

Public Acts Recently Enacted

The following is a list of public acts passed during the 2024 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 cga.ct.gov.

Public Act 24-49 AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH CAMPS.

Section 1 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, requires the OEC to inspect facilities of applicants prior to issuing a license, and again no later than 72 hours after the licensee commences operations. If violations are cited, once the Office approves a corrective action plan, the OEC shall inspect again no later than 72-hours after such approval, and every week thereafter until the office has determined that the licensee is compliant with the provisions of the corrective action plan. The Office shall a) give priority to applicants for an original license and those licensees that operate a youth camp for a single week, provided an inspection of a single-week youth camp shall be conducted no later than 48-hours after the commencement of operation of the youth camp; and b) give less priority to those licensees that have received national accreditation from the American Camp Association or under the Boy Scouts of America's National Camp Accreditation Program, or against which there were no complaints or violations filed during the previous five years.

Section 2 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, establishes the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council within the OEC to provide advice to the Commissioner on matters relating to safety issues at youth camps. The council shall consist of 11 members representing various types of youth camps, and shall be appointed by members of the legislature, the Governor, and the Commissioner. Each appointed member shall serve a term of three years without compensation. The Advisory Council shall elect, annually, its own chairperson and other officers as deemed necessary, shall meet quarterly, and shall meet with the Commissioner at least annually. Members who fail to attend 50 percent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the council. The OEC shall provide administrative support to facilitate the activities of the council.

Section 3 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, gives the Commissioner the discretion to refuse to license a person to establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp, or suspend or revoke a license, if the person who establishes, conducts, or maintains the youth camp held a license in another state that was revoked by that state's licensing authority.

Public Act 24-78 AN ACT ASSISTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES, IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING EARLY START CT.

Section 33 of this act, effective upon passage, requires the Commissioner to implement policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations to 1) implement infant, toddler and school-age ratios and group size requirements for child care centers and group child care homes, and 2) implement head teacher staffing requirements for programs that serve school-age only children. Existing regulations applicable to child care centers and group child care homes remain in effect until replaced by such policies and procedures. The Commissioner is required to post notice of intent to adopt regulations on the OEC's website and on the eRegulations system within 20 days after implementing any policies and procedures, which are valid until the final regulations are adopted.

Section 39 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, expands the Family Child Care incubator model statewide, allows for more than one facility in a community but caps the total number of facilities in the state to 20, and removes the sunset date which was previously set to expire June 30, 2026. The incubator model permits the OEC to issue family child care home licenses to individuals who have partnered with an association, organization, corporation, institution or agency, to provide child care services in a space provided by such entity that is not in a private family home.

Public Act 24-91 AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION.

Section 6 of this act, effective upon passage, requires the OEC, by December 1, 2024, to consult with a nonprofit organization providing entrepreneurial and financial education services to women and develop a document to distribute to each licensee explaining the benefits of maintaining liability insurance coverage and the potential consequences of not

maintaining such coverage. On an annual basis beginning January 1, 2025, the OEC must electronically distribute this document to each licensee.

Section 7 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, makes clear that operators of licensed child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes, other than those that exclusively serve school-age children, shall post a copy of the developmental milestones document created by the OEC. School age programs generally serve children over the age of five and the document lists important developmental milestones experienced by children ages birth to five.

Section 10 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, requires licensed child care programs to allow a child with an individualized family service plan who is eligible for the birth-to-three program to receive early intervention services at the child care center, group child care home or family child care home from the service provider designated in such individualized family service plan.