

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6113

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING

**Title:** CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

**Vote Date:** 2/25/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/4/2021

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill creates a task force required to disseminate information to people who get to work with children about how to properly and appropriately have an interaction with a child. In addition, part of the disseminated information will be about child sexual abuse. This bill has the goal, by the dissemination of information, to reduce the number of child abuse cases across Connecticut.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes, Department of Children and Families:** Testimony offers certain recommendations for this bill. It is recommended that the bill be amended to have the responsibility for producing this information with the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children (GTF). The GTF has professionals who are experts in the subject of child abuse and other forms of maltreatment and therefore the concept in this bill fits perfectly within the mission of the GTF. In addition, the DCF is a member of the GTF and will be part of the process in developing the language. The Department believes this entity is best suited for producing materials for educating adults and youth participants, as well as the public.

## NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Connecticut Conference of Municipalities:** The conference supports this bill but asks for an amendment. They believe that the “potential for towns and cities to be held liable for a private operator’s or 3rd party’s failure to disseminate this information properly is extremely problematic and may cause municipalities to deny leagues or 3rd parties’ access to these areas”. Therefore, the following language is asked to be added to the bill: “No operator or designee of such operator shall be subject to civil liability for failing to make available the written or electronic statement regarding child sexual abuse nor shall a municipality be subject to civil liability for a private operator or designee of such private operator failing to make available the written or electronic statement regarding child sexual abuse.”

**Valerie Stolfi Collins, CRPA Executive Director:** The CRPA supports this bill, but recommends the following modifications to the proposed bill:

- “Organizations/operators be allowed to post this information on their websites in order to comply with the proposed new law rather than distributing it via email.
- Adding the following language:  
*No operator, or designee of such operator, shall be subject to civil liability for failing to make available the written or electronic statement regarding child sexual abuse.”*

CRPA believes that by giving a great amount of information to individuals regarding this subject, the importance of this information will be unwillingly undermined due to the sheer volume of it.

**John L. Cattelan, Executive Director of Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs:** He supports this bill. He states the commitment of the Y regarding the creating of safe environments for youth as well as how people do not realize how frequently child sexual abuse happen, unfortunately. Due to the data regarding child sexual abuse brought to his testimony, John Cattelan states “that is why this legislation is so important and will hopefully educate parents, youth league administrations and coaches about how to prevent child sexual abuse.”

He suggested to include the following language to amend the legislation: “No operator, or designee of such operator, shall be subject to civil liability for failing to make available the written or electronic statement regarding child sexual abuse.”

## NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No Opposition to this bill offered

**Reported by:** Gabriela Dos Santos

**Date:** March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021