



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 21

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6113

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 REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Operator" has the same meaning as provided in section 21a-432
- 3 of the general statutes;
- 4 (2) "Youth athletic activity" has the same meaning as provided in
- 5 section 21a-432 of the general statutes;
- 6 (3) "Youth camp" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-
- 7 420 of the general statutes; and
- 8 (4) "Youth coach" means any person who (A) holds or is issued a
- 9 coaching permit by the State Board of Education, or (B) volunteers or is
- 10 paid to act as a head coach, manager or instructor or an assistant coach,
- 11 assistant manager or assistant instructor of a youth athletic activity.

12 (b) (1) Not later than December 1, 2021, the Governor's task force on
13 justice for abused children, in collaboration with a national association
14 of adult survivors of child abuse, shall (A) develop guidelines that
15 provide instruction and best practices to youth coaches concerning ways
16 to appropriately interact with youth athletes, and (B) make such
17 guidelines available on the task force's Internet web site.

18 (2) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, each
19 operator shall distribute a copy of the guidelines developed pursuant to
20 subdivision (1) of this subsection to each youth coach for such operator.
21 Such distribution may occur by electronic mail.

22 (c) (1) Not later than December 1, 2021, the Governor's task force on
23 justice for abused children, in collaboration with a national association
24 of adult survivors of child abuse, shall (A) develop guidelines that
25 describe (i) the stages of grooming typically employed by those who
26 engage in child sexual abuse, (ii) behaviors that victims of child sexual
27 abuse may engage in or exhibit as the result of such sexual abuse, (iii)
28 for victims of child sexual abuse, how to tell a parent or other adult that
29 such sexual abuse has occurred, and (iv) how to contact the appropriate
30 authorities if child sexual abuse has occurred, and (B) make such
31 guidelines available on the task force's Internet web site.

32 (2) On and after January 1, 2022, upon the enrollment or registration
33 of any participant in a youth athletic activity, each operator shall
34 distribute a copy of the guidelines developed pursuant to subdivision
35 (1) of this subsection to the parent or guardian of such participant. Such
36 distribution may occur by electronic mail.

37 (3) On and after January 1, 2022, upon the enrollment or registration
38 of any child in a youth camp, the licensee of such youth camp shall
39 distribute a copy of the guidelines developed pursuant to subdivision
40 (1) of this subsection to the parent or guardian of such child. Such
41 distribution may occur by electronic mail.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children to develop and make available online instructional guidelines for youth coaches on best practices for: 1) appropriate interaction with youth athletes, and 2) ways to identify possible child sexual abuse, and how to contact the appropriate authorities, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. Starting on 1/1/22, the bill also requires, upon the enrollment of an individual in a youth camp, that the youth camp distribute a copy of the youth coach guidelines to the individual's parent/guardian. As distribution may occur by electronic mail, there is no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities from this provision of the bill.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6113

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Governor’s Task Force on Justice for Abused Children, in collaboration with a national association of adult survivors of child abuse, by December 1, 2021, to:

1. develop instructional guidelines for youth coaches on best practices for appropriate interaction with youth athletes;
2. develop child sexual abuse informational guidelines that describe (a) abusers’ grooming techniques, (b) victim behavior, and (c) methods for contacting the appropriate authorities and communicating that one is a victim to a parent or other adult if abuse has occurred; and
3. make both guidelines available on the department's website.

The bill also requires certain municipalities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations operating youth athletic activities (“operators”) and youth camp licensees, starting January 1, 2022, to distribute a copy of the child sexual abuse informational guidelines to the parent or guardian of each activity or camp participant upon enrollment or registration. Under the bill, youth athletic activity operators must by January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, distribute a copy of the instructional guidelines to their youth coaches.

Under the bill, the instructional and informational guidelines may be distributed by electronic mail.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DEFINITIONS***Operator***

Under the bill, an "operator" is any municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that conducts, coordinates, organizes or otherwise oversees any youth athletic activity. It does not include any of these entities, whether or not compensated, that solely provide access to, or use of, a field, court, or other recreational area.

Youth Athletic Activity

"Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity involving participants aged seven through 19, who:

1. (a) engage in, or practice or prepare for, an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity or (b) attend an organized athletic camp or clinic that trains, instructs, or prepares such participants and
2. pay a fee to participate in such organized athletic game or competition or attend such camp or clinic, or whose fee is sponsored by a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization.

It does not include any college or university athletic activity, or one that is incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson.

Youth Camp

"Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during school vacations or on weekends by a person, partnership, corporation, association, the state, or a municipal agency for recreational or educational purposes and accommodating at least five children, from ages three to 16. These children (1) may not be bona fide personal guests in the private home of an individual and (2) must live apart from their relatives, parents, or legal guardian at least three full or partial days per week, unless a relative or guardian is a camp employee. It does not include classroom-based summer instructional programs, public or private schools' summer educational programs, licensed child care

centers, or drop-in programs for children who are at least age six administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls' club.

Youth Coach

Under the bill, a "youth coach" is anyone who (1) holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education or (2) volunteers or is paid to act as a youth athletic activity's head coach, manager, instructor, or the assistant to such positions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (02/25/2021)