



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 46**

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5262

*House of Representatives, March 18, 2024*

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 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 Section 10-217h of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 2024, each administration of such survey shall include a sexual abuse  
 25 and assault awareness prevention survey that has been developed  
 26 jointly by the Departments of Public Health, Education and Children  
 27 and Families with input from stakeholders.

28 (b) The department, in consultation with the Department of Mental  
 29 Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Children and  
 30 Families, the Department of Education and any other agency or public  
 31 interest group the department deems necessary, may develop  
 32 additional survey questions to be included as part of the Connecticut  
 33 School Health Survey that are relevant to the health concerns of high  
 34 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

**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, which requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), beginning 7/1/24, 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, 2024, this bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to include a sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention survey in each administration of its Connecticut School Health Survey. Under the bill, the survey must be jointly developed by DPH, the Department of Children and Families, and the State Department of Education, along with input from stakeholders.

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. The survey 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)