

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 19-146—HB 6997
Committee on Children
Education Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act requires the Judicial Branch’s Office of Victim Services (OVS), in consultation with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to (1) compile information on domestic violence victim services and resources and (2) provide the information to the State Department of Education (SDE) by December 1, 2019.

The act requires SDE to publish the information it receives from OVS on its website by January 1, 2020. It also requires (1) OVS to review the information annually and inform SDE of any necessary revisions and (2) SDE to revise the information on that basis.

Under the act, SDE must also disseminate the above information to local and regional school boards each school year starting with the 2020-2021 school year. Each school board must, in turn, require that the information be provided 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 OVS provides to SDE under the act 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 those who are eligible for referral for such counseling and services.