

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-287—sSB 1137
Public Health Committee
Education Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND A STUDY ON THE PROVISION OF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH
CENTERS**

SUMMARY: This act expands, from seven to 17, the membership of the school-based health center (SBHC) advisory committee and adds to its responsibilities. It requires the committee to advise the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner on matters relating to (1) minimum standards for providing services in SBHCs to ensure that high quality health care services are provided and (2) statutory and regulatory changes to improve health care through access to SBHCs. Prior law instead required the committee to assist the commissioner in developing recommendations for the latter.

The act also requires the DPH commissioner to study and report to the Public Health Committee by February 1, 2014 on the provision of behavioral health services by SBHCs in the state. She must do this (1) in consultation with the SBHC advisory committee and Department of Children and Families commissioner and (2) only if DPH receives private or federal funds to conduct the study.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013, except that the study provisions take effect upon passage

SBHC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

As Table 1 shows, the act adds 10 members to the seven-member SBHC advisory committee.

Table 1: New Members Appointed to the SBHC Advisory Committee

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Member</i>
House speaker	one family advocate or parent whose child uses SBHC services
Senate president pro tempore	one school nurse
House majority leader	one representative of an SBHC sponsored by a community health center
Senate majority leader	one representative of an SBHC sponsored by a nonprofit healthcare agency
House minority leader	one representative of an SBHC sponsored by a school or school

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	system
Senate minority leader	one representative of an SBHC that does not receive state funds
Governor	one representative each of (a) the American Academy of Pediatrics' Connecticut Chapter and (b) a hospital-sponsored SBHC
DPH commissioner	one representative of an SBHC sponsored by a local health department
None	the Commission on Children's executive director, or her designee

The act retains as members the commissioners, or their designees, of DPH, social services (DSS), mental health and addiction services, and education. It also retains as members three school-based health center providers. But, it (1) requires the Connecticut Association of School-Based Health Centers (CASBHC) board of directors to appoint only two, instead of three, of these members and (2) requires the third member to be the CASBHC executive director. (Neither existing law nor the act specifies how long members serve, when appointments must be made, and who fills any vacancies.)

The act extends, from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2014, the date by which the committee must begin annually reporting to the Public Health and Education committees on its activities.

It also authorizes DPH, instead of CASBHC, to provide administrative support for the advisory committee.

DPH STUDY OF SBHC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION

By February 1, 2014, the act requires the DPH commissioner to report to the Public Health Committee on its joint study of the provision of behavioral health services at SBHCs. The commissioner must do this only if she receives private or federal funds to conduct the study. The report must include:

1. recommendations for standards concerning the provision of behavioral health services at SBHCs and oversight of such service provision;
2. the estimated cost for all SBHCs in the state to provide the recommended behavioral health services;
3. a description of the behavioral health services currently provided at SBHCs; and
4. recommendations for maximizing reimbursement for such services by private insurance and social service programs, including DSS-administered medical assistance programs.

For the purposes of the study, the act defines an SBHC as a DPH-licensed health clinic that provides health care services to students at school.

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