



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 178

January Session, 2023

Senate Bill No. 1161

Senate, March 22, 2023

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. ANWAR of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-6u of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2023] 2024, the Department of
4 Public Health shall administer a school-based health center expansion
5 grant program to provide grants to certain operators of school-based
6 health centers for the expansion of school-based health centers and
7 services provided by such centers. The following operators of school-
8 based health centers shall be eligible for a grant under this section: (1)
9 The operator of a school-based health center for any of the thirty-six
10 recommended sites for expanded mental health services contained in
11 the final report of the School-Based Health Center Expansion Working
12 Group, established pursuant to section 16 of public act 21-35, and (2) the
13 operator of a school-based health center for any of the one hundred
14 twenty-four recommended schools for expanded school-based health

15 center medical and mental health services contained in the final report
 16 of the School-Based Health Center Expansion Working Group,
 17 established pursuant to section 16 of public act 21-35. The department
 18 shall give priority to awarding a grant to those operators of a school-
 19 based health center for any of the one hundred twenty-four
 20 recommended schools described in subdivision (2) of this section. The
 21 department shall give priority to awarding a grant to those operators of
 22 a school-based health center that will provide services after regular
 23 school hours. Each such operator shall submit, in collaboration with the
 24 local or regional board of education for the school district in which the
 25 school-based health center is located, an application for a grant under
 26 this section at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the
 27 department.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	19a-6u

PH *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Public Health, Dept.	ARPA ¹ - Delay in the Distribution of Funds	See Below	See Below

¹Federal American Rescue Plan Act = ARPA

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

PA 22-80 required the Department of Public Health (DPH) to administer a School-Based Health Center (SBHC) expansion grant program in FY 23. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for this program was released by the agency in January 2023. This bill requires DPH to prioritize certain SBHC sites when awarding SBHC expansion grants. The change in SBHC site prioritization is in conflict with the existing RFP. It is anticipated that it would take a year for DPH to draft and release a new RFP, delaying the distribution of Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for this program by one fiscal year.

The FY 23 Revised Budget appropriated \$10 million in ARPA funding for DPH's SBHC expansion program. There is no fiscal impact from the bill's extension of the program through FY 24, as available ARPA funding is not altered by this provision.

The Out Years

There is no fiscal impact to the State or municipalities in the out years.

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)