OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 6399

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), starting with the 2022-23 school year, to biennially administer the Connecticut School Health Survey to students in grades nine through 12, if the department receives funding from the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for that purpose.

Under the bill, the survey must be (1) based on the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey and (2) administered in the high schools the CDC randomly selects. The bill requires DPH to provide local and regional boards of education with guidelines on the survey’s administration and requires the boards to administer the survey according to these guidelines.

The bill requires the child advocate, in consultation with DPH, by October 1, 2022, to develop and update, as necessary, questions to assess the risk of youths becoming victims of sexual assault or misconduct by an adult. The questions must be included in the survey.

The bill also allows DPH to develop additional questions to be included in the survey that are relevant to the health concerns of the state’s high school students. DPH must do so in consultation with the departments of Children and Families, Education, and Mental Health and Addiction Services; the Office of Early Childhood; and any other agency or public interest group DPH deems necessary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

DPH GUIDELINES

Under the bill, the DPH guidelines must include the:
1. CDC survey protocol,

2. requirement to use passive parental consent before administering the survey,

3. requirement for the survey to be anonymous and administered in a manner designed to protect student privacy,

4. timeframe for completing the survey, and

5. process for submitting survey results to the department.

**BACKGROUND**

**CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

Under existing agency practice, DPH biennially conducts the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey, administered in Connecticut as the Connecticut School Health Survey, with funding provided through a cooperative agreement with the CDC. The survey is sponsored and designed by the CDC. The CDC randomly selects approximately 50 high schools that are a representative sample of public high school students. DPH staff obtain permission from the CDC-selected schools to conduct the survey.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12  Nay 1  (02/25/2021)