Public Acts Recently Enacted

The following is a list of public acts passed during the 2025 legislative session that are specific to 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, and the complete text of each public act should be reviewed by accessing the links provided, or by visiting the Connecticut General Assembly's web site at <u>www.cga.ct.gov</u>.

Public Act 25-8 <u>AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR</u> TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.

Section 9 of this act, effective from passage, clarifies that the members of the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council shall elect a chairperson (rather than chairpersons) of the council from among the members of the council.

Public Act 25-82 AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION.

Section 5 of this act, effective from passage, requires the OEC, Insurance Department, and the Attorney General, to conduct a joint study regarding the prevalence, appropriateness and affordability of liability insurance for child care centers and family child care homes, including an assessment of the factors that have given rise to increasing liability insurance costs. OEC must submit a report on the findings of the joint study, and any recommendations, to the General Assembly no later than July 1, 2026.

Section 6 of this act, effective from passage, requires the OEC and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to develop a report on background checks for early childhood educators. The report shall include an examination of a) the average processing time for background checks, b) strategies to improve the speed at which background checks are processed, and c) strategies to improve the convenience of being fingerprinted. The report must also include an assessment of whether it's possible for an early childhood educator to share their fingerprint and background check results with multiple prospective employers. The OEC must submit a report on its findings, and any recommendations, to the General Assembly by July 1, 2026.

Section 7 of this act, effective July 1, 2025, establishes a pilot program which allows the Commissioner of Early Childhood to issue 30 large family child care endorsements in each of fiscal years 2026 to 2029. The endorsements may be issued to family child care home licensees who were issued a license prior to June 30, 2025, to provide care for up to 12 children, including the licensee's own children. The family child care home must be operated and staffed in accordance with existing regulations and in most cases requires one additional staff person when caring for more than 9 children. An application for the endorsement must be submitted to the OEC along with a copy of the certificate of compliance with the Fire Safety Code, and written verification of compliance with local zoning, building, and health ordinances. The Commissioner may require an applicant to comply with additional requirements relating to the health and safety of children served in the home. The family child care home must have a minimum of 35 square feet per child of outdoor space. An endorsement issued under this section will expire June 30, 2029. The OEC is taking immediate steps to develop the application for this endorsement and will communicate this information to all family child care home providers licensed by June 30, 2025 once it's available.

Public Act 25-143 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM AND CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE AND GLUCAGON.

Section 2 of this act, effective July 1, 2025, makes clear that youth camp licenses are nontransferable, and are renewable upon receipt of a renewal application and payment of the license fee.

Section 3 of this act, effective July 1, 2025, clarifies the definitions of "Youth Camp," Day Camp," and "Resident Camp." The overarching definition is "youth camp," with resident camp and day camp further defined. Both the resident camp and day camp definitions previously included information that youth camps are conducted on a parcel of land that has dwelling units or buildings. Removing that information from resident camp and day camp and inserting the language in the definition of youth camp more clearly defines the overall meaning of youth camp. The reference to the numbers of children (five or more) and ages (at least three years of age and under sixteen years of age) was also removed from the definitions of resident camp and day camp as those references are already included in the definition of youth camp.

Section 20 of this act, effective July 1, 2025, clarifies that a child care center or group child care home shall not deny services to a child because a child has a prescription for nasal spray, or any other medical equipment approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that is used to treat an allergic reaction or to administer glucagon.

Section 24 of this act, effective July 1, 2025, clarifies that any provider of child care services in a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home may maintain a supply of epinephrine that is administered in ways other than by a cartridge injector.

Section 25 of this act, effective July 1, 2025, adds to the definition of epinephrine by including nasal spray or any other medical equipment approved by the FDA to the methods by which epinephrine is delivered in a standard dose for an emergency first aid response to an allergic reaction.