



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 48

January Session, 2003

House Bill No. 6458

House of Representatives, March 20, 2003

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. FELTMAN of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) Each person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, midwifery,
4 chiropractic, natureopathy, podiatry or nursing or to use any other
5 means or agencies to treat, prescribe for, heal or otherwise alleviate
6 deformity, ailment, disease or any other form of human ills, [who has]
7 or any licensed healthcare institution, as defined in section 19a-490,
8 with professional knowledge that any child under [five] nineteen years
9 of age has any [physical defect] special health care need, as defined by
10 the Department of Public Health, shall, within forty-eight hours from
11 the time of acquiring such knowledge, [mail] send to the Department
12 of Public Health a report, stating the name and address of the child,
13 the name and address of the child's parents or guardians, the nature of

14 the [physical defect] special health care need and such other
 15 information as may reasonably be required by the department. The
 16 department shall prepare and furnish suitable [blanks in duplicate for
 17 such reports,] methods for reporting and shall keep each report on file
 18 [for at least six years from the receipt thereof and shall furnish a copy
 19 thereof to the State Board of Education within ten days] until the child
 20 reaches nineteen years of age.

21 (b) The Department of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in
 22 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
 23 provisions of this section.

24 Sec. 2. (*Effective October 1, 2003*) Sections 19a-48 to 19a-52, inclusive,
 25 and section 19a-54 of the general statutes are repealed.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes law regarding the compiling of data concerning children with special health care needs consistent with current practice and federal guidelines. This program's costs are supported by federal Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds as well as moneys received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under a cooperative agreement program for state's birth defect surveillance.

It also repeals certain obsolete statutes. No fiscal impact is anticipated in response to these changes.

The Department of Public Health will be able to amend its regulations within its normally budgeted resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6458

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires health care practitioners and institutions to report to the Department of Public Health (DPH) on more children with disabilities. It does this by redefining the types of children who are the subject of mandatory reports, raising the age of children for whom reports must be filed, and requiring hospitals and other healthcare institutions to submit reports. It also eliminates DPH's responsibility for providing direct services to a variety of children with disabilities and makes minor changes in the reporting process.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

CHILDREN SUBJECT TO REPORTING

Current law requires physicians, midwives, nurses, chiropractors, and naturopaths to report to DPH within 48 hours of learning that a child under age five has a physical defect. The bill requires them to report on any child with a "special health care need" through age 18. It also requires all licensed healthcare facilities, which include hospitals and school infirmaries, to report on these children.

The bill does not define a child with special health care needs; it authorizes DPH to do this and to make other implementing changes through regulation. The federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau defines the term as children "who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional condition, and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally."

The bill extends, from six years after receiving the report to the child's 19th birthday, the time DPH must keep the report. It eliminates the requirement for DPH to send a copy to the State Board of Education. And it allows the reporter to send the report by any means, not just mail.

REPEALED LAWS

The bill eliminates DPH's duty to:

1. provide services to children with cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, other crippling physical disabilities, and cardiac defects;
2. purchase wheelchairs and placement equipment for such children; and
3. administer a pediatric cardiac patient care fund.

It also repeals a requirement for state-supported institutions to report to DPH the name and address of each person under age 21 with a physical handicap who seeks admission.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 17 Nay 0