



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 119**

*January Session, 2019*

House Bill No. 6997

*House of Representatives, March 25, 2019*

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
2 2020, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of  
3 Victim Services within the Judicial Department and the Connecticut  
4 Coalition Against Domestic Violence, shall publish information  
5 concerning services and resources available to victims of domestic  
6 violence on the Internet web site of the Department of Education. Such  
7 information shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) referrals  
8 available to counseling and supportive services, including, but not  
9 limited to, the Safe at Home program administered by the Office of the  
10 Secretary of the State, shelter services, medical services, domestic  
11 abuse hotlines, legal counseling and advocacy, mental health care and  
12 financial assistance, and (2) procedures to voluntarily and  
13 confidentially identify eligibility for referrals to such counseling and  
14 supportive services. The department shall annually review such

15 information and revise it as necessary.

16 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school  
17 year thereafter, the Department of Education shall disseminate the  
18 information published pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to each  
19 local and regional board of education. Each local and regional board of  
20 education shall require the provision of such information to any (1)  
21 student or parent or guardian of a student who expresses to a school  
22 employee, as defined in section 10-222d of the general statutes, that  
23 such student or parent or guardian or a person residing with such  
24 student or parent or guardian does not feel safe at home due to  
25 domestic violence, and (2) parent or guardian of a student who  
26 authorizes the transfer of such student's education records to another  
27 school.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

**KID**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which requires the State Department of Education to publish and disseminate various information related to domestic violence services, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as the agency have the expertise and resources necessary to do so.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**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)