
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6180

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF FIREARMS BY OPERATORS OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires family child care home operators to annually notify parents and guardians in writing if there are firearms in the home, starting by January 1, 2026 (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, the written notice must require a parent or guardian to acknowledge receipt by signing it. The home operator must (1) keep these acknowledgments for at least three years, (2) make them available for inspection by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) upon request, and (3) annually report compliance with these requirements to OEC.

The bill authorizes OEC to suspend or revoke the family child care home license or take other allowed action against an operator who violates the above requirements.

Family child care homes are private homes that provide care for up to six children who are not in school full-time and up to three additional children who are in school full-time.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

NOTIFICATION AND RELATED REQUIREMENTS

Under the bill, starting by January 1, 2026, family child care home operators with a firearm stored in the home must annually give parents and guardians written notification of its presence. The notice must (1) list of the number and type of each firearm in the home and (2) require that a parent or guardian sign the notice to acknowledge receipt.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the operators must also give the notice to a parent or guardian of each child enrolling in the home for the first

time.

Beginning by February 1, 2027, each operator of a family child care home in which firearms are kept must annually confirm with the OEC commissioner compliance with the bill's provisions for the previous calendar year on a form she prescribes.

Existing regulations require the OEC annual inspection to check for secure storage of guns, weapons, and ammunition (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 19a-87b-9).

ENFORCEMENT

The bill authorizes the OEC commissioner to suspend or revoke the family child care home license or take other allowed action against operators who violate the notification or related requirements.

By law, one way that a license can be suspended or revoked is if the operator conducts, operates, or maintains the home in a way that endangers the health, safety, and welfare of the children receiving child care services. The bill specifies that this type of endangerment includes failure to comply with the firearms notification and related requirements.

By law, a license can also be suspended or revoked for a number of criminal convictions, including (1) a felony involving the use or threatened use of physical force, (2) injury or risk of injury or impairing the morals of a minor, (3) abandonment of children under the age of 6, or (4) any felony where the victim is a child under 18 years old.

Under OEC regulations, after a case hearing, OEC can suspend, revoke, or place a license on probationary status and impose conditions or require corrective measures that it deems necessary (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 19a-87b-15).

BACKGROUND

Firearm

By law, a firearm is any shotgun or sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded that

may discharge a shot (CGS § 53a-3(19)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 6 (02/18/2025)