



House of Representatives

File No. 769

General Assembly

January Session, 2021

(Reprint of File No. 30)

Substitute House Bill No. 6399
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedules "A" and "C"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
June 1, 2021

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) For the school year
2 commencing July 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter, the Department of
3 Public Health shall administer the Connecticut School Health Survey to
4 students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, provided the department
5 receives funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention for such purpose. The survey shall be based on the Youth
7 Risk Behavior Survey developed by the federal Centers for Disease
8 Control and Prevention. The department shall provide guidelines to the
9 local or regional board of education regarding the administration of the
10 survey to those high schools selected at random by the federal Centers
11 for Disease Control and Prevention. Such local or regional board of
12 education shall administer the survey to each high school selected to
13 participate in the survey in accordance with the guidelines provided by
14 the department, including, but not be limited to, (1) the survey protocol

15 as required by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
16 (2) the requirement to provide parents the opportunity to exclude their
17 children from the survey by denying permission in writing, on a form
18 prescribed by the department, (3) the requirement for the survey to be
19 anonymous and administered in a manner designed to protect student
20 privacy, (4) the timeframe for completion of the survey, and (5) the
21 process by which the results of such survey are to be submitted to the
22 department.

23 (b) The department, in consultation with the Department of Mental
24 Health and Addiction Services, the Office of Early Childhood, the
25 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Education and
26 any other agency or public interest group the department deems
27 necessary, may develop additional survey questions to be included as
28 part of the Connecticut School Health Survey that are relevant to the
29 health concerns of high school students in the state.

30 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than October 1, 2022,
31 the Child Advocate, in consultation with the Department of Public
32 Health, shall develop and update, as necessary, questions designed to
33 assess the risk of youths becoming victims of sexual assault or
34 misconduct by an adult. Such questions shall be included as part of the
35 Connecticut School Health Survey administered pursuant to section 1 of
36 this act.

37 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2022, the
38 Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public
39 Health, shall develop for use by a local or regional board of education
40 (1) a uniform policy concerning timely notification to the parents or
41 guardians of students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, about the
42 Connecticut School Health Survey not later than twenty-one calendar
43 days prior to the date such board will be administering the survey at a
44 high school governed by such board, and (2) a form to be distributed to
45 parents or guardians for the purposes of the notification required
46 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section that includes, but is not
47 limited to, (A) an explanation of the Connecticut School Health Survey

48 and how a parent or guardian may opt out of such survey being
49 administered to his or her child, and (B) the Internet link to the survey
50 that will be administered.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to biennially administer the Connecticut School Health Survey to students in grades 9 – 12 if the agency receives funding from the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention for this purpose. This provision has no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

In addition, the State Department of Education (SDE), in consultation with DPH, must develop for use by a local or regional board of education 1) a uniform policy on timely notification to parents or guardians about the Connecticut School Health Survey, and 2) a form to be distributed to parents with specific information about the health survey.

House "A" makes several minor and technical changes that have no fiscal impact.

House "C" adds language requiring SDE to develop a uniform policy on notifying parents or guardians about the health survey and certain forms for distribution. House "C" has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

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OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6399 (as amended by House "A" and "C")******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 2021-22 school year, to biennially administer the Connecticut School Health Survey to students in grades nine through 12, if the department receives funding from the federal Centers 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, including the opportunity for parents and guardians to exclude their children from the survey.

The bill requires the Department of Education (SDE), by January 1, 2022, and in consultation with DPH, to develop a uniform parental notification policy and form for local or regional boards of education to use in administering the survey.

It 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.

*House Amendment "A" (1) changes the school year by which DPH must start administering the survey, from 2022-23 to 2021-22; (2) requires the DPH guidelines provide parents the opportunity to deny permission, in writing, rather than using passive parental consent; and (3) makes minor changes.

*House Amendment "C" requires SDE to develop a uniform parental notification policy and form for local and regional school boards to use in administering the survey.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except the provision on the SDE uniform policy and parent notification form is effective upon passage.

DPH GUIDELINES

Under the bill, the DPH guidelines must include the:

1. CDC survey protocol;
2. requirement to provide parents the opportunity to exclude their children from the survey by denying permission in writing, on a DPH-prescribed form;
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.

SDE UNIFORM PARENT NOTIFICATION POLICY AND FORM

Under the bill, SDE's uniform policy must address timely notification to the parents or guardians of students in grades nine to 12 about the Connecticut School Health Survey within 21 calendar days before the

date the board will administer the survey at a high school it governs.

The bill requires SDE to develop a notification form for parents and guardians that includes (1) an explanation of the survey and how a parent or guardian may opt out of it being administered to his or her child and (2) the Internet link to the survey that will be administered.

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)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 38 Nay 0 (04/13/2021)