

Public Acts Recently Enacted

The following is a list of public acts that passed during the 2019 legislative session that are specific and have direct impact on the Office of Early Childhood's (OEC) child care and/or youth camp licensing programs. This is only a summary. The complete text of each public act should be reviewed and may be accessed by visiting the Connecticut General Assembly's web site at cga.ct.gov.

Public Act 19-13 An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products to Persons Under Age Twenty-One

Section 17 and 18 of this Act, effective 10/1/19, prohibit a person from smoking or using an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product within or on the grounds of a school building, child care center or group child care home. Such smoking or use of an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product is prohibited within or on the grounds of a family child care home only when a child enrolled in such home is present.

Public Act 19-96 An Act Concerning the Administration of Epinephrine at the Department of Children and Families Wilderness School

Section 1 of this Act, effective June 28, 2019, authorizes qualified wilderness school employees (i.e., appropriately trained employees over age 18) to administer epinephrine by a premeasured commercially prepared auto-injector (e.g., EpiPen) for emergency first aid purposes to a student who experiences a presumed allergic reaction and does not have a prescription from a qualified medical professional. The injector may only be used if a parent or guardian has previously provided written authorization. The bill requires the director to maintain injectors on the premises for emergency purposes, ensure that the injectors are stored and labeled, and records concerning injector use are maintained in a manner consistent with OEC youth camp regulations.

Public Act 19-105 An Act Concerning the Expansion of Certification Courses in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Education and Training Courses in the Use of Automatic External Defibrillators and the Administration of First Aid

Section 1 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, expands the list of organizations that may certify persons in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to be employed as lifeguards in Connecticut by recognizing CPR certification by organizations that use guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care published by the American Heart Association and the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation.

Section 4 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, expands the list of organizations that may certify persons in CPR to meet the training requirements for licensed child care centers by recognizing CPR certification by organizations that use guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care published by the American Heart Association and International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation.

Public Act 19-106 An Act Concerning Access to Information on Early Childhood Interventions

Section 1 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, requires the OEC to develop and make available on the agency's web site a one-page document describing key developmental milestones experienced by children from birth to age five and containing notice that parents and guardians who are concerned that a child has not met a milestone may access the OEC Child Development Infoline for information concerning services. On and after February 1, 2020, each child care center, group child care home and family child care home shall post a copy of the document in a conspicuous place at the child care program.

Public Act 19-121 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

Sections 2 and 3 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, authorize child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes to provide child care services to a foster child for a period not to exceed forty-five days without complying with the immunization and physical examination requirements. Such child care program shall maintain a record of such foster child for a period of two years after such foster child is no longer receiving child care services at such program.

Section 4 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, specifies who must have comprehensive background checks, that such checks must be conducted in accordance with the federal requirements of the Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant, and that an employee of a child care facility that has been separated from employment from a child care provider in Connecticut for a period of more than 180 days must have a comprehensive background check regardless of whether they had such check completed in the past five years.

Sections 5 and 6 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, authorizes the OEC to order a summary probation of a licensed child care center, group child care home or family child care home license if it is found that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

Section 7 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, indicates that a licensed child care center or group child care home that fails to provide written notice to the OEC, all staff of the child care program and the parents or guardians of children receiving child care services, at least thirty days prior to the effective date of a proposed closure of such program, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars. The licensee of such child care program is entitled to a hearing regarding such civil penalty.

Section 13 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, grants the OEC authority to issue an approval to a person who satisfies the requirements established by regulations to work as a head teacher or an educational consultant in a licensed child care center or group child care home. Furthermore, this Act authorizes the OEC to suspend or revoke such approval if such head teacher or educational consultant has engaged in behavior that renders the person unsuitable to work in such capacity.

Section 14 of this Act, effective 7/1/19, authorizes a child care center or group child care home that is licensed with a preschool endorsement to deem any child who is thirty two to thirty-six months of age to be three years old provided written authorization is obtained from the child's parent or guardian and the program director. (i.e. the thirty two to thirty-six month old child would be considered to be three years of age, therefore all regulations including ratio and group size, for a three year old child would apply. The written authorization shall be maintained on file.)

Public Act 19-122 An Act Concerning Public Schools

Section 1 of this Act, effective on July 12, 2019, provides a license exemption for child care services administered by Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc., a New Haven-based nonprofit youth development organization.