



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 60**

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5154

*House of Representatives, March 22, 2022*

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY POLICE OFFICERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 46b-38b of the 2022 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (f) It shall be the responsibility of the peace officer at the scene of a  
5 family violence incident to provide immediate assistance to the victim.  
6 Such assistance shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Assisting  
7 the victim to obtain medical treatment if such treatment is required; (2)  
8 notifying the victim of the right to file an affidavit for a warrant for  
9 arrest; (3) informing the victim of services available, including  
10 providing the victim with (A) contact information for a regional family  
11 violence organization that employs, or provides referrals to, counselors  
12 who are trained in providing trauma-informed care, ~~;~~ (4)] (B) on

13 and after January 1, 2023, a copy of the document concerning services  
14 and resources available to victims of domestic violence published  
15 pursuant to section 10-10g, as amended by this act; (4) on and after  
16 January 1, 2023, if there is a child at the scene, providing the victim a  
17 copy of the document concerning behavioral and mental health  
18 evaluation and treatment resources available to children developed  
19 pursuant to section 17a-22r, as amended by this act, for the mental  
20 health region in which such victim is located; (5) referring the victim to  
21 the Office of Victim Services; and [(5)] (6) providing assistance in  
22 accordance with the uniform protocols for treating victims of family  
23 violence whose immigration status is questionable, established  
24 pursuant to subsection (i) of this section. In cases where the officer has  
25 determined that no cause exists for an arrest, assistance shall include:  
26 (A) Assistance as provided in subdivisions (1) to [(5)] (6), inclusive, of  
27 this subsection; and (B) remaining at the scene for a reasonable time  
28 until, in the reasonable judgment of the officer, the likelihood of further  
29 imminent violence has been eliminated. For the purposes of this  
30 subsection, "trauma-informed care" means services (i) directed by a  
31 thorough understanding of the neurological, biological, psychological  
32 and social effects of trauma and violence on a person; and (ii) delivered  
33 by a regional family violence organization that employs, or provides  
34 referrals to, counselors who: (I) Make available to the victim of family  
35 violence resources on trauma exposure, its impact and treatment; (II)  
36 engage in efforts to strengthen the resilience and protective factors of  
37 victims of family violence who are impacted by and vulnerable to  
38 trauma; (III) emphasize continuity of care and collaboration among  
39 organizations that provide services to children; and (IV) maintain  
40 professional relationships for referral and consultation purposes with  
41 programs and persons with expertise in trauma-informed care.

42 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) On and after January 1, 2023, each  
43 police officer, as defined in section 46b-15 of the general statutes, and  
44 emergency medical technician, as defined in section 19a-904 of the  
45 general statutes, shall maintain, in any vehicle used by such officer or  
46 technician in the course of his or her duties, copies of documents  
47 concerning (1) behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment

48 resources available to children, developed pursuant to section 17a-22r  
49 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the mental health  
50 region in which such officer or technician is located; and (2) services and  
51 resources available to victims of domestic violence, published pursuant  
52 to section 10-10g of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such  
53 officer or technician may provide a copy of such documents to any  
54 person or family of a person who such officer or technician determines  
55 may benefit from the services or resources described in such documents.

56 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17a-22r of the 2022 supplement to the  
57 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
58 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

59 (a) (1) Not later than December 1, 2021, the Department of Children  
60 and Families, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Partnership  
61 Oversight Council established pursuant to section 17a-22j, the  
62 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department  
63 of Public Health and the Youth Suicide Advisory Board established  
64 pursuant to section 17a-52, shall develop documents concerning  
65 behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment resources  
66 available to children in each mental health region designated pursuant  
67 to section 17a-478.

68 (2) Such documents shall contain, but need not be limited to, contact  
69 information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and a list of (A)  
70 providers of such resources, including, but not limited to, mobile crisis  
71 intervention services, (B) the physical location of each provider, if  
72 applicable, (C) the types of services offered by each provider, and (D)  
73 contact information for each provider. Such documents shall be  
74 provided in multiple languages, including, but not limited to, English,  
75 Polish, Portuguese and Spanish.

76 (3) The Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council shall make  
77 such documents available on its Internet web site and distribute such  
78 documents electronically to (A) each hospital licensed pursuant to  
79 chapter 368v that has an emergency department, [and] (B) each local and  
80 regional board of education, (C) the Division of State Police within the

81 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, (D) each  
82 municipal police department, and (E) each ambulance company and  
83 organization, whether public, private or voluntary, that offers  
84 transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency  
85 conditions.

86 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-10g of the general statutes is  
87 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
88 *2022*):

89 (a) Not later than December 1, ~~[2019]~~ 2022, and annually thereafter,  
90 the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department, in  
91 consultation with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence,  
92 shall compile information concerning services and resources available  
93 to victims of domestic violence and provide such information  
94 electronically to the Department of Education, and electronically and in  
95 hard copies to (1) the Division of State Police within the Department of  
96 Emergency Services and Public Protection, (2) each municipal police  
97 department, and (3) each ambulance company and organization,  
98 whether public, private or voluntary, that offers transportation or  
99 treatment services to patients under emergency conditions. Such  
100 information shall include, but need not be limited to, ~~[(1)]~~ (A) referrals  
101 available to counseling and supportive services, including, but not  
102 limited to, the Safe at Home program administered by the Office of the  
103 Secretary of the State, shelter services, medical services, domestic abuse  
104 hotlines, legal counseling and advocacy, mental health care and  
105 financial assistance, and ~~[(2)]~~ (B) procedures to voluntarily and  
106 confidentially identify eligibility for referrals to such counseling and  
107 supportive services. [The Office of Victim Services within the Judicial  
108 Department shall annually review such information and inform the  
109 Department of Education of any necessary revisions.] Such information  
110 shall be provided in multiple languages, including, but not limited to,  
111 English, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	46b-38b(f)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	17a-22r(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-10g(a)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2(1) and (2), "officer or" was inserted before "technician" for consistency.

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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*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.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill makes various changes to the development and distribution of the existing children's behavioral and mental health and domestic violence victim resources documents resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5154*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY POLICE OFFICERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes new requirements related to the development and distribution of the existing (1) DCF children's behavioral and mental health resources document and (2) Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS) domestic violence victim resources document.

The bill requires:

1. DCF and OVS to provide their respective documents in multiple languages, including English, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish (OVS must do so annually, starting December 1, 2022);
2. the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to distribute the DCF children's mental health resources document and OVS to distribute its victim resources document electronically to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), each municipal police department, and each ambulance company and organization that offers transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency conditions (OVS must do so annually, starting December 1, 2022).

Starting January 1, 2023, the bill also:

1. requires state and municipal police officers and emergency medical technicians, including medical responders, to keep copies of these documents in any vehicle they use to carry out their duties;

2. allows the police officers and emergency medical technicians to provide a copy of the documents to anyone, including a victim's family member, who the officer or technician determines may benefit from the services or resources described in the documents; and
3. requires peace officers at the scene of a family violence incident to provide victims with the OVS victim resource document and, if there is a child at the scene, a copy of the DCF document containing children's mental health resources in the victim's mental health region.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND VICTIM RESOURCES DOCUMENTS**

### ***DCF Children's Behavioral and Mental Health Resources Document***

Under existing law, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), is required to develop a document for each mental health region describing the behavioral and mental health evaluation and treatment resources available to children in their respective mental health regions. The bill requires DCF to provide this document in multiple languages, including English, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish.

It also requires the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to distribute this document electronically to DESPP's Division of State Police, each municipal police department, and each ambulance company and organization that offers transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency conditions.

### ***OVS Domestic Violence Victim Resources Document***

Existing law requires the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS), in consultation with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to (1) compile information on domestic violence victim services and resources and (2) provide the information to the State Department of Education (SDE). Starting by December 1, 2022, the bill requires OVS to annually provide this document in multiple languages,



including English, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish to (1) SDE only in electronic form and (2) in electronic and in hard copies to DESPP, each municipal police department, and each ambulance company and organization that offers transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency conditions.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/10/2022)