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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6509**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), in consultation with the Connecticut Association of School-based Health Centers, to develop a plan by January 1, 2022, to establish school-based mental health clinics in regions of the state that do not have access to a school-based health center or an expanded school health site.

The bill allows clinics to (1) provide counseling to individual students, groups, or families, to the extent permitted by a sponsoring facility's license or certification; (2) extend the hours of operation to include after school, weekend, or summer hours based on community need for services, and (3) provide mental health programming for students in partnership with a local or regional board of education. Under the bill, mental health programming means age-appropriate education or outreach initiatives aimed at students to prevent mental illness (e.g., poster and flyer campaigns, films, guest speakers, or other school events).

The bill also allows DPH to adopt regulations to establish minimum quality standards for school-based mental health clinics.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

#### **DEFINITION**

##### ***School-Based Mental Health Clinic***

Under the bill, a "school-based mental health clinic" is a clinic that:

1. is located in or on the grounds of a school facility of a school district or school board or of an Indian tribe or tribal organization;

2. is organized through school, community, and health provider relationships;
3. is administered by a sponsoring facility (e.g., a hospital, community health center, or school system); and
4. provides on-site mental, emotional, or behavioral health services to children and adolescents in accordance with state and local law, including laws relating to licensure and certification.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 4 (03/11/2021)