



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 471***

LCO No. 2552



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.***

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 Section 10-206 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

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 (1) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, (2) an advanced practice  
7 registered nurse or registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378,  
8 (3) a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, (4) a school  
9 medical advisor, or (5) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an  
10 advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at  
11 any military base, to ascertain whether such pupil is suffering from  
12 any mental or physical disability tending to prevent such pupil from  
13 receiving the full benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such  
14 school work should be modified in order to prevent injury to the pupil  
15 or to secure for the pupil a suitable program of education. No health

16 assessment shall be made of any child enrolled in the public schools  
17 unless such examination is made in the presence of the parent or  
18 guardian or in the presence of another school employee. The parent or  
19 guardian of such child shall receive prior written notice and shall have  
20 a reasonable opportunity to be present at such assessment or to  
21 provide for such assessment himself or herself. A local or regional  
22 board of education may deny continued attendance in public school to  
23 any child who fails to obtain the health assessments required under  
24 this section.

25 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall require each child  
26 to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment. The  
27 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination [which] that shall  
28 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood  
29 pressure, and, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic  
30 disease assessment [which] that shall include, but not be limited to,  
31 asthma as defined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to  
32 subsection (c) of section 19a-62a. The assessment form shall include (A)  
33 a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, as provided in  
34 subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B)  
35 screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to  
36 be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C) screening questions to  
37 be answered by such provider; (2) an updating of immunizations as  
38 required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may only  
39 update said immunizations pursuant to a written order by a physician  
40 or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an  
41 advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378;  
42 (3) vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings; (4) mental  
43 health screenings; and ~~[(4)]~~ (5) such other information, including  
44 health and developmental history, as the physician feels is necessary  
45 and appropriate. The assessment shall also include tests for  
46 tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia and tests for lead  
47 levels in the blood where the local or regional board of education  
48 determines after consultation with the school medical advisor and the

49 local health department, or in the case of a regional board of education,  
50 each local health department, that such tests are necessary, provided a  
51 registered nurse may only perform said tests pursuant to the written  
52 order of a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to  
53 chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed  
54 pursuant to chapter 378.

55 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil  
56 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments in either  
57 grade six or grade seven and in either grade nine or grade ten. The  
58 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination [which] that shall  
59 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood  
60 pressure, and, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic  
61 disease assessment [which] that shall include, but not be limited to,  
62 asthma as defined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to  
63 subsection (c) of section 19a-62a. The assessment form shall include (A)  
64 a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, as provided in  
65 subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B)  
66 screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to  
67 be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C) screening questions to  
68 be answered by such provider; (2) an updating of immunizations as  
69 required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may only  
70 update said immunizations pursuant to a written order of a physician  
71 or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an  
72 advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378;  
73 (3) vision, hearing, postural and gross dental screenings; (4) mental  
74 health screenings; and ~~[(4)]~~ (5) such other information including a  
75 health history as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The  
76 assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis and sickle cell  
77 anemia or Cooley's anemia where the local or regional board of  
78 education, in consultation with the school medical advisor and the  
79 local health department, or in the case of a regional board of education,  
80 each local health department, determines that said screening or test is  
81 necessary, provided a registered nurse may only perform said tests

82 pursuant to the written order of a physician or physician assistant,  
83 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered  
84 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

85 (d) The results of each assessment done pursuant to this section and  
86 the results of screenings done pursuant to section 10-214 shall be  
87 recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of Education. Such  
88 information shall be included in the cumulative health record of each  
89 pupil and shall be kept on file in the school such pupil attends. If a  
90 pupil permanently leaves the jurisdiction of the board of education, the  
91 pupil's original cumulative health record shall be sent to the chief  
92 administrative officer of the school district to which such student  
93 moves. The board of education transmitting such health record shall  
94 retain a true copy. Each physician, advanced practice registered nurse,  
95 registered nurse, or physician assistant performing health assessments  
96 and screenings pursuant to this section and section 10-214 shall  
97 completely fill out and sign each form and any recommendations  
98 concerning the pupil shall be in writing.

99 (e) Appropriate school health personnel shall review the results of  
100 each assessment and screening as recorded pursuant to subsection (d)  
101 of this section. When, in the judgment of such health personnel, a  
102 pupil, as defined in section 10-206a, is in need of further testing or  
103 treatment, the superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the  
104 parent or guardian of such pupil and shall make reasonable efforts to  
105 assure that such further testing or treatment is provided. Such  
106 reasonable efforts shall include a determination of whether or not the  
107 parent or guardian has obtained the necessary testing or treatment for  
108 the pupil, and, if not, advising the parent or guardian on how such  
109 testing or treatment may be obtained. The results of such further  
110 testing or treatment shall be recorded pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
111 section, and shall be reviewed by school health personnel pursuant to  
112 this subsection.

113 (f) On and after February 1, 2004, each local or regional board of

114 education shall report to the local health department and the  
115 Department of Public Health, on an annual basis, the total number of  
116 pupils per school and per school district having a diagnosis of asthma  
117 (1) at the time of public school enrollment, (2) in grade six or seven,  
118 and (3) in grade ten or eleven. The report shall contain the asthma  
119 information collected as required under subsections (b) and (c) of this  
120 section and shall include pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity and school.  
121 Beginning on October 1, 2004, and every three years thereafter, the  
122 Department of Public Health shall review the asthma screening  
123 information reported pursuant to this section and shall submit a report  
124 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
125 cognizance of matters relating to public health and education  
126 concerning asthma trends and distributions among pupils enrolled in  
127 the public schools. The report shall be submitted in accordance with  
128 the provisions of section 11-4a and shall include, but not be limited to,  
129 trends and findings based on pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity, school  
130 and the education reference group, as determined by the Department  
131 of Education for the town or regional school district in which such  
132 school is located.

133 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 20-74s of the 2014 supplement to the  
134 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
135 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

136 (d) To be eligible for licensure as a licensed alcohol and drug  
137 counselor, an applicant shall (1) have attained a master's degree from  
138 an accredited institution of higher education in social work, marriage  
139 and family therapy, counseling, psychology or a related field approved  
140 by the commissioner that included a minimum of eighteen graduate  
141 semester hours in (A) counseling, [or] (B) counseling-related subjects,  
142 or (C) another subject approved by the commissioner, provided the  
143 semester hours in a subject other than counseling or a counseling-  
144 related subject were completed or in progress on or before July 1, 2013,  
145 except applicants holding certified clinical supervisor status by the  
146 Connecticut Certification Board, Inc. as of October 1, 1998, may

147 substitute such certification in lieu of the master's degree requirement,  
148 and (2) have completed the certification eligibility requirements  
149 described in subsection (e) of this section.

150       Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
151 to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, from the  
152 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, for regional  
153 behavioral health consultation and care coordination in accordance  
154 with the provisions of section 4 of this act.

155       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
156 2015, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall,  
157 in consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families,  
158 establish and implement a regional behavioral health consultation and  
159 care coordination program for primary care providers who serve  
160 young adults eighteen to twenty-five years of age. Such program shall  
161 provide to such primary care providers: (1) Timely access to a  
162 consultation team that includes a psychiatrist who works with young  
163 adults, a social worker and a care coordinator; (2) patient care  
164 coordination and transitional services for behavioral health services;  
165 and (3) training and education concerning patient access to behavioral  
166 health services. Said commissioner may enter into a contract for  
167 services to administer such program.

168       (b) Not later than October 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Mental  
169 Health and Addiction Services shall submit a plan, in accordance with  
170 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
171 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
172 matters relating to public health, human services and appropriations  
173 concerning the program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
174 section.

175       Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) Not later than January 1, 2015, the  
176 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in  
177 consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall ensure

178 that young adults who receive services from the Department of Mental  
 179 Health and Addiction Services' adult mobile crisis line may easily  
 180 access the 2-1-1 Infoline program. The Commissioner of Mental Health  
 181 and Addiction Services shall promote the system for accessing the 2-1-  
 182 1 Infoline program to young adults in psychiatric crisis.

183 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) On and after October 1, 2014,  
 184 a primary care provider may offer to provide a mental health  
 185 screening to each patient eighteen to twenty-five years of age at the  
 186 time a primary care provider provides services to such patient.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	10-206
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	20-74s(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require mental health screenings for school-age children, to allow primary care providers to offer mental health screenings to young adults, to modify the allowable educational courses for alcohol and drug counselors, to require the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services to establish a regional behavioral health consultation and care coordination program and to require the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services to ensure young adults may access the 2-1-1 Infoline program.

*[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.]*