



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 859

LCO No. 3696



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-195sss of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "community health worker" means a
4 public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of
5 the experience, language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the
6 community who (1) serves as a liaison between individuals within the
7 community and health care and social services providers to facilitate
8 access to such services and health-related resources, improve the
9 quality and cultural competence of the delivery of such services and
10 address social determinants of health with a goal toward reducing
11 racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic health disparities, and (2)
12 increases health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of
13 services including outreach, engagement, education, coaching,
14 informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination,
15 research related to social determinants of health and basic screenings
16 and assessments of any risks associated with social determinants of

17 health.

18 [(b) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy,
19 established under section 19a-754a, shall, within available resources
20 and in consultation with the Community Health Worker Advisory
21 Committee established by said office and the Commissioner of Public
22 Health, study the feasibility of creating a certification program for
23 community health workers. Such study shall examine the fiscal impact
24 of implementing such a certification program and include
25 recommendations for (1) requirements for certification and renewal of
26 certification of community health workers, including any training,
27 experience or continuing education requirements, (2) methods for
28 administering a certification program, including a certification
29 application, a standardized assessment of experience, knowledge and
30 skills, and an electronic registry, and (3) requirements for recognizing
31 training program curricula that are sufficient to satisfy the
32 requirements of certification.

33 (c) Not later than October 1, 2018, the executive director of the
34 Office of Health Strategy shall report, in accordance with the
35 provisions of section 11-4a, on the results of such study and
36 recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General
37 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
38 human services.]

39 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Department of Public Health
40 shall establish a certification program for community health workers.
41 The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations, in
42 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
43 provisions of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	20-195sss

Statement of Purpose:

To require the establishment of a certification program for community health workers.

[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.]