

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There shall be, within the
2 Health and Clinical Services Division of the Department of
3 Developmental Services, an Oral Health and Dental Services Unit. The
4 unit shall: (1) Support persons with intellectual disability, by assisting
5 them with reaching and maintaining optimal oral health; (2) provide
6 such persons access to oral and dental health care; (3) educate such
7 persons, their families and support staff regarding oral disease
8 prevention and early detection; (4) disseminate oral health and dental
9 information to such persons, families and support staff; and (5)
10 participate in oral health-related research and education.

11 (b) The Oral Health and Dental Services Unit may provide dental care
12 services to persons with intellectual disability at designated dental
13 offices in any service region of the Department of Developmental
14 Services. Such services shall be specialized and individualized to meet
15 the needs of such persons. Dental services provided pursuant to this
16 subsection shall be provided under the scope of practice of a dentist
17 licensed pursuant to chapter 379 of the general statutes or dental
18 hygienist licensed pursuant to chapter 379a of the general statutes.

19 (c) The Commissioner of Developmental Services may contract with
20 a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 379 of the general statutes or a

21 dentist granted a provisional license pursuant to the provisions of
22 section 20-120 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the
23 purpose of carrying out the duties of the Oral Health and Dental
24 Services Unit pursuant to the provisions of this section.

25 Sec. 2. Section 20-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the
26 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

27 (a) Any graduate of a recognized dental college may practice
28 dentistry in a clinic for a period not exceeding six months, provided [he
29 shall obtain] such graduate obtains the written consent and approval of
30 the Dental Commission.

31 (b) A full-time faculty member of a school of dentistry in this state
32 who is licensed in another state or who has exceptional qualifications as
33 approved by the Dental Commission may be granted a provisional
34 license upon consent and approval of the Dental Commission which
35 provisional license shall be in effect during such time as the licensee is
36 in the full-time employment of a school of dentistry within the state.
37 Such provisional license shall limit the licensee to the practice of
38 dentistry (1) in the school of dentistry of which [he] such licensee is a
39 member of the faculty, [or] (2) in any hospital affiliated with such school,
40 or (3) as part of services offered by the Oral Health and Dental Services
41 Unit of the Department of Developmental Services, established
42 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

43 (c) Any graduate of a foreign dental school, who has exceptional
44 qualifications, as approved by the Dental Commission, may practice
45 dentistry in any state institution.

46 Sec. 3. Section 17a-249 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
47 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
48 *October 1, 2024*):

49 (a) The Commissioner of Housing, in consultation with the
50 Commissioner of Developmental Services, shall provide grants-in-aid

51 or deferred loans to [private nonprofit organizations] an eligible
52 developer, as defined in section 8-39, for supportive housing for persons
53 with an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities,
54 including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, that has
55 partnered with a Department of Developmental Services qualified
56 provider or a provider approved to provide services that support
57 persons receiving services under the Medicaid waiver program for
58 autism spectrum disorder services, operated through the Department of
59 Social Services. The [commissioner] Commissioner of Housing shall
60 give priority in disbursement of grants to [a nonprofit organization
61 which] an eligible developer that reserves [fifty] not more than twenty-
62 five per cent [or more] of the initial residential capacity of a housing site
63 for individuals with such disabilities who are on a waiting list
64 maintained by the Department of Developmental Services or the
65 Department of Social Services for supportive housing or who wish to
66 move from a more structured setting to supportive housing.

67 (b) The Commissioner of [Developmental Services] Housing shall
68 expend not more than five million dollars on the [grant] program
69 established pursuant to this section in any one service region of the
70 Department of Developmental Services. The commissioner may expend
71 not more than two per cent of the funds allocated to the [grant] program
72 established by this section on administrative expenses directly related
73 to the [grant] program.

74 (c) The Commissioner of [Developmental Services] Housing shall
75 develop and publish guidelines for the award of grants and deferred
76 loans under subsection (a) of this section and a uniform application form
77 for such grants and deferred loans. The commissioner shall post such
78 guidelines and application form on the Internet web site of the
79 Department of [Developmental Services] Housing not later than [July 1,
80 2024] October 1, 2024.

81 (d) [Any] The recipient of a grant or deferred loan pursuant to
82 subsection (a) of this section shall report annually to the Commissioner

83 of [Developmental Services] Housing, on a form to be developed by the
84 commissioner, [how] on the expenditure of such grant funds [have been
85 expended] or deferred loans. The commissioner shall submit a report on
86 January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, in accordance with the
87 provisions of section 11-4a, concerning the expenditure of grant funds
88 and deferred loans awarded pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to
89 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
90 cognizance of matters relating to housing, human services and public
91 health.

92 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 5-247 of the general statutes is
93 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
94 *passage*):

95 (a) Each appointing authority shall grant, on account of illness or
96 injury, to each full-time employee in a permanent position in the state
97 service who has furnished satisfactory proof of such illness or injury,
98 such sick leave with pay as has accrued to [his] such employee's credit
99 at the rate of one and one-quarter working days for each completed
100 calendar month of continuous full-time service which may be computed
101 on an hourly basis. Hourly computation of sick leave shall not diminish
102 benefit entitlement. On or before October 1, 1980, the Commissioner of
103 Administrative Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
104 chapter 54, concerning the accrual, prorating and granting of sick leave
105 with pay to other employees in the state service and extending sick leave
106 with pay or with part pay for longer periods to full-time permanent
107 employees disabled through illness or injury. A general worker
108 employed in a position by the Department of Developmental Services
109 as a self-advocate [, not to exceed eleven such general workers,] shall be
110 eligible for prorated sick leave, in accordance with regulations adopted
111 pursuant to this section. Each such employee who retires under the
112 provisions of chapter 66 shall be compensated, effective as of the date of
113 [his] the employee's retirement, at the rate of one-fourth of such
114 employee's salary for sick leave accrued to [his] the employee's credit as
115 of [his] the employee's last day on the active payroll up to a maximum

116 payment equivalent to sixty days' pay. Such payment for accumulated
117 sick leave shall not be included in computing retirement income and
118 shall be charged by the State Comptroller to the department, agency or
119 institution in which the employee worked.

120 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 5-250 of the general statutes is
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
122 *passage*):

123 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a general worker
124 employed in a position by the Department of Developmental Services
125 as a self-advocate [, not to exceed eleven such general workers,] shall be
126 eligible for prorated vacation and personal leave.

127 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 5-254 of the general statutes is
128 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
129 *passage*):

130 (a) Each full-time permanent employee in the state service shall be
131 granted time off with pay for any legal holiday. A general worker
132 employed in a position by the Department of Developmental Services
133 as a self-advocate [, not to exceed eleven such general workers,] shall be
134 granted time off with pay for any legal holiday that falls on a day that
135 the general worker is regularly scheduled to work, [and] provided the
136 pay shall be for the number of hours the general worker would have
137 been scheduled to work. If a legal holiday falls on a Saturday,
138 [employees] each such full-time permanent employee and general
139 worker shall be granted equivalent time off on the Friday immediately
140 preceding such Saturday or given another day off in lieu thereof. The
141 Commissioner of Administrative Services may [issue] adopt
142 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, governing
143 the granting of holiday time to other employees in the state service, [,
144 which regulations shall be approved by the Secretary of the Office of
145 Policy and Management.]

146 Sec. 7. Section 17a-210 of the general statutes is repealed and the

147 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

148 (a) There shall be a Department of Developmental Services. The
149 Department of Developmental Services, with the advice of a Council on
150 Developmental Services, shall be responsible for the planning,
151 development and administration of complete, comprehensive and
152 integrated state-wide services for persons with intellectual disability
153 and persons medically diagnosed as having Prader-Willi syndrome. The
154 Department of Developmental Services shall be under the supervision
155 of a Commissioner of Developmental Services, who shall be appointed
156 by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-
157 8, inclusive. The Council on Developmental Services may advise the
158 Governor on the appointment. The commissioner shall be a person who
159 has background, training, education or experience in administering
160 programs for the care, training, education, treatment and custody of
161 persons with intellectual disability. The commissioner shall be
162 responsible, with the advice of the council, for: (1) Planning and
163 developing complete, comprehensive and integrated state-wide
164 services for persons with intellectual disability; (2) the implementation
165 and [where] when appropriate the funding of such services; and (3) the
166 coordination of the efforts of the Department of Developmental Services
167 with those of other state departments and agencies, municipal
168 governments and private agencies concerned with and providing
169 services for persons with intellectual disability. The commissioner shall
170 be responsible for the administration and operation of the [state training
171 school] Southbury Training School, state developmental services
172 regions and all state-operated community-based residential facilities
173 established for the diagnosis, care and training of persons with
174 intellectual disability. The commissioner shall be responsible for
175 establishing standards, providing technical assistance and exercising
176 the requisite supervision of all state-supported residential, day and
177 program support services for persons with intellectual disability and
178 work activity programs operated pursuant to section 17a-226. The
179 commissioner shall stimulate research by public and private agencies,
180 institutions of higher education and hospitals, in the interest of the

181 elimination and amelioration of intellectual disability and care and
182 training of persons with intellectual disability. The commissioner shall
183 conduct or monitor investigations into allegations of abuse and neglect
184 and file reports as requested by state agencies having statutory
185 responsibility for the conduct and oversight of such investigations. The
186 commissioner shall receive and investigate complaints from persons
187 with intellectual disabilities and persons receiving services from the
188 Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder
189 Services, [or] legal representatives of such persons or [from] any other
190 interested person.

191 **(b)** In the event of the death of a person with intellectual disability for
192 whom the department has direct or oversight responsibility for medical
193 care, the commissioner shall ensure that a comprehensive and timely
194 review of the events, overall care, quality of life issues and medical care
195 preceding such death is conducted by the department and shall, as
196 requested, provide information and assistance to the Independent
197 Mortality Review Board established by Executive Order No. 57 of
198 Governor Dannel P. Malloy. The commissioner shall report to the board
199 and the board shall review any death: **[(A)] (1)** Involving an allegation
200 of abuse or neglect; **[(B)] (2)** for which the Office of the Chief Medical
201 Examiner or local medical examiner has accepted jurisdiction; **[(C)] (3)**
202 in which an autopsy was performed; **[(D)] (4)** which was sudden and
203 unexpected; or **[(E)] (5)** in which the commissioner's review raises
204 questions about the appropriateness of care. The department's mortality
205 review process and the Independent Mortality Review Board shall
206 operate in accordance with the peer review provisions established
207 under section 19a-17b for medical review teams and confidentiality of
208 records provisions established under section 19a-25 for the Department
209 of Public Health.

210 **[(b)] (c)** The commissioner shall be responsible for the development
211 of criteria as to the eligibility of any person with intellectual disability
212 for residential care in any public or state-supported private residential
213 facility and [, after considering the recommendation of a properly

214 designated diagnostic agency,] may assign such person to a public or
215 state-supported private residential facility. [The commissioner may
216 transfer such person from one such facility to another when necessary
217 and desirable for their welfare, provided such person and such person's
218 legal representative receive written notice of their right to object to such
219 transfer at least ten days prior to the proposed transfer of such person
220 from any such facility. Such prior notice shall not be required when
221 transfers are made between residential units within the training school
222 or a state developmental services region or when necessary to avoid a
223 serious and immediate threat to the life or physical or mental health of
224 such person or others residing in such facility. The notice required by
225 this subsection shall notify such person and such person's legal
226 representative of the person's right to object to such transfer, except in
227 the case of an emergency transfer as provided in this subsection, and
228 shall include the name, address and telephone number of the nonprofit
229 entity designated by the Governor in accordance with section 46a-10b to
230 serve as the Connecticut protection and advocacy system. In the event
231 of an emergency transfer, the notice required by this subsection shall
232 notify such person and such person's legal representative of the person's
233 right to request a hearing in accordance with subsection (c) of this
234 section and shall be given within ten days following the emergency
235 transfer. In the event of an objection to the proposed transfer, the
236 commissioner shall conduct a hearing in accordance with subsection (c)
237 of this section and the transfer shall be stayed pending final disposition
238 of the hearing, provided no such hearing shall be required if the
239 commissioner withdraws such proposed transfer.

240 (c) Any person with intellectual disability who is eighteen years of
241 age or older and who resides at any facility operated by the Department
242 of Developmental Services, or the legal representative of any person
243 with intellectual disability who resides at any such facility, may object
244 to any transfer of such person from one facility to another for any reason
245 other than a medical reason or an emergency, or may request such a
246 transfer. In the event of any such objection or request, the commissioner
247 shall conduct a hearing on such proposed transfer, provided no such

248 hearing shall be required if the commissioner withdraws such proposed
249 transfer. In any such transfer hearing, the proponent of a transfer shall
250 have the burden of showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that the
251 proposed transfer is in the best interest of the resident being considered
252 for transfer and that the facility and programs to which transfer is
253 proposed (1) are safe and effectively supervised and monitored, and (2)
254 provide a greater opportunity for personal development than the
255 resident's present setting. Such hearing shall be conducted in
256 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.]

257 (d) Any person with intellectual disability, or the legal representative
258 of such person, may request a hearing for any final determination by the
259 department that denies such person eligibility for programs and
260 services of the department. A request for a hearing shall be made in
261 writing to the commissioner. Such hearing shall be conducted in
262 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

263 (e) Any person with intellectual disability, or the legal representative
264 of such person, may request a hearing to contest the category
265 assignment made by the department for persons seeking residential
266 placement, residential services or residential support. A request for
267 hearing shall be made, in writing, to the commissioner. Such hearing
268 shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

269 (f) Any person with intellectual disability or the legal representative
270 of such person, may object to (1) a proposed approval by the department
271 of a program for such person that includes the use of behavior-
272 modifying medications or aversive procedures, or (2) a proposed
273 determination of the department that community placement is
274 inappropriate for such person placed under the direction of the
275 commissioner. The department shall provide written notice of any such
276 proposed approval or determination to the person, or to the legal
277 representative of such person, [at least] not less than ten days prior to
278 making such approval or determination. In the event of an objection to
279 such proposed approval or determination, the commissioner shall

280 conduct a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
281 provided no such hearing shall be required if the commissioner
282 withdraws such proposed approval or determination.

283 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioner of
284 Developmental Services may transfer a person with intellectual
285 disability who receives residential care services from one public or state-
286 supported private residential facility to another when necessary and
287 desirable for such person's welfare, provided such person and such
288 person's legal representative receive written notice of their right to
289 object to such transfer not less than ten days prior to the proposed
290 transfer of such person from any such residential facility. Such prior
291 notice shall not be required when transfers are made between
292 residential units within the Southbury Training School or a regional
293 center. The notice required by this subsection shall provide such person
294 and such person's legal representative with information regarding the
295 person's right to object to such transfer, except in the case of an
296 emergency transfer or a transfer for a medical reason as provided in this
297 subsection, and shall include the name, address and telephone number
298 of the nonprofit entity designated by the Governor in accordance with
299 section 46a-10b of the general statutes to serve as the Connecticut
300 protection and advocacy system. In the event of an objection to the
301 proposed transfer, the commissioner shall conduct a hearing in
302 accordance with subsection (b) of this section and the transfer shall be
303 stayed pending final disposition of the hearing, provided no such
304 hearing shall be required if the commissioner withdraws such proposed
305 transfer. In the event of an emergency transfer or a transfer for a medical
306 reason, notification to such person or such person's legal representative
307 shall be given not later than ten days following the emergency transfer
308 or the transfer for a medical reason. Such notification shall include
309 information regarding the person's right to request a hearing in
310 accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

311 (b) Any person with intellectual disability who is eighteen years of
312 age or older and who resides at any residential facility operated by the

313 Department of Developmental Services, or the legal representative of
314 any person with intellectual disability who resides at any such
315 residential facility, may object to any proposed transfer, emergency
316 transfer or transfer for a medical reason of such person from one
317 residential facility to another for any reason or may request such a
318 transfer. In the event of any such objection or request, the commissioner
319 shall conduct a hearing on such transfer, provided no such hearing shall
320 be required if the commissioner withdraws such transfer proposal. In
321 any such transfer hearing, the proponent of a transfer shall have the
322 burden of showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that the transfer
323 is in the best interest of the resident who is being considered for transfer
324 or has been transferred and that the residential facility and programs to
325 which transfer is proposed or has been made (1) are safe and effectively
326 supervised and monitored, and (2) provide a greater opportunity for
327 personal development than the setting in which the resident presently
328 resides. Such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the
329 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

330 (c) The commissioner may temporarily transfer any person residing
331 in a Department of Developmental Services public or state-supported
332 private residential facility if the commissioner determines there is an
333 emergency that exists in the residential facility that must be remedied
334 immediately, including, but not limited to, the residential facility is
335 rendered uninhabitable due to a natural disaster or utility malfunction
336 or the existence of temporary concerns relating to the residential
337 facility's staff's ability to meet the needs of the individual residing there.
338 The temporary transfer shall remain in place for a period of not more
339 than ninety days or until rescinded by the commissioner, whichever is
340 earlier. The commissioner shall provide any person who is being
341 temporarily transferred and such person's legal representative, if any,
342 with written notice of the temporary transfer as soon as practicable, but
343 not more than ten days after the date of the temporary transfer. A
344 person's right to object to a temporary transfer and right to request a
345 hearing pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be stayed until
346 the thirtieth day of the temporary transfer. If a hearing is requested, such

347 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with subsection (b) of this
348 section.

349 (d) During a public health emergency declared pursuant to section
350 19a-131a of the general statutes, the commissioner may request the
351 Governor to issue an executive order to allow the commissioner to
352 temporarily transfer any person residing in a Department of
353 Developmental Services public or state-supported private residential
354 facility to protect that person's health or safety. If the Governor issues
355 such executive order, the commissioner may make temporary transfers
356 as deemed necessary. The temporary transfer shall remain in place until
357 rescinded by the commissioner or until the expiration of the executive
358 order, whichever is earlier. The commissioner shall provide any person
359 who is being temporarily transferred and that person's legal
360 representative, if any, with written notice of the temporary transfer as
361 soon as practicable, but not more than ten days after the date of the
362 temporary transfer. A person's right to object to a temporary transfer
363 and right to request a hearing pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
364 shall be stayed until the thirtieth day of the temporary transfer. If a
365 hearing is requested, such hearing shall be conducted in accordance
366 with subsection (b) of this section.

367 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section and
368 sections 17a-210 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and 17a-
369 238 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (1) "human rights
370 committee" means the committee in each Department of Developmental
371 Services service region and at the Southbury Training School that (A)
372 advises and makes recommendations to the regional and training school
373 directors and the Commissioner of Developmental Services on best
374 practices, and (B) addresses concerns and complaints on human rights
375 issues involving persons receiving services from the department,
376 including, but not limited to, those involving: (i) Aversive procedures,
377 (ii) restrictive interventions, (iii) intrusive programs or devices, (iv)
378 restitution, and (v) pre-sedation medication, (2) "department" means the
379 Department of Developmental Services, (3) "commissioner" means the

380 Commissioner of Developmental Services, (4) "regional director" means
381 the person appointed by the commissioner to be directly responsible for
382 the management of a service region of the department, and (5) "training
383 school director" means the person appointed by the commissioner to be
384 directly responsible for the management of the Southbury Training
385 School.

386 (b) There shall be, within each service region of the department and
387 at the Southbury Training School, a human rights committee, with
388 members appointed by the regional or training school director. The
389 commissioner shall establish uniform responsibilities and procedures
390 for each human rights committee in the state.

391 (c) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
392 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
393 provisions of this section.

394 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section and
395 sections 17a-210 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and 17a-
396 238 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (1) "program review
397 committee" means the committee in each Department of Developmental
398 Services service region and at the Southbury Training School that
399 advises the regional and training school directors and the Commissioner
400 of Developmental Services on best practices for reviewing plans that
401 include behavior support strategies, use of psychotropic and behavior
402 modifying medications and the use of restraints for each person who
403 receives services from the department, (2) "department" means the
404 Department of Developmental Services, (3) "commissioner" means the
405 Commissioner of Developmental Services, (4) "regional director" means
406 the person appointed by the commissioner to be directly responsible for
407 the management of a service region of the department, and (5) "training
408 school director" means the person appointed by the commissioner to be
409 directly responsible for the management of the Southbury Training
410 School.

411 (b) There shall be, within each service region of the department and

412 at the Southbury Training School, a program review committee, with
413 members appointed by the regional or training school director. The
414 commissioner shall establish uniform responsibilities and procedures
415 for each program review committee in the state.

416 (c) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
417 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
418 provisions of this section.

419 Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 17a-238 of the general statutes is
420 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
421 *passage*):

422 (b) Each person placed or treated under the direction of the
423 Commissioner of Developmental Services in any public or private
424 facility shall be protected from harm and receive humane and dignified
425 treatment which is adequate for such person's needs and for the
426 development of such person's full potential at all times, with full respect
427 for such person's personal dignity and right to privacy consistent with
428 such person's treatment plan as determined by the commissioner. No
429 treatment plan or course of treatment for any person placed or treated
430 under the direction of the commissioner shall include the use of an
431 aversive device which has not been tested for safety and efficacy and
432 approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, except [for]
433 any treatment plan or course of treatment including the use of such
434 devices [which] that was initiated prior to October 1, 1993. No treatment
435 plan or course of treatment prescribed for any person placed or treated
436 under the direction of the commissioner shall include the use of aversive
437 procedures except in accordance with recommendations from a regional
438 human rights committee and any procedures established by the
439 Commissioner of Developmental Services. For purposes of this
440 subsection, "aversive procedure" means the contingent use of an event
441 which may be unpleasant, noxious or otherwise cause discomfort to
442 alter the occurrence of a specific behavior or to protect an individual
443 from injuring himself or herself or others and may include the use of

444 physical isolation and mechanical and physical restraint. Nothing in this
445 subsection shall prohibit persons who are not placed or treated under
446 the direction of the Commissioner of Developmental Services from
447 independently pursuing and obtaining any treatment plan or course of
448 treatment as may otherwise be authorized by law. The commissioner
449 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the
450 provisions of this subsection.

451 Sec. 12. Subsection (c) of section 17a-247b of the general statutes is
452 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
453 *passage*):

454 (c) The department shall make information in the registry available
455 only to: (1) Authorized agencies, for the purpose of protective service
456 determinations; (2) employers who employ employees to provide
457 services to an individual who receives services or funding from the
458 department; (3) the Departments of Children and Families, Mental
459 Health and Addiction Services, Social Services and Administrative
460 Services and the Office of Labor Relations, for the purpose of
461 determining whether an applicant for employment with the
462 Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services, Mental
463 Health and Addiction Services and Social Services appears on the
464 registry; or (4) charitable organizations that recruit volunteers to
465 support programs for persons with intellectual disability or autism
466 spectrum disorder, upon application to and approval by the
467 commissioner, for purposes of conducting background checks on such
468 volunteers.

469 Sec. 13. Section 17a-210a of the 2024 supplement to the general
470 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
471 (*Effective from passage*):

472 (a) There is established an independent [ombudsperson office] Office
473 of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson within the Department
474 of Developmental Services that is responsible for receiving and making
475 recommendations to the commissioner for resolving complaints

476 affecting individuals under the care or supervision of the department or
477 of any public or private agency with which the department has
478 contracted for the provision of services.

479 (b) The director of the [ombudsperson office] Office of the
480 Developmental Services Ombudsperson shall be appointed by the
481 Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly. Said director
482 shall be an elector of the state with expertise and experience in the fields
483 of developmental services and advocacy for the rights of the individuals
484 specified in subsection (a) of this section and shall be exempt from the
485 classified service.

486 (c) The Governor shall appoint the director of the [ombudsperson
487 office] Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson from a list
488 of candidates prepared and submitted to the Governor by the Council
489 on Developmental Services, established by section 17a-270. The
490 Governor shall notify the council of the pending expiration of the term
491 of an incumbent ombudsperson not less than ninety days prior to the
492 final day of the ombudsperson's term in office. If a vacancy occurs in the
493 position of ombudsperson, the Governor shall notify the council
494 immediately of the vacancy. The council shall meet to consider qualified
495 candidates for the position of ombudsperson and shall submit a list of
496 not more than five candidates to the Governor ranked in order of
497 preference, not more than sixty days after receiving notice from the
498 Governor of the pending expiration of the ombudsperson's term or the
499 occurrence of a vacancy. The Governor shall designate, not more than
500 sixty days after receipt of the list of candidates from the council, one
501 candidate from the list for the position of ombudsperson. If, after the list
502 is submitted to the Governor by the council, any candidate withdraws
503 from consideration, the Governor shall designate a candidate from those
504 remaining on the list. If the Governor fails to designate a candidate
505 within sixty days of receipt of the list from the council, the council shall
506 refer the candidate with the highest ranking on the list to the General
507 Assembly for confirmation. If the General Assembly is not in session at
508 the time of the Governor's or council's designation of a candidate, the

509 candidate shall serve as the acting ombudsperson until the General
510 Assembly meets and confirms the candidate as ombudsperson. A
511 candidate serving as acting ombudsperson shall be entitled to
512 compensation and have all the powers, duties and privileges of the
513 ombudsperson. An ombudsperson shall serve a term of four years, not
514 including any time served as acting ombudsperson, and may be
515 reappointed by the Governor or shall remain in the position until a
516 successor is appointed pursuant to this subsection. Although an
517 incumbent ombudsperson may be reappointed, the Governor shall also
518 consider additional candidates from a list submitted by the council as
519 provided in this section.

520 (d) The director of the [ombudsperson office] Office of the
521 Developmental Services Ombudsperson shall report monthly to the
522 Council on Developmental Services and, in accordance with the
523 provisions of section 11-4a, annually to the joint standing committee of
524 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
525 health.

526 Sec. 14. Section 17b-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the
527 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

528 (a) For the purposes of this section and section 17b-353, "facility"
529 means a residential facility for persons with intellectual disability
530 licensed pursuant to section 17a-277 and certified to participate in the
531 Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for
532 individuals with intellectual disabilities, a nursing home, rest home or
533 residential care home, as defined in section 19a-490. "Facility" does not
534 include a nursing home that does not participate in the Medicaid
535 program and is associated with a continuing care facility as described in
536 section 17b-520.

537 (b) Any facility which intends to (1) transfer all or part of its
538 ownership or control prior to being initially licensed; (2) introduce any
539 additional function or service into its program of care or expand an
540 existing function or service; (3) terminate a service or decrease

541 substantially its total licensed bed capacity; or (4) relocate all or a portion
542 of such facility's licensed beds, to a new facility or replacement facility,
543 shall submit a complete request for permission to implement such
544 transfer, addition, expansion, increase, termination, decrease or
545 relocation of facility beds to the Department of Social Services with such
546 information as the department requires, provided no permission or
547 request for permission to close a facility is required when a facility in
548 receivership is closed by order of the Superior Court pursuant to section
549 19a-545. The Commissioner of Social Services shall consider the criteria
550 in subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (a) of section 17b-354 when
551 evaluating a certificate of need request to relocate licensed nursing
552 facility beds from an existing facility to another licensed nursing facility
553 or to a new facility or replacement facility. The Office of the Long-Term
554 Care Ombudsman, [pursuant to section 17a-870] or, in the case of a
555 residential facility for persons with intellectual disability licensed
556 pursuant to section 17a-277, as described in subsection (a) of this section,
557 the Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson shall be
558 notified by the facility of any proposed actions pursuant to this
559 subsection at the same time the request for permission is submitted to
560 the department and when a facility in receivership is closed by order of
561 the Superior Court pursuant to section 19a-545.

562 (c) A facility may submit a petition for closure to the Department of
563 Social Services. The Department of Social Services may authorize the
564 closure of a facility if the facility's management demonstrates to the
565 satisfaction of the Commissioner of Social Services in the petition for
566 closure that the facility (1) is not viable based on actual and projected
567 operating losses; (2) has an occupancy rate of less than seventy per cent
568 of the facility's licensed bed capacity; (3) closure is consistent with the
569 strategic rebalancing plan developed in accordance with section 17b-
570 369, including bed need by geographical region; (4) is in compliance
571 with the requirements of Sections 1128I(h) and 1819(h)(4) of the Social
572 Security Act and 42 CFR 483.75; and (5) is not providing special services
573 that would go unmet if the facility closes. The department shall review
574 a petition for closure to the extent it deems necessary and the facility

575 shall submit information the department requests or deems necessary
576 to substantiate that the facility closure is consistent with the provisions
577 of this subsection. The facility shall submit information the department
578 requests or deems necessary to allow the department to provide
579 oversight during this process. The Office of the Long-Term Care
580 Ombudsman, or, in the case of a residential facility for persons with
581 intellectual disability licensed pursuant to section 17a-277, as described
582 in subsection (a) of this section, the Office of the Developmental Services
583 Ombudsperson shall be notified by the facility at the same time as a
584 petition for closure is submitted to the department. Any facility acting
585 pursuant to this subsection shall provide written notice, on the same
586 date that the facility submits its petition for closure, to all patients,
587 guardians or conservators, if any, or legally liable relatives or other
588 responsible parties, if known, and shall post such notice in a
589 conspicuous location at the facility. The facility's written notice shall be
590 accompanied by an informational letter issued jointly from the Office of
591 the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the Department of
592 [Rehabilitation Services] Aging and Disability Services, or, in the case of
593 a residential facility for persons with intellectual disability licensed
594 pursuant to section 17a-277, as described in subsection (a) of this section,
595 the Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson and the
596 Department of Aging and Disability Services on patients' rights and
597 services available as they relate to the petition for closure. The
598 informational letter shall also state the date and time that the Office of
599 the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the Department of Public Health,
600 or, in the case of a residential facility for persons with intellectual
601 disability licensed pursuant to section 17a-277, as described in
602 subsection (a) of this section, the Office of the Developmental Services
603 Ombudsperson and the Department of Public Health will hold an
604 informational session at the facility for patients, guardians or
605 conservators, if any, and legally liable relatives or other responsible
606 parties, if known, about their rights and the process concerning a
607 petition for closure. The notice shall state: (A) The date the facility
608 submitted the petition for closure, (B) that only the Department of Social

609 Services has the authority to either grant or deny the petition for closure,
610 (C) that the Department of Social Services has up to thirty days to grant
611 or deny the petition for closure, (D) a brief description of the reason or
612 reasons for submitting the petition for closure, (E) that no patient shall
613 be involuntarily transferred or discharged within or from a facility
614 pursuant to state and federal law because of the filing of a petition for
615 closure, (F) that all patients have a right to appeal any proposed transfer
616 or discharge, and (G) the name, mailing address and telephone number
617 of the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and local legal aid
618 office, or, in the case of a residential facility for persons with intellectual
619 disability licensed pursuant to section 17a-277, as described in
620 subsection (a) of this section, the Office of the Developmental Services
621 Ombudsperson and local legal aid office. The commissioner shall grant
622 or deny a petition for closure within thirty days of receiving such
623 request.

624 (d) An applicant, prior to submitting a certificate of need application,
625 shall request, in writing, application forms and instructions from the
626 department. The request shall include: (1) The name of the applicant or
627 applicants; (2) a statement indicating whether the application is for (A)
628 a new, additional, expanded or replacement facility, service or function
629 or relocation of facility beds, (B) a termination or reduction in a
630 presently authorized service or bed capacity, or (C) any new, additional
631 or terminated beds and their type; (3) the estimated capital cost; (4) the
632 town where the project is or will be located; and (5) a brief description
633 of the proposed project. Such request shall be deemed a letter of intent.
634 No certificate of need application shall be considered submitted to the
635 department unless a current letter of intent, specific to the proposal and
636 in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, has been on file
637 with the department for not less than ten business days. For purposes of
638 this subsection, "a current letter of intent" means a letter of intent on file
639 with the department for not more than one hundred eighty days. A
640 certificate of need application shall be deemed withdrawn by the
641 department, if a department completeness letter is not responded to
642 within one hundred eighty days. The Office of the Long-Term Care

643 Ombudsman, or, in the case of a residential facility for persons with
644 intellectual disability licensed pursuant to section 17a-277, as described
645 in subsection (a) of this section, the Office of the Developmental Services
646 Ombudsperson shall be notified by the facility at the same time as the
647 letter of intent is submitted to the department.

648 (e) Any facility acting pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of
649 this section shall provide written notice, at the same time it submits its
650 letter of intent, to all patients, guardians or conservators, if any, or
651 legally liable relatives or other responsible parties, if known, and shall
652 post such notice in a conspicuous location at the facility. The facility's
653 written notice shall be accompanied by an informational letter issued
654 jointly from the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the
655 Department of Aging and Disability Services, or, in the case of a
656 residential facility for persons with intellectual disability licensed
657 pursuant to section 17a-277, as described in subsection (a) of this section,
658 the Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson and the
659 Department of Aging and Disability Services on patients' rights and
660 services available as they relate to the letter of intent. The notice shall
661 state the following: (1) The projected date the facility will be submitting
662 its certificate of need application, (2) that only the Department of Social
663 Services has the authority to either grant, modify or deny the
664 application, (3) that the Department of Social Services has up to ninety
665 days to grant, modify or deny the certificate of need application, (4) a
666 brief description of the reason or reasons for submitting a request for
667 permission, (5) that no patient shall be involuntarily transferred or
668 discharged within or from a facility pursuant to state and federal law
669 because of the filing of the certificate of need application, (6) that all
670 patients have a right to appeal any proposed transfer or discharge, and
671 (7) the name, mailing address and telephone number of the Office of the
672 Long-Term Care Ombudsman and local legal aid office, or, in the case
673 of a residential facility for persons with intellectual disability licensed
674 pursuant to section 17a-277, as described in subsection (a) of this section,
675 the Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson and local legal
676 aid office.

677 (f) The Department of Social Services shall review a request made
678 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to the extent it deems
679 necessary, including, but not limited to, in the case of a proposed
680 transfer of ownership or control prior to initial licensure, the financial
681 responsibility and business interests of the transferee and the ability of
682 the facility to continue to provide needed services, or in the case of the
683 addition or expansion of a function or service, ascertaining the
684 availability of the function or service at other facilities within the area to
685 be served, the need for the service or function within the area and any
686 other factors the department deems relevant to a determination of
687 whether the facility is justified in adding or expanding the function or
688 service. During the review, the department may hold an informal
689 conference with the facility to discuss the certificate of need application.
690 The Commissioner of Social Services shall grant, modify or deny the
691 request within ninety days of receipt thereof, except as otherwise
692 provided in this section. The commissioner may place conditions, as the
693 commissioner deems necessary to address specified concerns, on any
694 decision approving or modifying a request for a certificate of need filed
695 pursuant to this section. Conditions may include, but are not limited to,
696 project and Medicaid reimbursement details and applicant
697 requirements for summary and audit purposes. If the commissioner
698 modifies the request, the commissioner shall notify the facility of such
699 modification prior to issuing the decision and provide the applicant
700 with an opportunity for an informal conference to discuss the
701 modifications. Upon the request of the applicant, the review period may
702 be extended for an additional fifteen days if the department has
703 requested additional information subsequent to the commencement of
704 the commissioner's review period. The director of the office of certificate
705 of need and rate setting may extend the review period for a maximum
706 of thirty days if the applicant has not filed in a timely manner
707 information deemed necessary by the department. The applicant may
708 request and shall receive a hearing in accordance with section 4-177 if
709 aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner.

710 (g) The Commissioner of Social Services shall not approve any

711 requests for beds in residential facilities for persons with intellectual
712 disability which are licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and are
713 certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid Program as
714 intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities,
715 except those beds necessary to implement the residential placement
716 goals of the Department of Developmental Services which are within
717 available appropriations.

718 (h) The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt regulations, in
719 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	20-120
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	17a-249
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	5-247(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	5-250(e)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	5-254(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17a-210
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	17a-238(b)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	17a-247b(c)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	17a-210a
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	17b-352