



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 439

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5262

House of Representatives, April 11, 2024

The Committee on Education reported through REP. CURREY of the 11th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT SURVEY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-217h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and biennially
4 thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall administer the
5 Connecticut School Health Survey to students in grades nine to twelve,
6 inclusive, provided the department receives funding from the federal
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for such purpose. The
8 survey shall be based on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey developed by
9 the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The department
10 shall provide guidelines to the local or regional board of education
11 regarding the administration of the survey to those high schools selected
12 at random by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
13 Such local or regional board of education shall administer the survey to
14 each high school selected to participate in the survey in accordance with
15 the guidelines provided by the department, including, but not limited

16 to, (1) the survey protocol as required by the federal Centers for Disease
 17 Control and Prevention, (2) the requirement to provide parents the
 18 opportunity to exclude their children from the survey by denying
 19 permission in writing, on a form prescribed by the department, (3) the
 20 requirement for the survey to be anonymous and administered in a
 21 manner designed to protect student privacy, (4) the timeframe for
 22 completion of the survey, and (5) the process by which the results of
 23 such survey are to be submitted to the department. On and after July 1,
 24 2026, each administration of the Connecticut School Health Survey shall
 25 include the sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention survey for
 26 administrators that was created as part of the state-wide sexual abuse
 27 and assault awareness and prevention program described in section
 28 17a-101q. Such survey for administrators shall be distributed to and
 29 completed by administrators of the school in which the Connecticut
 30 School Health Survey is being administered and the results of the
 31 administrators' surveys shall be submitted to the department at the
 32 same time as the results of the students' surveys.

33 (b) The department, in consultation with the Department of Mental
 34 Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Children and
 35 Families, the Department of Education and any other agency or public
 36 interest group the department deems necessary, may develop
 37 additional survey questions to be included as part of the Connecticut
 38 School Health Survey that are relevant to the health concerns of high
 39 school students in the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	10-217h

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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, which requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), beginning 7/1/26, to include a sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention survey in each administration of its Connecticut School Health Survey, does not result in a fiscal impact to the agency. DPH must biennially administer the survey to students in grades nine through 12 if the department receives funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for it.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5262

AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT SURVEY.

SUMMARY

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to include a sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention survey for high school administrators each time it administers the Connecticut School Health Survey. The bill requires each survey to be distributed to and completed by administrators. The administrator’s survey results must be submitted to DPH at the same time as the student survey results.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Connecticut School Health Survey

By law, DPH must 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 it. This survey was created as part of the statewide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program and must be (1) based on the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey and (2) administered in high schools the CDC randomly selects.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/05/2024)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 40 Nay 0 (04/01/2024)