



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 19**

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6111

*House of Representatives, March 9, 2021*

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

## ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Youth Suicide  
2 Advisory Board, established pursuant to section 17a-52 of the general  
3 statutes, and the Office of the Child Advocate, shall jointly administer  
4 an evidence-based youth suicide prevention training program in each  
5 district department of health formed pursuant to section 19a-241 of the  
6 general statutes. The training program shall provide certification in QPR  
7 Institute Gatekeeper Training, utilizing a training model that will enable  
8 participants to provide QPR Institute Gatekeeper Training to other  
9 individuals upon completion of the training program. Such training  
10 program shall be offered not later than July 1, 2022, and at least once  
11 every three years thereafter.

12 (b) The director of health for each district department of health shall  
13 determine the eligibility criteria for participation in the youth suicide  
14 prevention training program. Participants shall be members of the

15 following groups within such district: (1) Employees of such health  
 16 department, (2) employees of youth service bureaus, (3) school  
 17 employees, as defined in section 10-222d of the general statutes, (4)  
 18 employees and volunteers of youth-serving organizations, (5)  
 19 employees and volunteers of operators of youth athletic activities, as  
 20 defined in section 21a-432 of the general statutes, (6) employees of  
 21 municipal social service agencies, (7) members of paid municipal or  
 22 volunteer fire departments, and (8) members of local police  
 23 departments. With respect to school employees, such training program  
 24 may be included as part of an in-service training program provided  
 25 pursuant to section 10-220a of the general statutes.

26 (c) Any individual who has received certification in QPR Institute  
 27 Gatekeeper Training through the training program administered  
 28 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may, during the period in  
 29 which such certification is valid, provide QPR Institute Gatekeeper  
 30 Training to any member of a group described in subdivisions (1) to (8),  
 31 inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section and members of the public.

32 (d) The Youth Suicide Advisory Board and the Office of the Child  
 33 Advocate may contract with a nongovernmental entity that provides  
 34 evidence-based suicide prevention training to carry out the provisions  
 35 of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	91,000	30,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which requires a youth suicide prevention training program in every local and district health department administered by the Youth Suicide Advisory Board (YSAB) — housed within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) — and the Office of the Child Advocate, results in a cost to DCF of approximately \$91,000 in FY 22 and approximately \$30,000 in each fiscal year thereafter. Per the bill, the training program must provide certification in QPR Institute Gatekeeper Training and utilize a model that will enable participants to provide training to other individuals upon completion of the program.

Funding of approximately \$91,000 in FY 22 and approximately \$30,000 in each fiscal year thereafter is needed to support a contract with the QPR Institute. The QPR Training of the Trainers model would train a minimum of two employees at each local and district health department to serve as their local QPR trainers. Currently, there are 65 total local and district health departments in Connecticut: 20 are districts, 33 are municipal with full-time directors of health, and 12 are municipal with part-time directors of health. In the initial year of training, approximately 130 employees will need to be trained, at a cost of approximately \$700 per person. In subsequent years, to refresh training and replace trainers lost due to attrition, the cost would be

approximately \$30,000.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of trainings provided.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, Local Health Administration, Online, Available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Local-Health-Admin/LHA/Local-Health-Administration>  
QPR Institute, Online, Available at <https://www.qprinstitute.com/>

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6111*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Youth Suicide Advisory Board (YSAB) and the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) to jointly administer an evidence-based youth suicide prevention training program in each health district in the state.

The bill requires district health directors to determine eligibility criteria for program participants, who must be from certain groups of employees or volunteers, such as school employees. The program must be offered by July 1, 2022, and at least once every three years afterward.

Under the bill, the training program must provide certification in QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Initiative Gatekeeper Training (see BACKGROUND). Participants who complete the program and obtain certification may then provide the training to others while their certification is valid.

Lastly, the bill allows (1) YSAB and OCA to contract with a nongovernmental entity that provides evidence-based suicide prevention training to help administer the program and (2) school employees to participate in the training program as part of an in-service training program already required by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY**

Under the bill, program participants must be from the following groups within each health district:

1. local health department employees,
2. youth service bureau employees,
3. school employees,
4. municipal social service agency employees,
5. youth-serving organization employees and volunteers,
6. youth athletic activity employees and volunteers,
7. paid municipal or volunteer fire department members, and
8. local police department members.

**BACKGROUND**

***QPR Initiative Gatekeeper Training***

QPR Initiative Gatekeeper Training participants become "gatekeepers" trained to (1) recognize early signs of a suicidal crisis, (2) talk to someone about suicidal thoughts and feelings, and (3) provide early intervention and referral to local resources.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 2 (02/25/2021)