



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 203

LCO No. 1182



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-WIDE SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT AWARENESS PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than January 1,
2 2015, the Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with
3 the Departments of Education and Social Services, shall identify or
4 develop a state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness program for
5 use by local and regional boards of education. Such program shall be
6 implemented in each public school and shall include:

7 (1) Instructional modules for all teachers to include training
8 regarding the prevention and identification of, and response to, child
9 sexual abuse and assault;

10 (2) Age-appropriate educational materials for grades two to five,
11 inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and assault that may include,
12 but not be limited to: (A) Warning signs that a child victim of sexual
13 abuse or assault may display, and (B) resources to further student,
14 teacher and parental education and outreach; and

15 (3) A uniform child sexual abuse and assault response policy and
16 reporting procedure that may include, but not be limited to: (A)
17 Actions that child victims of sexual abuse and assault may take to
18 obtain assistance, (B) intervention and counseling options for child
19 victims of sexual abuse and assault, (C) access to educational resources
20 to enable child victims of sexual abuse and assault to succeed in
21 school, and (D) uniform procedures for reporting instances of child
22 sexual abuse and assault within the school.

23 (b) Not later than July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall
24 implement the sexual abuse and assault awareness program identified
25 or developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

26 (c) No student in grades two to five, inclusive, may be required by
27 any local or regional board of education to participate in the sexual
28 abuse and assault awareness program offered within the public
29 schools. A written notification to the local or regional board by the
30 student's parent or legal guardian shall be sufficient to exempt the
31 student from such program in its entirety or from any portion thereof
32 so specified by the parent or legal guardian.

33 (d) If a student is exempted from the sexual abuse and assault
34 awareness program pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the local
35 or regional board of education shall provide, during the period of time
36 in which the student would otherwise be participating in such
37 program, an opportunity for other study or academic work.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To educate children in the state about the dangers of sexual assault and abuse and to establish uniform policies and procedures to assist children in the state who may be victims of sexual abuse and assault.

[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.]