



House of Representatives

File No. 713

General Assembly

January Session, 2021

(Reprint of File No. 165)

Substitute House Bill No. 6510
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 24, 2021

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION
CONCERNING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH
RESOURCES IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND
SCHOOLS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) (1) Not later than
2 December 1, 2021, the Department of Children and Families, in
3 consultation with the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council
4 established pursuant to section 17a-22j of the general statutes, the
5 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department
6 of Public Health and the Youth Suicide Advisory Board established
7 pursuant to section 17a-52 of the general statutes, shall develop
8 documents concerning behavioral and mental health evaluation and
9 treatment resources available to children in each mental health region
10 designated pursuant to section 17a-478 of the general statutes.

11 (2) Such documents shall contain, but need not be limited to, contact
12 information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and a list of (A)
13 providers of such resources, including, but not limited to, mobile crisis
14 intervention services, (B) the physical location of each provider, if
15 applicable, (C) the types of services offered by each provider, and (D)
16 contact information for each provider.

17 (3) The Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council shall make
18 such documents available on its Internet web site and distribute such
19 documents electronically to each hospital licensed pursuant to chapter
20 368v of the general statutes that has an emergency department and each
21 local and regional board of education.

22 (b) On and after January 1, 2022, upon the discharge of any child from
23 the emergency department of a hospital licensed pursuant to chapter
24 368v of the general statutes, such department shall provide the parent
25 or guardian of such child a copy of the document developed pursuant
26 to subsection (a) of this section that pertains to the mental health region
27 in which the (1) department is located, and (2) child resides, if different,
28 provided such child resides in this state. Such copies shall be provided
29 (A) (i) in printed form, or (ii) through such child's patient chart in the
30 electronic health record system, as defined in section 19a-904c of the
31 general statutes, maintained by such hospital, provided such patient
32 chart was created prior to the date of such child's discharge, and (B) by
33 electronic mail to the electronic mail address of such parent or guardian,
34 at such parent or guardian's election.

35 (c) Not later than December 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
36 Department of Children and Families shall review the documents
37 developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and update such
38 documents as necessary. If such documents are updated, the
39 Department of Children and Families shall provide such updated
40 documents to the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council, and
41 the council shall distribute and make such updated documents available
42 in the manner described in subsection (a) of this section.

43 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2022,
 44 each local and regional board of education shall make available on such
 45 board's Internet web site the document developed by the Department of
 46 Children and Families pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1 of this act,
 47 concerning behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment
 48 resources available to children in the mental health region in which such
 49 board is located.

50 (b) On and after January 1, 2022, each local and regional board of
 51 education shall distribute the document described in subsection (a) of
 52 this section (1) to any student taking a course in health and safety, and
 53 (2) at least semiannually, in September and May, to the parents and
 54 guardians of each student in the school district.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

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

This bill, which makes various requirements of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), local and regional boards of education, and hospital emergency departments, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The bill requires DCF, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Youth Suicide Advisory Board, to develop documents concerning behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment resources available to children in certain mental health regions.

The bill also requires local and regional boards of education to make certain DCF documents available on each board's website and distribute these documents to certain students and parents. These requirements have no fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, thus becoming the bill with the above referenced fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

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OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6510 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF), by December 1, 2021, to develop a document for each mental health region describing the behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment resources available to children. DCF must do so in consultation with the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council (BHPOC), the Mental Health and Addiction Services and Public Health departments, and DCF's Youth Suicide Advisory Board.

Under the bill, BHPOC must (1) distribute the documents electronically to each licensed hospital that has an emergency department and to each local and regional board of education and (2) make them available on the council's website.

Starting by December 1, 2022, the bill requires DCF to annually review and update the documents as necessary. DCF must provide any updated documents to BHPOC, and the council must distribute and make them available in the manner described above.

The bill also requires hospital emergency departments, starting on January 1, 2022, to provide a copy of the applicable documents to the parents or guardians of each child upon the child's discharge from the emergency department.

It also requires each local and regional board of education to (1) distribute the applicable document to parents and guardians and certain

students starting January 1, 2022, and (2) make the document available on its website by that date.

*House Amendment "A" (1) makes DCF, rather than BHPOC, the lead agency in the development, review, and update of the resource document; (2) makes BHPOC's role consultative in the development of the document but maintains the underlying bill's requirement for the council to distribute the document; (3) broadens the population of children covered by the hospital distribution provision by no longer limiting it to those showing certain behavioral health symptoms; (4) adds the provisions on board of education distribution of the document; and (5) makes other minor changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on board of education distribution is effective July 1, 2021.

DOCUMENT DESCRIBING AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Under the bill, each document must provide information on mental health evaluation and treatment resources available to children in their respective mental health region.

The documents must contain contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and a list of evaluation and treatment providers, including mobile crisis intervention services providers. The list must include the providers' physical locations, if applicable; types of services offered; and contact information.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS' DISTRIBUTION

Under the bill, hospital emergency departments must provide the parent or guardian with the DCF documents that pertain to the mental health region where the (1) department is located and (2) child lives, if different, so long as the child lives in the state.

The emergency departments must provide copies of the documents:

1. in printed form or through the child's patient chart in the hospital's electronic health record system, so long as the chart

was created before the date of the child’s discharge, and

- 2. by email to the parent or guardian’s electronic mail address, if the parent or guardian chooses this.

SCHOOL BOARDS’ DISTRIBUTION

The bill requires each local and regional board of education to:

- 1. make the DCF document described above pertaining to its region available on its website by January 1, 2022, and
- 2. starting January 1, 2022, distribute it (a) to any student taking a course in health and safety and (b) at least semiannually, in September and May, to the parents and guardians of each student in the school district.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute
 Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable
 Yea 30 Nay 0 (05/06/2021)