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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 7049

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE REGARDING THE INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW PROGRAM.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to disclose information and data from the Infant Mortality Review Program (see BACKGROUND) to the Child Advocate, if the commissioner deems it necessary for the Child Advocate to perform her statutory duties.

In turn, the bill allows the Child Advocate to share information with the DPH commissioner about infant deaths (i.e. those occurring between birth and one year of age) if the Child Advocate determines it is necessary for the purpose of the Infant Mortality Review Program.

Under the bill, any data disclosed for these purposes (1) is confidential and not subject to further disclosure, (2) is not admissible as evidence in a court or agency proceeding, and (3) must be used solely for medical or scientific research purposes (CGS § 19a-25).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Infant Mortality Review Program***

A 2023 law established an Infant Mortality Review Program within DPH to review medical records and other relevant data on infant deaths. This review is conducted by an Infant Mortality Review Committee and must include information from birth and death records and medical records from health care providers and facilities to make recommendations on reducing health care disparities and identify gaps in, or problems with, health care or service delivery to reduce infant deaths.

By law, pharmacies and health care providers and facilities must give DPH, upon request, access to all medical or other records, including prenatal records, associated with infant death cases under the program's review.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/05/2025)