



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 6731**

LCO No. 4302



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF  
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-493 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Upon receipt of an application for an initial license, the  
4 Department of Public Health, subject to the provisions of section 19a-  
5 491a, shall issue such license if, upon conducting a scheduled inspection  
6 and investigation, the department finds that the applicant and facilities  
7 meet the requirements established under section 19a-495, provided a  
8 license shall be issued to or renewed for an institution, as defined in  
9 section 19a-490, only if such institution is not otherwise required to be  
10 licensed by the state. If an institution, as defined in subsections (b), (d),  
11 (e) and (f) of section 19a-490, applies for license renewal and has been  
12 certified as a provider of services by the United States Department of  
13 Health and Human Services under Medicare or Medicaid programs  
14 within the immediately preceding twelve-month period, or if an

15 institution, as defined in subsection (b) of section 19a-490, is currently  
16 certified, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may waive  
17 on renewal the inspection and investigation of such facility required by  
18 this section and, in such event, any such facility shall be deemed to have  
19 satisfied the requirements of section 19a-495 for the purposes of  
20 licensure. Such license shall be valid for two years or a fraction thereof  
21 and shall terminate on March thirty-first, June thirtieth, September  
22 thirtieth or December thirty-first of the appropriate year. A license  
23 issued pursuant to this chapter, unless sooner suspended or revoked,  
24 shall be renewable biennially (1) after an unscheduled inspection is  
25 conducted by the department, and (2) upon the filing by the licensee,  
26 and approval by the department, of a report upon such date and  
27 containing such information in such form as the department prescribes  
28 and satisfactory evidence of continuing compliance with requirements  
29 established under section 19a-495. In the case of an institution, as  
30 defined in subsection (d) of section 19a-490, that is also certified as a  
31 provider under the Medicare program, the license shall be issued for a  
32 period not to exceed three years, to run concurrently with the  
33 certification period. In the case of an institution, as defined in subsection  
34 (m) of section 19a-490, that is applying for renewal, the license shall be  
35 issued pursuant to section 19a-491. Except in the case of a multicare  
36 institution, each license shall be issued only for the premises and  
37 persons named in the application. Such license shall not be transferable  
38 or assignable. Licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the  
39 licensed premises.

40 (b) [(1)] A nursing home license may be renewed biennially after [(A)]  
41 (1) an unscheduled inspection conducted by the department, [(B)] (2)  
42 submission of the information required by section 19a-491a, and [(C)]  
43 (3) submission of evidence satisfactory to the department that the  
44 nursing home is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the  
45 regulations of Connecticut state agencies and licensing regulations.

46 [(2)] (c) (1) (A) For the purposes of this subsection, (i) "a person  
47 related by blood or marriage" means a parent, spouse, child, brother,  
48 sister, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew, (ii) "business entity" means a

49 corporation, association, trust, estate, partnership, limited partnership,  
50 limited liability partnership, limited liability company, sole  
51 proprietorship, joint stock company, nonstock corporation or other legal  
52 entity, (iii) "facility" means any facility licensed by the Department of  
53 Public Health pursuant to chapter 368v, (iv) "institution" has the same  
54 meaning as provided in section 19a-490, and (v) "organizational chart"  
55 means a graphical representation of an organization, including, but not  
56 limited to, the relationships between such organization's ownership  
57 interests, employees, departments and the jobs within such  
58 organization.

59 (B) For the purposes of this subsection, (i) a change in the legal form  
60 of the ownership entity, including, but not limited to, changes from a  
61 corporation to a limited liability company, a partnership to a limited  
62 liability partnership, a sole proprietorship to a corporation and similar  
63 changes, shall not be considered a change in ownership if the beneficial  
64 ownership remains unchanged and the owner provides such  
65 information regarding the change to the department as may be required  
66 by the commissioner to properly identify the current status of  
67 ownership and beneficial ownership of the facility or institution, and (ii)  
68 a public offering of the stock of any corporation that owns, conducts,  
69 operates or maintains any facility or institution shall not be considered  
70 a change in ownership or beneficial ownership of such facility or  
71 institution if the licensee and the officers and directors of such  
72 corporation remain unchanged, such public offering cannot result in an  
73 individual or entity owning ten per cent or more of the stock of such  
74 corporation, and the owner provides such information to the  
75 department as may be required by the department in order to properly  
76 identify the current status of ownership and beneficial ownership of the  
77 facility or institution.

78 (C) For the purposes of this subsection, "serious risk to the life, safety,  
79 or quality of care of patients or residents" includes, but is not limited to,  
80 any deficiency in state licensure or federal certification requirements,  
81 including the provisions of 42 CFR 488.400 et seq., resulting in:

82 (i) An action by a state or federal agency to ban, curtail or temporarily  
83 suspend admissions to a facility or to suspend or revoke a facility's  
84 license;

85 (ii) A decertification, termination or exclusion from Medicaid or  
86 Medicare participation, including denial of payment for new  
87 admissions, imposed by the Department of Public Health or by the  
88 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as a result of  
89 noncompliance with Medicaid or Medicare conditions of participation;

90 (iii) A citation of any deficiency that constitutes a pattern or  
91 widespread scope of harm or immediate jeopardy, or any deficiency  
92 causing widespread actual harm, as described in 42 CFR 488;

93 (iv) A determination that the provider is a "poor performer" on the  
94 basis of a finding of substandard quality of care or immediate jeopardy,  
95 as described in 42 CFR 488, on the current survey and on a survey  
96 during one of the two preceding years. For the purposes of this  
97 subparagraph, "substandard quality of care" means the failure to meet  
98 one or more requirements of 42 CFR 483.13, 42 CFR 483.15 or 42 CFR  
99 483.25, that constitute either immediate jeopardy to resident health or  
100 safety, a pattern of or widespread actual harm that is not immediate  
101 jeopardy or a widespread potential for more than minimal harm, but  
102 less than immediate jeopardy, with no actual harm; or

103 (v) A determination that the facility has failed to correct deficiencies  
104 that have been cited, and that has resulted in a denial by the Centers for  
105 Medicare and Medicaid Services of payment for new admissions or a  
106 requirement by the department to curtail admission.

107 (2) Any change in the ownership or beneficial ownership of a facility  
108 or institution [, as defined in section 19a-490,] owned by an individual [,  
109 partnership or association or the change in ownership or beneficial  
110 ownership of ten per cent or more of the stock of a corporation which]  
111 or a business entity that owns, conducts, operates or maintains such  
112 facility or institution, including a change in ownership or beneficial  
113 ownership resulting in a transfer to a person related by blood or

114 marriage to an owner or a beneficial owner, shall be subject to prior  
115 approval of the department. [after a scheduled inspection of such facility  
116 or institution is conducted by the department, provided such approval  
117 shall be conditioned upon a showing by such facility or institution to the  
118 commissioner that it has complied with all requirements of this chapter,  
119 the regulations relating to licensure and all applicable requirements of  
120 the regulations of Connecticut state agencies. Any such change in  
121 ownership or beneficial ownership resulting in a transfer to a person  
122 related by blood or marriage to such an owner or beneficial owner shall  
123 not be subject to prior approval of the department unless: (A)  
124 Ownership or beneficial ownership of ten per cent or more of the stock  
125 of a corporation, limited liability company, partnership or association  
126 which owns, conducts, operates or maintains more than one facility or  
127 institution is transferred; (B) ownership or beneficial ownership is  
128 transferred in more than one facility or institution; or (C) the facility or  
129 institution is the subject of a pending complaint, investigation or  
130 licensure action. If the facility or institution is not in compliance, the  
131 commissioner may require the new owner to sign a consent order  
132 providing reasonable assurances that the violations shall be corrected  
133 within a specified period of time. Notice of any such proposed change  
134 of ownership shall be given to the department at least one hundred  
135 twenty days prior to the effective date of such proposed change. For the  
136 purposes of this subdivision, "a person related by blood or marriage"  
137 means a parent, spouse, child, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece or  
138 nephew. For the purposes of this subdivision, a change in the legal form  
139 of the ownership entity, including, but not limited to, changes from a  
140 corporation to a limited liability company, a partnership to a limited  
141 liability partnership, a sole proprietorship to a corporation and similar  
142 changes, shall not be considered a change of ownership if the beneficial  
143 ownership remains unchanged and the owner provides such  
144 information regarding the change to the department as may be required  
145 by the department in order to properly identify the current status of  
146 ownership and beneficial ownership of the facility or institution. For the  
147 purposes of this subdivision, a public offering of the stock of any  
148 corporation that owns, conducts, operates or maintains any such facility

149 or institution shall not be considered a change in ownership or beneficial  
150 ownership of such facility or institution if the licensee and the officers  
151 and directors of such corporation remain unchanged, such public  
152 offering cannot result in an individual or entity owning ten per cent or  
153 more of the stock of such corporation, and the owner provides such  
154 information to the department as may be required by the department in  
155 order to properly identify the current status of ownership and beneficial  
156 ownership of the facility or institution.]

157 (3) Not later than one hundred twenty days before the proposed date  
158 of a change in ownership or beneficial ownership of a facility or  
159 institution, the proposed new owner, or in the case of a change in  
160 beneficial ownership, the current owner, of such facility or institution  
161 shall submit an application for approval to the department. Such  
162 application shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the  
163 commissioner and shall include, but need not be limited to, the  
164 following:

165 (A) A cover letter identifying the facility or institution subject to such  
166 change by name, address, county and number and type of beds licensed  
167 by the department;

168 (B) A description of the proposed transaction resulting in such  
169 change, including the name of each current owner of the facility or  
170 institution;

171 (C) The name of each proposed new owner or beneficial owner;

172 (D) The name of each owner of any nonpublicly traded parent  
173 corporation of each proposed new owner and beneficial owner;

174 (E) If applicable, (i) the proposed new owner's organizational chart,  
175 (ii) the proposed new owner's parent business entity's organizational  
176 chart, (iii) the organizational chart of each wholly-owned subsidiary of  
177 such proposed new owner, and (iv) the current owner's organizational  
178 chart showing the changes in beneficial ownership;

179 (F) A copy of the agreement of sale or other transfer of ownership  
180 interests and, if applicable, a copy of any lease or management  
181 agreements that will be in effect after the transaction;

182 (G) The name and address of any licensed health care facility owned,  
183 operated or managed by each proposed new owner and beneficial  
184 owner in the United States or any territory of the United States during  
185 the five years preceding the date on which such application is  
186 submitted, and information relating to any such facility, including:

187 (i) Disclosure of any direct or indirect interests, including such  
188 interests in intermediate entities and parent, management and property  
189 companies and other related entities arising from such ownership,  
190 operation or management;

191 (ii) Disclosure of whether each such facility or institution is the  
192 subject of a pending complaint, investigation or licensure action;

193 (iii) Disclosure of whether each such facility or institution has been  
194 subject to:

195 (I) Three or more civil penalties imposed through final order of the  
196 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of sections 19a-524 to  
197 19a-528, inclusive, or civil penalties imposed pursuant to the laws or  
198 regulations of another state during the two-year period preceding the  
199 date on which such application is submitted;

200 (II) Sanctions, other than civil penalties less than or equal to twenty  
201 thousand dollars, imposed in any state through final adjudication under  
202 the Medicare or Medicaid program pursuant to Title XVIII or XIX of the  
203 federal Social Security Act, 42 USC 301, as amended from time to time;

204 (III) Termination or nonrenewal of a Medicare or Medicaid provider  
205 agreement;

206 (IV) Any state licensing or federal certification deficiency during the  
207 five-year period prior to the submission of the application that  
208 presented a serious risk to the life, safety or quality of care of the

209 facility's patients or residents; and

210 (V) Any violation of any state licensing or federal certification  
211 standard in connection with an inappropriate discharge or denial of  
212 admission; and

213 (H) Disclosure of whether each proposed new owner has ever been  
214 convicted or pleaded guilty to a charge of fraud, patient or resident  
215 abuse or neglect or a crime of violence or moral turpitude.

216 (4) After receiving an application for change in ownership, the  
217 commissioner shall schedule an inspection of such facility or institution  
218 to determine if the facility or institution has complied with the  
219 requirements of this chapter and the regulations of Connecticut state  
220 agencies relating to licensure of such facility or institution.

221 (5) When evaluating an application for a change in ownership, the  
222 commissioner shall consider whether each proposed new owner and  
223 beneficial owner demonstrates character and competence, quality of  
224 care and whether an acceptable history of past and current compliance  
225 with state licensure requirements, applicable federal requirements and  
226 state regulatory requirements exists for each licensed health care facility  
227 owned, operated or managed by each proposed new owner and  
228 beneficial owner in the United States or any territory of the United States  
229 during the five years preceding the date on which such application is  
230 submitted. The commissioner may deny an application for change in  
231 ownership if such qualities are not demonstrated, as evidenced by:

232 (A) Any such licensed health care facility being subject to any adverse  
233 action described in subparagraph (G)(iii) of subdivision (3) of subsection  
234 (c) of this section;

235 (B) Any such licensed health care facility exhibiting continuing  
236 violations or a pattern of violations of state licensure standards or  
237 federal certification standards; or

238 (C) An applicant's criminal conviction of, or guilty plea to, any of the



239 crimes described in subparagraph (H) of subdivision (3) of subsection  
240 (c) of this section.

241 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (5) of this  
242 subsection, the commissioner may deny an application if the  
243 commissioner determines that there is a pending investigation of actions  
244 of the applicant at any facility operated or managed by the applicant  
245 that, if substantiated, would constitute a threat to the life, safety or  
246 quality of care of the patients or residents until such time as there is a  
247 final determination of the allegations underlying the investigation.

248 (7) If the commissioner denies an application for change in  
249 ownership, a person related by blood or marriage to the applicant may  
250 not apply to acquire ownership interest in the facility or institution.

251 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) (1) A multicare institution may, under the terms of its existing  
252 license, provide behavioral health services or substance use disorder  
253 treatment services on the premises of more than one facility, at a satellite  
254 unit or at another location outside of its facilities or satellite units that is  
255 acceptable to the patient receiving services and is consistent with the  
256 patient's assessment and treatment plan. Such behavioral health  
257 services or substance use disorder treatment services may include  
258 methadone delivery and related substance use treatment services to  
259 persons in a nursing home facility pursuant to the provisions of section  
260 19a-495c or in a mobile narcotic treatment program, as defined in 21 CFR  
261 1300.

262 (2) Any multicare institution that intends to offer services at a satellite  
263 unit or other location outside of its facilities or satellite units shall submit  
264 an application for approval to offer services at such location to the  
265 Department of Public Health. Such application shall be submitted on a  
266 form and in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Public  
267 Health. Not later than forty-five days after receipt of such application,  
268 the commissioner shall notify the multicare institution of the approval  
269 or denial of such application. If the satellite unit or other location is  
270 approved, that satellite unit or location shall be deemed to be licensed

271 in accordance with this section and shall comply with the applicable  
272 requirements of this chapter and regulations adopted under this  
273 chapter.

274 (3) A multicare institution that is a hospital providing outpatient  
275 behavioral health services or other health care services shall provide the  
276 Department of Public Health with a list of satellite units or locations  
277 when completing the initial or renewal licensure application.

278 (4) The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations, in  
279 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions  
280 of this subsection. The Commissioner of Public Health may implement  
281 policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this  
282 subsection while in the process of adopting such policies and  
283 procedures as regulation, provided the commissioner prints notice of  
284 intent to adopt regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal not later than  
285 twenty days after the date of implementation. Policies and procedures  
286 implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until the time final  
287 regulations are adopted.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	19a-493

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) expand the circumstances in which a change in ownership of a health care facility or institution requires approval by the Department of Public Health; and (2) establish an application process for the approval of changes in ownership of health care facilities and institutions.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*