

---

---

## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 5154

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY POLICE OFFICERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes new requirements related to the development and distribution of the existing (1) DCF children's behavioral and mental health resources document and (2) Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS) domestic violence victim resources document.

The bill requires:

1. DCF and OVS to provide their respective documents in multiple languages, including English, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish (OVS must do so annually, starting December 1, 2022);
2. the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to distribute the DCF children's mental health resources document and OVS to distribute its victim resources document electronically to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), each municipal police department, and each ambulance company and organization that offers transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency conditions (OVS must do so annually, starting December 1, 2022).

Starting January 1, 2023, the bill also:

1. requires state and municipal police officers and emergency medical technicians, including medical responders, to keep copies of these documents in any vehicle they use to carry out their duties;
2. allows the police officers and emergency medical technicians to

provide a copy of the documents to anyone, including a victim's family member, who the officer or technician determines may benefit from the services or resources described in the documents; and

3. requires peace officers at the scene of a family violence incident to provide victims with the OVS victim resource document and, if there is a child at the scene, a copy of the DCF document containing children's mental health resources in the victim's mental health region.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND VICTIM RESOURCES DOCUMENTS**

### ***DCF Children's Behavioral and Mental Health Resources Document***

Under existing law, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), is required to develop a document for each mental health region describing the behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment resources available to children in their respective mental health regions. The bill requires DCF to provide this document in multiple languages, including English, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish.

It also requires the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to distribute this document electronically to DESPP's Division of State Police, each municipal police department, and each ambulance company and organization that offers transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency conditions.

### ***OVS Domestic Violence Victim Resources Document***

Existing law requires the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS), in consultation with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to (1) compile information on domestic violence victim services and resources and (2) provide the information to the State Department of Education (SDE). Starting by December 1, 2022, the bill requires OVS to annually provide this document in multiple languages, including English, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish to (1) SDE only in

electronic form and (2) in electronic and in hard copies to DESPP, each municipal police department, and each ambulance company and organization that offers transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency conditions.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/10/2022)