Department of Public Health (DPH) as lapsed due to non-renewal. It is unknown how many lapsed psychologist licenses are associated with retirements.

Sections 4 through 29, eliminate the municipal registrars' authority to waive the fee for issuing a certified copy of a birth certificate to a

certified homeless young adult, which results in a potential minimal revenue gain to municipalities to the extent that they issue certified copies of a birth certificate to certified homeless young adults and collect the associated fee. The fee for certified copy of a birth certificate issued from a town/city of birth is \$20.

Sections 4 through 29 also permit the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes to issue birth and death certificates. This results in a potential minimal revenue loss to Montville and Ledyard beginning in FY 24. Any revenue loss may be partially offset by the potential revenue gain from collecting more birth certificate copy fees (described above). The fee for a death certificate issued from a town/city is \$20.¹

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of psychologists that obtain retirement licensure from DPH, and the number of certified copies of a birth certificate issued to a certified homeless young adult, and the number of relevant birth and death certificates issued by the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes.

¹Connecticut law allows the spouse, child, or parent of a deceased veteran to obtain one free certified copy of the decedent's death certificate, provided the requesting family member presents a copy of their valid government issued photo I.D. and proof of their relationship to the deceased.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6835*****AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various revisions in the public health and vital records statutes. Principally, it:

1. prohibits outpatient surgical facilities and certain hospitals from employing a person to provide surgical technology services unless the person completed a nationally accredited surgical technology program and holds a current surgical technologist certification (§ 1);
2. increases, from six to 18, the number of continuing education units a licensed massage therapist may complete via the Internet or distance learning (§ 2);
3. allows a psychologist, before his or her license renewal date, to submit to the Department of Public Health (DPH) a retirement application and one-time \$50 fee to be recorded as having been retired from practice in good standing (§ 3); and
4. authorizes vital records registrars for the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes to issue birth and death certificates and makes related technical and conforming changes (§§ 4-29).

The bill also makes various technical changes in statutes related to, among other things, opioid patient treatment agreements, collaborative care models, social worker licensure examinations, maternal mental health day, and regional behavioral health action organizations (§§ 30-39).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except that the provision on massage therapist continuing education (§ 2) takes effect July 1, 2023.

§ 1 — SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

The bill prohibits outpatient surgical facilities and hospitals (excluding chronic disease hospitals) from employing, or otherwise retaining, a person to perform surgical technology services unless the person (1) successfully completed a nationally accredited surgical technology program and (2) maintains a surgical technologist certification from a DPH-recognized national certifying body.

Under the bill, “surgical technology services” are surgical patient care services, such as the following:

1. preparing an operating room and the sterile operating field for surgical procedures by (a) ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely and (b) using sterile techniques to prepare surgical supplies, instruments, and equipment;
2. anticipating and responding to surgeons’ and other surgical team members’ needs during surgery by monitoring the sterile operating field in an operating room and providing the required instruments or supplies; and
3. performing tasks at the sterile operating field, as directed, in an operating room setting, including (a) passing surgical supplies, instruments, and equipment directly to a health care provider, (b) sponging or suctioning an operative site, (c) preparing and cutting suture material, (d) transferring and irrigating with fluids, (e) transferring, but not administering, drugs within a sterile field, and (f) handling surgical specimens.

§ 2 — MASSAGE THERAPIST CONTINUING EDUCATION

By law, licensed massage therapists must complete at least 24 hours of continuing education (CE) every four years, starting on the date of their first license renewal. The bill increases, from six to 18, the number of CE units (i.e., one unit is 50-60 minutes of participation) that may be

completed via the Internet or distance learning.

As under current law, CE must be in areas related to the massage therapist's practice and no more than 12 units can be obtained from providers not approved by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

§ 3 — PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE FOR RETIREES

The bill creates a new retirement licensure category for psychologists. It allows a licensee, prior to his or her renewal date, to submit to DPH a retirement application and one-time \$50 fee. Upon doing so, DPH must record the psychologist as having retired from practice in good standing.

Under current practice, when a psychologist retires, his or her license is not renewed and is recorded by DPH as "lapsed due to non-renewal."

§§ 4-29 — VITAL RECORDS

The bill authorizes vital records registrars for the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes to issue birth and death certificates. Existing law already allows these registrars to issue tribal marriage certificates (CGS §§ 46b-28a & -28d).

The bill makes related conforming changes, including extending to tribal registrars the following requirements that apply under existing law to municipal vital records registrars:

1. birth certificates must be filed with the registrar within (a) 10 days after a live birth and (b) five business days after a death for paper filings, and three calendar days for electronic filings;
2. required medical and health information must be recorded on the birth certificate's confidential section and can only be disclosed for specified purposes DPH authorizes (e.g., for statistical and health purposes or tribal records);
3. for children born under a surrogacy agreement, DPH must replace the birth certificate and immediately send a copy to the

- tribal registrar;
4. tribal registrars must issue an original or copy of a birth certificate to specified people (e.g., the person, if over 16; an adult person's parent, guardian, spouse, or child; and certain local government officials);
 5. only specified parties can obtain, access, or examine copies of birth and fetal death records and certificates less than 100 years old (e.g., the child's parents, children, or surviving spouse; authorized federal and state officials; and local health directors);
 6. certified homeless youth (i.e., under age 18) must request their birth certificates from a tribal registrar in person and be accompanied by the person certifying him or her as homeless;
 7. tribal registrars may waive the fee for issuing a certified copy of a birth certificate to a certified homeless youth;
 8. birth certificates issued by tribal registrars are prima facie evidence in court and any judicial, administrative, or other actions, proceedings, and applications;
 9. funeral directors and embalmers who take custody of a deceased body must obtain a removal, transit, and burial permit from the tribal registrar and file a death certificate with them; and
 10. the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, after completing an investigation that occurred on tribal land, must file a death certificate, or amend an existing one, with the tribal registrar.

The bill also eliminates DPH's and municipal registrars' authority under current law to waive the fee for issuing a certified copy of a birth certificate to a certified homeless young adult (ages 18-25) but continues to allow them to do so for certified homeless youth (under age 18).

Additionally, the bill makes technical changes, including replacing the term "town" with "municipality" in various vital records statutes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 31 Nay 6 (03/27/2023)