



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1228

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Education, in
2 consultation with the Labor Commissioner and Commissioner of Public
3 Health, shall study the feasibility of establishing an interdistrict magnet
4 school program that provides education and training to students
5 interested in health care professions. The program shall provide
6 pathways for a student to (1) graduate with a certification, license or
7 registration that enables such student to practice in a health care field
8 upon graduation from the program, and (2) complete a curriculum
9 designed to prepare such student for higher education in premedicine
10 or nursing. Not later than February 1, 2024, the Commissioner of
11 Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
12 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
13 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health
14 regarding the results of such study.

15 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall
16 study methods to address the shortage of radiologic technologists,
17 nuclear medicine technologists and respiratory care practitioners in the
18 state and develop a plan to address such shortage. Not later than
19 February 1, 2024, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with the

20 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
21 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
22 relating to public health regarding the results of such study.

23 Sec. 3. Section 20-126j of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

25 Except as provided in section 20-126k, each applicant for a license to
26 practice dental hygiene shall be examined through written and practical
27 examinations by the Department of Public Health, as to [his] such
28 applicant's professional knowledge and skill before such license is
29 granted. All examinations shall be given at least once per year and at
30 other times prescribed by the department. [Such examination shall be
31 conducted in the English language.] On and after January 1, 2024, such
32 examination shall be offered in both English and Spanish. The
33 Commissioner of Public Health may accept and approve, in lieu of the
34 written examination required in this section, the results of a written
35 examination given by the Joint Commission on National Dental
36 Examinations or comparable national examinations subject to such
37 conditions as said commissioner may prescribe; and said commissioner
38 may accept and approve, in lieu of the practical examination required in
39 this section, the results of practical examinations given by regional
40 testing agencies subject to such conditions as the Department of Public
41 Health may prescribe. Passing scores shall be prescribed by the
42 Department of Public Health. Said department shall grant licenses to
43 such applicants as are qualified.

44 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Public
45 Health shall notify each applicant who is approved to take an
46 examination required for licensure, certification or registration by the
47 Department of Public Health that such applicant may be eligible for
48 testing accommodations pursuant to the federal Americans with
49 Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101 et seq., as amended from time to time.

50 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall
51 study the feasibility of offering competency testing for dental assistants,

52 phlebotomists, electrocardiography technicians and respiratory care
53 practitioners in both English and Spanish. Not later than February 1,
54 2024, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions
55 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee
56 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
57 health on such study.

58 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Aging and
59 Disability Services, in consultation with the Advisory Board for Persons
60 Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deafblind, shall conduct a study to
61 evaluate gaps in communication access for deaf, hard of hearing or
62 deafblind persons to medical providers and develop recommendations
63 for improved access. Not later than October 1, 2023, the commissioner
64 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
65 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
66 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, human
67 services and public health on such study.

68 Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 20-112a of the
69 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
70 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

71 (c) (1) A licensed dentist may delegate to dental assistants such dental
72 procedures as the dentist may deem advisable, including: (A) The taking
73 of dental x-rays if the dental assistant can demonstrate successful
74 completion of the dental radiation health and safety examination
75 administered by the Dental Assisting National Board or a radiation
76 health and safety competency assessment administered by a dental
77 education program in the state that is accredited by the American Dental
78 Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation; (B) the taking of
79 impressions of teeth for study models; and (C) the provision of fluoride
80 varnish treatments. Such procedures shall be performed under the
81 direct supervision of a licensed dentist and the dentist providing direct
82 supervision shall assume responsibility for such procedures.

83 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 1, 2025, The

84 University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine shall develop a
85 radiation health and safety competency assessment for dental assistants
86 that reflects current industry practices regarding the taking of dental x-
87 rays. Such assessment shall be a suitable competency evaluation, the
88 successful completion of which would allow a dental assistant to take
89 dental x-rays under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist pursuant
90 to the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 20-112a
91 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Not later than January 1,
92 2025, The University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine shall
93 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
94 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
95 having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding the
96 development of such assessment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	20-126j
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	20-112a(c)(1)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sections 1, 5, 6 and 8, "in accordance with section 11-4a" was changed to "in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a", for consistency.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*