



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1171

LCO No. 3601

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING ASTHMA ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-206 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil
4 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments pursuant to
5 the provisions of this section. Such assessments shall be conducted by
6 a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice
7 registered nurse or registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378,
8 a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or by the school
9 medical advisor to ascertain whether such pupil is suffering from any
10 physical disability tending to prevent such pupil from receiving the
11 full benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work
12 should be modified in order to prevent injury to the pupil or to secure
13 for the pupil a suitable program of education. No health assessment
14 shall be made of any child enrolled in the public schools unless such
15 examination is made in the presence of the parent or guardian or in the
16 presence of another school employee. The parent or guardian of such
17 child shall receive prior written notice and shall have a reasonable

18 opportunity to be present at such assessment or to provide for such
19 assessment himself or herself. A local or regional board of education
20 may deny continued attendance in public school to any child who fails
21 to obtain the health assessments required under this section.

22 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall require each child
23 to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment. The
24 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall
25 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, [and] blood
26 pressure and an asthma assessment; (2) an updating of immunizations
27 as required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may
28 only update said immunizations pursuant to a written order by a
29 physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or
30 an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter
31 378; (3) vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings; and (4)
32 such other information, including health and developmental history,
33 as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The assessment
34 shall also include tests for tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia or Cooley's
35 anemia and tests for lead levels in the blood where the local or regional
36 board of education determines after consultation with the school
37 medical advisor and the local health department, or in the case of a
38 regional board of education, each local health department, that such
39 tests are necessary, provided a registered nurse may only perform said
40 tests pursuant to the written order of a physician or physician
41 assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice
42 registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

43 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil
44 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments in either
45 grade six or grade seven and in either grade ten or grade eleven. The
46 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall
47 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, [and] blood
48 pressure and an asthma assessment; (2) an updating of immunizations
49 as required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may
50 only update said immunizations pursuant to a written order of a

51 physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or
52 an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter
53 378; (3) vision, hearing, postural and gross dental screenings; and (4)
54 such other information including a health history as the physician feels
55 is necessary and appropriate. The assessment shall also include tests
56 for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia where the
57 local or regional board of education, in consultation with the school
58 medical advisor and the local health department, or in the case of a
59 regional board of education, each local health department, determines
60 that said screening or test is necessary, provided a registered nurse
61 may only perform said tests pursuant to the written order of a
62 physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or
63 an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter
64 378.

65 (d) The results of each assessment done pursuant to this section and
66 the results of screenings done pursuant to section 10-214 shall be
67 recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of Education. Such
68 information shall be included in the cumulative health record of each
69 pupil and shall be kept on file in the school such pupil attends. If a
70 pupil permanently leaves the jurisdiction of the board of education, the
71 pupil's original cumulative health record shall be sent to the chief
72 administrative officer of the school district to which such student
73 moves. The board of education transmitting such health record shall
74 retain a true copy. Each physician, advanced practice registered nurse,
75 registered nurse, or physician assistant performing health assessments
76 and screenings pursuant to this section and section 10-214 shall sign
77 each form and any recommendations concerning the pupil shall be in
78 writing.

79 (e) Appropriate school health personnel shall review the results of
80 each assessment and screening as recorded pursuant to subsection (d)
81 of this section. When, in the judgment of such health personnel, a
82 pupil, as defined in section 10-206a, is in need of further testing or
83 treatment, the superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the

84 parent or guardian of such pupil and shall make reasonable efforts to
85 assure that such further testing or treatment is provided. Such
86 reasonable efforts shall include a determination of whether or not the
87 parent or guardian has obtained the necessary testing or treatment for
88 the pupil, and, if not, advising the parent or guardian on how such
89 testing or treatment may be obtained. The results of such further
90 testing or treatment shall be recorded pursuant to subsection (d) of this
91 section, and shall be reviewed by school health personnel pursuant to
92 this subsection.

93 Sec. 2. Section 19a-62a of the general statutes is repealed and the
94 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

95 (a) (1) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of Public
96 Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall
97 establish a pilot program for the early identification and treatment of
98 pediatric asthma. The Commissioner of Public Health shall make
99 grants-in-aid under the pilot program for projects to be established in
100 two municipalities to identify, screen and refer children with asthma
101 for treatment. Such projects shall work cooperatively with providers of
102 maternal and child health, including, but not limited to, local health
103 departments, community health centers, Healthy Start and Healthy
104 Families, to target children who were born prematurely, premature
105 infants or pregnant women at risk of premature delivery for early
106 identification of asthma. Such projects may utilize private resources
107 through public-private partnerships to establish a public awareness
108 program and innovative outreach initiatives targeting urban areas to
109 encourage early screening of children at risk of asthma.

110 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) The Commissioner of Public Health shall evaluate the pilot
111 program established under this [section] subsection and shall submit a
112 report of the commissioner's findings and recommendations to the
113 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
114 of matters relating to public health, human services and appropriations
115 and the budgets of state agencies, not later than October 1, 2001, in

116 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

117 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish and maintain
118 a system of monitoring asthma. Such system shall include, but not be
119 limited to, annual surveys of asthma in schools and reports of asthma
120 visits and the number of persons having asthma as reported by
121 volunteer physicians. The monitoring system may include reports of
122 the number of persons having asthma medication prescriptions filled
123 by pharmacies in this state. Such system shall be used by the
124 commissioner in estimating the annual incidence and distribution of
125 asthma in the state. Not later than October 1, 2002, and annually
126 thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a report of the status and
127 results of the monitoring system established under this subsection to
128 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
129 cognizance of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the
130 provisions of section 11-4a.

Statement of Purpose:

To require asthma assessment for school children and to establish a standardized system of monitoring asthma in Connecticut.

[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.]