



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6599

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-59i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a maternal mortality review committee
4 within the department to conduct a comprehensive, multidisciplinary
5 review of maternal deaths for purposes of identifying factors
6 associated with maternal death and making recommendations to
7 reduce maternal deaths.

8 (b) The cochairpersons of the maternal mortality review committee
9 shall be the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
10 designee, and a representative designated by the Connecticut State
11 Medical Society. The cochairpersons shall convene a meeting of the
12 maternal mortality review committee upon the request of the
13 Commissioner of Public Health.

14 (c) The maternal mortality review committee may include, but need
15 not be limited to, any of the following members, as needed, depending
16 on the maternal death case being reviewed:

17 (1) A physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 who specializes in

18 obstetrics and gynecology, appointed by the Connecticut State Medical
19 Society;

20 (2) A physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 who is a
21 pediatrician, appointed by the Connecticut State Medical Society;

22 (3) A community health worker, appointed by the Commission on
23 Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity;

24 (4) A nurse-midwife licensed pursuant to chapter 377, appointed by
25 the Connecticut Nurses Association;

26 (5) A clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b,
27 appointed by the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of
28 Social Workers;

29 (6) A psychiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 370, appointed by the
30 Connecticut Psychiatric Society;

31 (7) A psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 20-136, appointed
32 by the Connecticut Psychological Association;

33 (8) The Chief Medical Examiner, or the Chief Medical Examiner's
34 designee;

35 (9) A member of the Connecticut Hospital Association;

36 (10) A representative of a community or regional program or facility
37 providing services for persons with psychiatric disabilities or persons
38 with substance use disorders, appointed by the Commissioner of
39 Public Health;

40 (11) A representative of The University of Connecticut-sponsored
41 health disparities institute; or

42 (12) Any additional member the cochairpersons determine would be
43 beneficial to serve as a member of the committee.

44 (d) Whenever a meeting of the maternal mortality review committee
45 takes place, the committee shall consult with relevant experts to
46 evaluate the information and findings obtained from the department
47 pursuant to section 19a-59h and make recommendations regarding the
48 prevention of maternal deaths. Not later than ninety days after such
49 meeting, the committee shall report, to the Commissioner of Public
50 Health, any recommendations and findings of the committee in a
51 manner that complies with section 19a-25.

52 (e) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
53 maternal mortality review committee shall submit a report of
54 disaggregated data, in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-
55 25, regarding the information and findings obtained through the
56 committee's investigation process to the joint standing committee of
57 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
58 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report
59 may include recommendations to reduce or eliminate racial inequities
60 and other public health concerns regarding maternal mortality and
61 severe maternal morbidity in the state.

62 (f) All information provided by the department to the maternal
63 mortality review committee shall be subject to the provisions of section
64 19a-25.

65 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the maternal mortality review
66 committee shall develop educational materials regarding:

67 (1) The health and safety of pregnant and postpartum persons with
68 mental health disorders, including, but not limited to, perinatal mood
69 and anxiety disorders, for distribution by the Department of Public
70 Health to each birthing hospital in the state. As used in this
71 subdivision, "birthing hospital" means a health care facility, as defined
72 in section 19a-630, operated and maintained in whole or in part for the
73 purpose of caring for patients during the delivery of a child and for a
74 postpartum person and such person's newborn following birth;

75 (2) Evidence-based screening tools for screening patients for
76 intimate partner violence, peripartum mood disorders and substance
77 use disorder for distribution by the Department of Public Health to
78 obstetricians and other health care providers who practice obstetrics;
79 and

80 (3) Indicators of intimate partner violence for distribution by the
81 Department of Public Health to (A) hospitals for use by health care
82 providers in the emergency department and hospital social workers,
83 and (B) obstetricians and other health care providers who practice
84 obstetrics.

85 (h) Not later than January 1, 2024, the maternal mortality review
86 committee shall develop educational materials regarding intimate
87 partner violence toward pregnant and postpartum persons for
88 distribution by the Department of Public Health to each birthing
89 hospital in the state and to obstetricians and other health care
90 providers who practice obstetrics for provision to pregnant and
91 postpartum patients.

92 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) On or before January 1, 2024,
93 and annually thereafter, any health care provider licensed in the state
94 who screens patients for domestic violence, as defined in section 46b-1
95 of the general statutes, may submit documentation to the Department
96 of Public Health, in a form and manner prescribed by the
97 Commissioner of Public Health, demonstrating that the provider
98 performs domestic violence screening of patients.

99 (b) On or before January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
100 Department of Public Health shall maintain a list of health care
101 providers who have submitted documentation pursuant to subsection
102 (a) of this section and who, in the determination of the Commissioner
103 of Public Health, screen patients for domestic violence. The
104 commissioner shall publish such list on the department's Internet web
105 site.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	19a-59i
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*