



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 8695



Offered by:

SEN. FORMICA, 20<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1

File No. 481

Cal. No. 295

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL,  
BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO  
THE PANDEMIC."**

1 Strike section 10 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu  
2 thereof:

3 "Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Public Health shall  
4 contract with an independent third party to conduct a study on the  
5 state's COVID-19 response. Not later than February 1, 2022, the  
6 Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a preliminary report, in  
7 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
8 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
9 cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the findings of  
10 such study. Such report shall include the independent third party's  
11 findings and may include the commissioner's recommendations for (1)  
12 any policy changes and amendments to the general statutes necessary

13 to improve the state's response to future pandemics, including, but not  
14 limited to, recommendations regarding provisions of the general  
15 statutes or the regulations of Connecticut state agencies that should  
16 automatically be waived in the event of an occurrence or imminent  
17 threat of an occurrence of a communicable disease, except a sexually  
18 transmitted disease, or a public health emergency declared by the  
19 Governor pursuant to section 19a-131a of the general statutes in  
20 response to an epidemic or pandemic, and (2) how to improve  
21 administration of mass vaccinations, reporting and utilization of  
22 personal protective equipment supply during a public health  
23 emergency, cluster outbreak investigation and health care facilities' care  
24 for patients. As used in this section, "COVID-19" means the respiratory  
25 disease designated by the World Health Organization on February 11,  
26 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof recognized  
27 by said organization as a communicable respiratory disease."