



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 3997



Offered by:

SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.

SEN. SEMINARA, 8th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 215

File No. 136

Cal. No. 112

"AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH CAMPS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 19a-426 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

5 The office shall inspect or cause to be inspected the facilities to be
6 operated by an applicant for an original license before the license shall
7 be granted, and again (1) not later than seventy-two hours after the
8 licensee commences operations, and (2) if the office approves a
9 corrective action plan for the licensee, not later than seventy-two hours
10 after such approval, and every week thereafter until the office has
11 determined that such licensee is fully compliant with the provisions of
12 such corrective action plan. The office shall annually thereafter inspect
13 or cause to be inspected the facilities of all licensees. In conducting such
14 inspections, the office shall give (A) priority to applicants for an original
15 license and those licensees that operate a youth camp for a single week,

16 provided an inspection of a single-week youth camp shall be conducted
17 not later than forty-eight hours after the commencement of operations
18 of such youth camp in a given year, and (B) less priority to those
19 licensees (i) that have received national accreditation from the American
20 Camp Association or under the Boy Scouts of America's National Camp
21 Accreditation Program, or (ii) against which there were no complaints
22 or violations filed during the previous five years. No annual inspection
23 shall be required under this section in the case of facilities of a licensee
24 located in any dormitory, classroom or other building or any athletic
25 facility owned and maintained by any college or university, provided a
26 timely safety inspection of such building or facility, satisfactory to the
27 office, is conducted by or on behalf of such college or university.

28 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established a Youth
29 Camp Safety Advisory Council within the Office of Early Childhood.
30 The council shall provide advice to the Commissioner of Early
31 Childhood on matters relating to safety issues at youth camps.

32 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

33 (1) A representative of the Connecticut Camping Association
34 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

35 (2) A representative of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks
36 Association appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

37 (3) A representative of a nonprofit youth service organization with a
38 camping program in the state appointed by the majority leader of the
39 House of Representatives;

40 (4) A representative of a nonprofit youth service organization with a
41 camping program in the state appointed by the majority leader of the
42 Senate;

43 (5) A representative of a day camp appointed by the minority leader
44 of the House of Representatives;

45 (6) A representative of a resident camp appointed by the minority

46 leader of the Senate;

47 (7) A representative of a day camp appointed by the House
48 chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
49 having cognizance of matters relating to children;

50 (8) A representative of a resident camp appointed by the Senate
51 chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
52 having cognizance of matters relating to children;

53 (9) A representative of a sports camp appointed by the Governor;

54 (10) A representative of an independent school camp appointed by
55 the Governor;

56 (11) A representative of a university that hosts or conducts a summer
57 camp appointed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood; and

58 (12) Any additional member appointed by the commissioner to fill
59 the needs of the council based on expertise in the field.

60 (c) All appointments to the council, pursuant to subsection (b) of this
61 section, shall be made not later than September 1, 2024. Any vacancy
62 shall be filled by the appointing authority. Members shall serve three-
63 year terms.

64 (d) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall schedule the first
65 meeting of the council, which shall be held not later than September 15,
66 2024. The members of the council shall elect the chairpersons of the
67 council from among the members of the council at the first meeting of
68 the council.

69 (e) The council shall elect, annually, its own chairperson and other
70 officers as deemed necessary. The council shall meet at least once during
71 each calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairperson deems
72 necessary or upon the request of a majority of members. The
73 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall meet at least annually with the
74 council. Any member who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings

75 held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from
76 the council. Members of the council shall serve without compensation.
77 The Office of Early Childhood shall provide administrative assistance to
78 facilitate the activity of the council.

79 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 19a-421 of the general statutes is
80 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
81 *2024*):

82 (e) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall have the discretion to
83 refuse to license under sections 19a-420 to 19a-429, inclusive, a person
84 to establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp, as described in section
85 19a-420, or to suspend or revoke the license or take any other action set
86 forth in any regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-428 if, the
87 person who establishes, conducts or maintains such youth camp or a
88 person employed therein in a position connected with the provision of
89 care to a child or involving unsupervised access to a child, has (1) been
90 convicted in this state or any other state of (A) a felony as defined in
91 section 53a-25 involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of
92 physical force against another person, [of] (B) cruelty to persons under
93 section 53-20, (C) injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of
94 children under section 53-21, (D) abandonment of children under the
95 age of six years under section 53-23, [or] (E) any felony where the victim
96 of the felony is a child under eighteen years of age, or [of] (F) a violation
97 of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
98 January 1, 2019, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, [or
99 has] (2) a criminal record in this state or any other state that the
100 commissioner reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to
101 establish, conduct or maintain or be employed by a youth camp, or (3)
102 held a license to establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp in another
103 state that was revoked by such state's licensing authority. However, no
104 refusal of a license shall be rendered except in accordance with the
105 provisions of sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	19a-426
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	19a-421(e)