
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1161

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER EXPANSION WORKING GROUP.

SUMMARY

Current law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to administer a school-based health center (SBHC) expansion grant program in FY 23 for grants to certain SBHC operators to expand the centers and their services.

This bill extends the program by one year, through FY 24. It also requires DPH, when awarding grants, to prioritize the 124 schools recommended for expanded SBHC medical and mental health services in the SBHC Expansion Working Group's final report. Existing law requires DPH to prioritize SBHC operators that will provide services after regular school hours.

By law, the program is open to SBHC operators at these 124 schools as well as 36 sites recommended for expanded mental health services in the working group's report.

BACKGROUND

SBHC Expansion Working Group

PA 21-35, § 16, established this group to develop recommendations for the strategic expansion of SBHC services in Connecticut. The group issued its final report in February 2022. Among other recommendations, the report proposed two options to expand or add services at existing SBHCs, as follows:

1. 36 sites, located in 11 towns, providing no mental health services
or

2. 124 sites in 22 towns providing mental health services, medical services, or both, but only part time.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 2 (03/10/2023)