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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5272**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires certain government agencies and public and private organizations to provide free menstrual products (i.e., tampons and sanitary napkins) to the individuals they serve without stigmatizing them. (The term "stigmatizing" is not defined in the bill.)

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner, by July 1, 2022, to (1) establish guidelines for the agencies and organizations on how to do this and (2) post the guidelines on the department's website.

It also specifically allows the Department of Correction DOC, local and regional boards of education, public institutions of higher education, and homeless and domestic violence shelters to (1) accept donations of menstrual products and grants from any source to purchase menstrual products and (2) partner with a nonprofit or community-based organization to carry out the bill's requirements.

The bill also makes a technical change by replacing the term "feminine hygiene" with the term "menstrual" throughout the statutes that address these products.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except the provisions on the DPH guidelines and the technical change are effective upon passage.

#### **PROVISION OF FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS**

By September 1, 2022, the bill requires the following agencies and organizations to provide free menstrual products:

1. as is currently law, York Correctional Institution, to inmates upon request;

2. local and regional boards of education, in restrooms that are accessible to students, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year;
3. public higher education institutions, in at least one designated and accessible central location on each campus and they must post notice of the location on their websites;
4. public or private homeless shelters that receive grants from the housing commissioner, in each restroom that is accessible to residents; and
5. domestic violence emergency shelters, in each restroom that is accessible to residents.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bill***

SB 2 (§§ 11-17), reported favorably by the Children's Committee, contains similar provisions.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 9 (03/25/2022)