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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6997**

### ***AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO STUDENTS, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to publish information on its website by January 1, 2020, and annually review and revise it as necessary, on domestic violence victim services and resources. It must do so in consultation with the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Under the bill, SDE must disseminate this information to local and regional school boards each school year starting with the 2020-2021 school year. Each school board must in turn provide it to any (1) student or student's parent or guardian who expresses to a school employee that the student, parent, guardian, or a person residing in the home does not feel safe because of domestic violence and (2) student's parent or guardian who authorizes the transfer of his or her education records to another school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES AND RESOURCES**

The information SDE publishes on its website under the bill must include:

1. available referrals to counseling and supportive services including the Secretary of the State's Safe at Home Program, shelter and medical services, domestic abuse hotlines, legal counseling and advocacy, mental health care, and financial assistance and

2. procedures to voluntarily and confidentially identify referral eligibility for such counseling and services.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***School Employee***

By law, a “school employee” is:

1. a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator or superintendent, guidance or school counselor, psychologist, social workers, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional, or coach employed by a local or regional school board or working in a public elementary, middle, or high school or
2. any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle, or high school pursuant to a contract with the local or regional school board (CGS § 10-222d).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/07/2019)