

**OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
**2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BILL SUMMARY**  
*(Budget and implementer bill summaries are separate)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-172 – AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00172-R00HB-06559-PA.PDF>

See separate document detailing the 16 sections of the OEC agency bill.

**PUBLIC ACT 21-171 – AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00171-R00HB-06558-PA.PDF>

**Section 1 - Substitute Use in Licensed Family Child Care Homes**

Permits a licensed family child care home provider to use an OEC approved substitute to provide child care for more than one hour per day while the licensee attends a medical appointment, receives medical treatment, or completes education or training. Use of an approved substitute is permissible and will not constitute a transfer or franchise of the license provided the licensee provides advanced notice to the parents of enrolled children of the dates and times the substitute will be providing child care services and the licensee continues to maintain control of the day-to-day operations of the family child care home.

**Section 1 - Child Care Business Incubators**

Permits the OEC to issue a license to a person or group of persons to maintain a family child care home license outside of a private residence in each of the following cities: New Britain, New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, Danbury, and Waterbury. No more than one facility in each city shall be approved to be used for such licenses. Such person or group of persons shall have partnered with an entity to provide child care services in a space provided by such entity. Such space shall be approved by the OEC. Applications for such licenses shall require local approvals and additional health and safety conditions required by the OEC. Licenses issued under this provision shall expire on June 30, 2026.

**Section 2 - Early Childhood Workforce Taskforce**

Establishes a taskforce to analyze and make recommendations on issues relating to early childhood workforce development needs in the state. The task force shall examine the following:

- (1) methods to encourage equity-based practices in early childhood education preparation and professional development;
- (2) ways to address inequity in access to employment opportunities and compensation in the early childhood workforce;
- (3) feasibility of creating a new co-authored license that would offer multiple levels of flexibility to address the range of ages, settings and roles in the early childhood field, including a professional continuum for assistants, lead teachers, generalists and specialists, such as early intervention, mental health, integrated special education and rehabilitation therapies
- (4) workforce demands related to early childhood educators providing child care services for infants and toddlers and children up to ages 8

The task force shall make recommendations concerning:

- (1) educator preparation requirements in the early childhood field inclusive of all settings

- (2) creation of a new early childhood teacher license or credential for birth to age 6 jointly issued by the Office of Early Childhood and the Department of Education
- (3) development of a unifying framework for early childhood educator preparation, in accordance with the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Council for Exceptional Children - Division of Early Childhood
- (4) methods to increase compensation related to competency and degree attainment that will work across all early care and education sectors, including subsidized and parent fee supported programs
- (5) workforce development and creation of job opportunities in early childhood for all settings serving birth to age 6.

The taskforce membership is inclusive of statewide providers, teacher preparation, professional development, community, legislative, and state government agencies. OEC Commissioner, or designee, is a member of the task force.

### **Section 3 - Care 4 Kids Temporary Eligibility Expansion**

Temporarily expands Care 4 Kids eligibility to include higher education, education and training, adult education and Even Start made possible by using federal COVID-19 relief funding. Specifies the following entities:

- public or independent institution of higher education
- private occupational school authorized pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 280 10a-22o, inclusive
- job training or employment program administered by a regional workforce development board
- apprenticeship program administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship training
- alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education
- adult education program pursuant to section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program
- local Even Start program or other adult education program approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood

*(Effective July 1, 2021)*

## **PUBLIC ACT 21-46 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE SOCIAL EQUITY, HEALTH, SAFETY AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00046-R00SB-00002-PA.PDF>

### **Section 24 - Birth to Three Parent Fees**

Eliminates Birth to Three fees for parents and legal guardians. *(Effective from passage)*

### **Section 25 - Planning and Placement Team Meetings**

Expands parent, guardian, pupil, or surrogate parent rights regarding Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings. Requires that during any meeting at which an educational program for the child or pupil is developed, the parent, guardian, pupil, or surrogate parent must also have the right to have each recommendation made in the child or pupil's Birth-to-Three individualized transition plan, addressed by the PPT.

Gives the parent, guardian, pupil, or surrogate parent the right to have the child or pupil's Birth-to-Three service coordinator, if any, attend and participate in any part of the meeting at which an educational program for the child or pupil is developed, reviewed, or revised. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

### **Section 26 - Birth to Three Coordinator Disciplinary Protections**

Existing law prohibits local or regional boards of education from disciplining, suspending, terminating, or otherwise punishing any PPT member employed by the board who discusses or makes recommendations about providing special education and related services for a child during a PPT meeting. The bill extends this protection to Birth-to-Three service coordinators or qualified personnel concerning PPT meetings or transition plans. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

#### **Section 26 - Monitoring Developmental Delay**

Requires each local or regional board of education to monitor the development of each child who has been:

- 1) referred for a registration on a mobile application designated by the OEC commissioner (see Sec. 27 below), in partnership with the child's parent, guardian, or surrogate parent, or
- 2) provided a form for the child's parent, guardian, or surrogate parent to complete and submit to the board of education that screens for developmental and social emotional delays using a validated screening tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent.

Based on this monitoring, if a child is suspected of having a developmental delay, the board must schedule a PPT meeting with the parent, guardian, or surrogate parent to identify services for which the child may be eligible, including a preschool program under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

If a parent, guardian, or surrogate parent of a child, referred for a registration on the mobile application or provided a screening form, fails to complete the registration or complete and submit the form after six months, the board must send that person reminder. The board must send another reminder after one year from the referral or provision of the form if the registration remains incomplete or the form is not submitted. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

#### **Section 27 - Developmental and Socio-emotional Screenings**

Requires that, within two months after a child is determined to be ineligible for participation in preschool programs under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, the child and his or her family receive a referral to register for a mobile application designated by the OEC commissioner to continue screening for developmental and social-emotional delays. This is implemented in partnership with the local or regional board of education for the school district where the child lives. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

#### **Section 28 - Birth to Three Summer Months Expansion**

Requires the OEC to develop a plan, by July 1, 2022, to expand Birth to Three services for children turning age 3 as of May 1, and who are eligible for Part B services, to extend through the summer months until the start of the school year. *(Effective upon passage)*

#### **Section 29 - School Readiness Liaison**

Requires the district's local or regional board of education to designate a school readiness liaison in any town or district that does not currently have a local or regional School Readiness Council. The liaison must (1) be an employee of the school district and (2) serve as an informational resource for parents of children transitioning from the Birth-to-Three program to enrollment in a public elementary school in the school district. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

#### **Section 30 – Task Force to Study Comprehensive Needs of Children**

Establishes a 25-member task force to study the comprehensive needs of children in the state and the extent to which their needs are being met by educators, community members, and local and state agencies. The task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Children's Committee by January 1, 2022. OEC Commissioner, or their designee, is a member of this task force.

*(Effective upon passage)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-82 – AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF YOUTH CAMPS AND YOUTH SPORTS COACHES, TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00082-R00HB-06417-PA.PDF>

**Section 1 – Background Checks for Youth Camps**

Mandates licensed youth camps to require any prospective employee eighteen years or older to submit to a comprehensive background check every five years if the prospective employee has applied for a position that requires the prospective employee to provide care to a child or involves unsupervised access to a child. The Act identifies what such check shall encompass and specifies that any prospective employee who holds a J-1 visa, H-1B visa or R-1 visa issued by the US Department of State shall not be required to submit to a background check.

Pending completion of the background check, a prospective employee may begin work, provided such employee is supervised at all times by an employee who completed such required background check. Licensees of youth camps are required to notify the OEC immediately if such licensee or any staff employed in a position requiring the provision of care to a child or involving unsupervised access to a child is convicted of a crime identified in the Act.

Documentation associated with a comprehensive background check shall be made available to the OEC upon request for five years from the date of completion. This Act also requires OEC to post a list of third party vendors that complete fingerprint based background checks.

*(Effective October 1, 2022.)*

**Section 2 – Background Checks for Coaches, Instructors, and Athletic Trainers**

Similarly, requires certain municipalities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations operating youth athletic activities, as of October 1, 2022, to require prospective employees or volunteers who are age 18 or older and applying for a position as coach, instructor, or athletic trainer to submit to comprehensive background checks. *(Effective October 1, 2021)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-152 - AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND REQUIRING A REPORT FROM CERTAIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES REGARDING BACKGROUND CHECKS AND THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING PRECLEARANCE ASSESSMENTS OF CRIMINAL HISTORY**

<https://cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00152-R00HB-06449-PA.PDF>

By January 1, 2022, requires the departments of Administrative Services, Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Correction, Emergency Services and Public Protection, Labor, and Public Health, and the Office of Early Childhood, to report to the OPM secretary on certain information related to background checks. The report must include:

- 1) the number of employees who perform background checks related to the department's or office's licensing functions, their job classifications, and the background checks' type or level of clearance;
- 2) the average number of hours these employees spend weekly performing background checks; and
- 3) for any licenses requiring some pre-licensure education or training, the feasibility of assessing criminal history to preclear potential applicants before they begin the education or training.

The recommendations must also (1) assess the feasibility of centralizing and standardizing background checks state agencies perform and (2) address any related issues of these agencies delegating authority. *(Effective October 1, 2021)*

#### **PUBLIC ACT 21-6 – AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00006-R00HB-06423-PA.PDF>

#### **Sections 5-6 – Updated Immunization Requirements for Licensed Child Care Centers, Group Child Care Homes, and Family Child Care Homes**

Updates Connecticut's immunization requirements for children attending a pre-kindergarten or other preschool program located within child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes. The Act removes an exemption from the immunization from this requirement for children who, through a parent or guardian, documented that the immunizations were contrary to the religious beliefs of the parent(s)/guardian or the child. The new law allows children enrolled in grades K-12 who asserted a valid exemption prior to April 28, 2021, to remain exempt from immunization requirements, and children enrolled in pre-kindergarten or other preschool programs who asserted a valid exemption prior to April 28, 2021, to extend the timeframe within which they must comply with the immunization requirement under certain circumstances. *(Effective April 28, 2021)*

#### **PUBLIC ACT 21-64 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00064-R00HB-06113-PA.PDF>

Requires the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children to develop and make available online instructional guidelines for youth coaches on best practices for appropriate interaction with youth athletes, ways to identify possible child sexual abuse, and how to contact the appropriate authorities. Starting on January 1, 2022, requires, upon enrollment of an individual in a youth camp, that the youth camp distribute a copy of the youth coach guidelines to the individual's parent/guardian. Materials must be developed by December 1, 2021, and distributed by January 1, 2021. *(Effective from passage)*

#### **PUBLIC ACT 21-116 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOLS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00116-R00HB-06510-PA.PDF>

Requires DCF to develop and annually review and update a document for each mental health region designated by DMHAS describing the behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment resources available to children. DCF must do so in consultation with the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council (BHPOC), the DMHAS and DPH, and DCF's Youth Suicide Advisory Board. BHPOC must then (1) distribute the documents electronically to each licensed hospital that has an emergency department and to each local and regional board of education and (2) make them available on the council's website.

Requires hospital emergency departments, starting on January 1, 2022, to provide a copy of the applicable documents to the parents or guardians of each child upon the child's discharge from the emergency department. Requires each local and regional board of education to (1) distribute the applicable documents to parents and guardians and students starting January 1, 2022, and (2) make the documents available on its website.

*(Effective December 1, 2021)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-72 - AN ACT CONCERNING A MENTAL HEALTH BILL OF RIGHTS FOR DEAF, DEAFBLIND, AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00072-R00HB-06637-PA.PDF>

Seeks to eliminate the disparities in mental health services for individuals who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing. Section 2 - Bill of rights for persons in need of mental health services who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing under which a person has a right to:

- 1) culturally and linguistically affirmative mental health services that accommodate the unique needs of such person;
- 2) accessible mental health services delivered in such person's primary language, communication mode or style;
- 3) specialized mental health services when necessary that provide appropriate and fully accessible counseling and therapeutic options using an appropriate oral, aural or speech-based system tailored to the unique needs of such person;
- 4) express their opinion in determining the extent, content, and purpose of mental health treatment or services that accommodate the unique needs of such person;
- 5) programs offering access to a full continuum of services, including, but not limited, all modes of therapy and evaluations;
- 6) programs informed by appropriate research, curricula, staff and outreach; and
- 7) express their views concerning the development and implementation of state and regional programs for the mental health service needs of such person.

The rights afforded these individuals must be available to them only to the extent that they are implemented in accordance with the general statutes, federal law, and the state and U.S. constitutions. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-35 - AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC**

<https://cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00035-R00SB-00001-PA.PDF>

This is a large omnibus bill addressing mental, behavioral and physical health care in terms of equity and justice with a specific lens on race. There are 21 sections to the bill. Below are a few of them.

**Section 1 - Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

Declares racism to be a public health crisis in the state.

**Sections 2 & 4 - Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health**

Establishes a 28-member Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health. Outlines the commission's responsibilities, including developing a strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and inequities in various areas; establishes a goal of reducing racial disparities by at least 70% four areas - education, health care utilization and outcomes, criminal justice, and economic matters. Requires the commission to determine best practices for state agencies to evaluate structural racism within their operations and implement a plan to eliminate that racism.

The OEC Commissioner, or designee, is a member of the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health.

**Section 8 – Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements**

Requires the CWCSEO executive director to report on the status of amendments to the legislative Joint Rules on preparing racial and ethnic impact statements.

### **Section 10 – DPH Study and Report on State’s Response to COVID-19 Response**

Requires DPH to study and report on the state’s COVID-19 response.

### **Section 12 – DPH Maternal Mortality Review Committee Report**

Requires DPH’s Maternal Mortality Review Committee to annually report disaggregated data on its investigations to the Public Health Committee and allows the reports to include recommendations to reduce or eliminate racial inequities and other public health concerns related to its charge.

### **Section 12 - Doula Scope of Practice**

Requires DPH to (1) establish a scope of practice review committee to determine whether DPH should establish a doula certification process and (2) report to the Public Health Committee its findings and recommendations.

### **Section 17 - Mobile Crisis Services**

Requires DMHAS to (1) make mobile crisis services available on nights and weekends, within available appropriations, and (2) develop and report on a plan to make these services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

*(Effective from passage)*

### **SPECIAL ACT 21-37 – AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON THE DISPARATE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/SA/PDF/2021SA-00037-R00HB-05614-SA.PDF>

Establishes a 22-member Commission on the Disparate Impact of COVID-19 within the legislative department. The commission must, among other things, analyze and identify the cause of any disparate impact of COVID-19 and the federal and state responses to it on different racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic groups. Requires the commission to hold its first meeting by September 1, 2021. The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity’s (CWCSEO) administrative staff serve as the commission’s administrative staff.

Starting by January 1, 2022, the commission must annually report its findings and legislative and policy recommendations to the commission’s appointing authorities and the governor. The commission expires on June 20, 2023, or after a two-thirds vote by its membership, whichever is earlier.

*(Effective July 1, 2021)*

### **PUBLIC ACT 21-111 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 BOARD, AUTHORIZING STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND MAKING REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT STATUTES**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00111-R00HB-06690-PA.PDF>

### **Section 103-111 – Baby Bond Trust Program**

Establishes the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust program, administered by the state treasurer, and authorizes up to \$600 million in bonds for the program from FY 23-34. Treasurer must (1) create accounts for babies born on or after July 1, 2021, whose births were covered under HUSKY and (2) deposit \$3,200 into each designated beneficiary’s account at birth. Once they have reached age 18, designated beneficiaries may receive the funds in their account, including any investment earnings, to be used for an eligible expenditure. Eligible expenditures generally include those for education, home-buying, business investments, and personal financial investments. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*



**PUBLIC ACT 21-176 – AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITHOUT HEALTH CARE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00176-R00HB-06687-PA.PDF>

Requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to extend eligibility for medical assistance to children under age 9 extend coverage to children under age 9, regardless of immigration status, with household incomes 1) up to 201% of the federal poverty level (FPL) with no asset limit and 2) over 201% and up to 323% FPL. This applies to children who do not otherwise qualify for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (known as HUSKY B), or an offer of affordable, employer-sponsored insurance. *(Effective January 1, 2023)*

Extends coverage to women for 12 months after giving birth who do not qualify for Medicaid due to immigration status and whose household income does not exceed 263% FPL. *(Effective April 1, 2023)*  
Requires the DSS commissioner to amend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan to provide medical assistance for prenatal care through the "unborn child option." This state option allows states to consider an unborn child a low-income child eligible for prenatal care coverage if other CHIP eligibility requirements are met. *(Effective October 1, 2021)*

Requires the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to study the feasibility of extending health care coverage for (1) income-eligible children ages 9 to 18, regardless of immigration status, and (2) adults with household income up to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) who do not currently qualify due to household income. *(Effective October 1, 2021)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-9 – AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00009-R00HB-05596-PA.PDF>

Modifies requirements for the delivery of telehealth services and insurance coverage of these services until June 30, 2023. Authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) to temporarily modify, waive or suspend certain regulatory requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health. Expands the types of health providers authorized to provide telehealth services. Requires both individual and group insurance to pay for telehealth the same way they would pay for in-person services. Permits certain telehealth providers to provide telehealth services using audio-only telephone and other communication technologies. *(Effective upon passage)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-66 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

<https://cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00066-R00HB-06320-PA.PDF>

Adds a third chairperson to the Autism Spectrum Disorder council, to be elected by council members, and requires both elected chairs to be chosen from the six appointed council members who are either individuals with autism or parents or guardians of individuals with autism. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-49 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00049-R00SB-00883-PA.PDF>

Makes changes affecting the Citizens' Election Program (CEP), which is the state's voluntary public campaign financing program open to candidates running for statewide office or the General Assembly. Requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), on or after July 1, 2021, to amend the CEP regulations to permit expenditures for child care services. Requires procedures and considerations for



appointing public members to state boards and commissions, and requires the Secretary of State to report on the gender and racial diversity of state boards and commissions. *(Effective July 1, 2021)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-15 – AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONNECTICUT PARENTAGE ACT**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00015-R00HB-06321-PA.PDF>

Adopts the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA), known as the Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA). Ensures that all Connecticut children — regardless of the circumstances of their birth or the marital status, gender, or sexual orientation of their parents — have equal access to the security of a legal parent-child relationship. The bill:

- 1) provides for equal treatment under the law for children born to same-sex couples by, among other things, removing certain gender-specific references (e.g., changing “maternity” and “paternity” to “parentage”);
- 2) expands recognition of non-biological parents by (a) making marital or “hold-out” presumptions gender neutral and (b) establishing de facto parentage (i.e., the court adjudicates a person to be a parent under certain circumstances);
- 3) provides guidance on adjudicating parentage and adjudicating competing claims of parentage (e.g., creates best interest of the child factors that the court must consider);
- 4) provides the process for establishing acknowledged parentage through an acknowledgment agreement;
- 5) provides for adjudicating genetic parentage and updates the rules governing children born under a surrogacy agreement; and
- 6) establishes a procedure to enable children conceived through assisted reproduction to access medical and identifying information about any gamete donors.

*(Effective January 1, 2022)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-27 – AN ACT CONCERNING BREASTFEEDING IN THE WORKPLACE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00027-R00HB-05158-PA.PDF>

Establishes certain criteria for employer-provided areas used by employees to express breast milk. As long as there is no undue hardship, the area must (1) be free from intrusion and shielded from the public while the employee expresses milk; (2) include or be near a refrigerator or employee-provided portable cold storage device in which the employee can store breast milk; and (3) have access to an electrical outlet. An “undue hardship” is any action that requires significant difficulty or expense when considered in relation to factors such as the business’s size and financial resources and the nature and structure of its operation. *(Effective October 1, 2021)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-32 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION AND CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00032-R00SB-01019-PA.PDF>

Establishes a process to erase records of certain criminal convictions after a specified period following the person’s most recent conviction. These provisions do not apply to (1) class A, B, or C felonies (or certain unclassified felonies), (2) family violence crimes, or (3) certain crimes requiring sex offender registration.

Eligible misdemeanors are subject to erasure seven years after the person's most recent conviction and eligible felonies are subject to erasure 10 years after the most recent conviction. For eligible convictions, erasure is automatic for offenses occurring on or after January 1, 2000; for earlier offenses, erasure occurs when the person files a petition for erasure.

Prohibits discrimination in various contexts based on someone's erased criminal history record information, including in housing, employment, public accommodations, credit, and state agency services. It classifies certain types of discrimination on this basis as discriminatory practices under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO).

This impacts OEC background checks system policies for child care and youth camp licensed programs and Care 4 Kids.

*(Various effective dates)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-33 - AN ACT CONCERNING CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARDS, SECURITY GUARDS, BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT, SEARCHES BY POLICE, LIMITATIONS ON OFFENSES SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC ERASURE, ENTICING A JUVENILE TO COMMIT A CRIME, LAWFUL ORDERS BY POLICE OFFICERS AND NOTICE TO A VICTIM CONCERNING AUTOMATIC ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORD HISTORY**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00033-R00SB-01093-PA.PDF>

Makes various changes to the laws regarding (1) police procedures, (2) juvenile criminal matters, (3) security guards, and (4) criminal record erasure under Public Act 21-32 (see above).

Specific to criminal record erasure, expands the list of convictions ineligible for erasure under Public Act 21-32 to include:

- 1) specified class D felonies and class A misdemeanors, such as possession of child pornography 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, enticing a minor (1st offense, victim age 13 or older; other cases are class B or C felonies), obscenity as to minors, failure to register as a sex offender when required, assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or person with intellectual disability 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, and
- 2) any offense for which the person has not completed serving the sentence, including probation or parole.

This impacts OEC background checks system policies for child care and youth camp licensed programs and Care 4 Kids.

*(Various effective dates)*

**PUBLIC ACT 21-145 – AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00145-R00SB-01071-PA.PDF>

**Section 2-3 – Access to Records**

Makes various changes in statutes about state auditors, auditing, and other related topics. Prohibit state agencies from denying the auditors access to their records or accounts (Sec. 1). Require certain new or amended state contracts to contain a data access provision allowing the agency to access data upon

demand, at no additional cost, and allows the auditors access to this data when auditing the agency.  
(Effective October 1, 2021)

**PUBLIC ACT 21-76 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODERNIZATION OF STATE SERVICES AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00076-R00HB-06444-PA.PDF>

Affects OEC's Fiscal and Contracting Divisions.

**Sections 1-7 – Contracting Affidavits**

Streamlines contracting requirements for certain state, municipal, and quasi-public agency contracts by eliminating the requirement that contractors submit documentation (e.g. affidavits and certifications) about their compliance with certain contracting laws and instead requiring that these applicable requirements be incorporated into the contract. The provisions concern contractors' compliance with (1) state ethics laws; (2) restrictions on gifts, investments, political contributions and solicitations, and use of consultants; and (3) nondiscrimination and affirmative action requirements.

**Sections 8-11 – Set-aside Program**

Revamps the state set-aside program's eligibility requirements for small contractors and minority business enterprises (MBEs). Requires that for-profit entities be registered as a small business in the federal government contracting database to be able to participate in the program.

**Section 17 – Business Activities Conducted Online**

Allows state and quasi-public agencies to conduct various business activities electronically such as accept fee payments by any electronic funds transfer means they adopt.

Allows state and quasi-public agencies to post on their website or another electronic portal available to the public any legal notice that must be advertised in a newspaper under current law.

(Effective July 1, 2021)