
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6819 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING LACTATION CONSULTANTS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to obtain from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners a list of all Connecticut residents on the board's registry of certified lactation consultants. The commissioner must do this annually, starting by January 1, 2024, and post the list on the DPH website.

The bill also creates a 20-member task force to study DPH lactation consultant licensure, including (1) licensure qualifications and (2) if DPH should license or certify those who provide services under a different title (e.g., certified lactation counselors, certified lactation educators, or peer counselors) who are certified in good standing by the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2024. It terminates on this date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

Lactation consultants are healthcare professionals who specialize in the clinical management of breastfeeding (e.g., low milk production, latching difficulties, or painful nursing). Connecticut does not currently certify or license these professionals.

*House Amendment "A" (1) requires the task force to study the licensure of other professionals who provide services under a different title, instead of only lactation counselors, and (2) increases the task force membership from nine to 20, and specifies their required qualifications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

LACTATION CONSULTANT LICENSURE TASK FORCE

Membership

Under the bill, task force members include the following eight state officials or their designees: the (1) DPH and Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioners, (2) chairpersons and ranking members of the Public Health Committee, (3) Office of Health Strategy executive director, and (4) DSS Medicaid and Health Services director. It also includes the following 12 appointed members listed in the table below.

Table: Task Force Member Appointments and Qualifications

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Member Qualifications</i>
House speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one lactation consultant with expertise in clinical care in a community setting • one representative of the Connecticut chapter of a national academy of pediatric physicians
Senate president pro tempore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one representative of a Connecticut medical society • one representative of the Connecticut chapter of a national college of obstetrics and gynecologists
House majority leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one representative of a national alliance of lactation consultants • one representative of a federally qualified health center in Connecticut
Senate majority leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one representative of a community health center association in Connecticut • one representative of a nonprofit that supports research, leads programs, and provides education and advocacy on maternal and children's health in Connecticut
House minority leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one representative of an entity in Connecticut that provides lactation consultant services • one hospital-based health care provider
Senate minority leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one representative of a Connecticut entity that provides lactation consultant services via telehealth • one state-licensed nurse-midwife

Under the bill, appointed members may be legislators. Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancy.

Leadership and Meetings

The bill requires the House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore to select the task force chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the task force's first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill's passage.

Under the bill, the Public Health Committee's administrative staff serve in that capacity for the task force.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/20/2023)