General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5262

February Session, 2024

AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT SURVEY.

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

Section 1. Section 10-217h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall administer the Connecticut School Health Survey to students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, provided the department receives funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for such purpose. The survey shall be based on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The department shall provide guidelines to the local or regional board of education regarding the administration of the survey to those high schools selected at random by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Such local or regional board of education shall administer the survey to each high school selected to participate in the survey in accordance with the guidelines provided by the department, including, but not limited to, (1) the survey protocol as required by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2) the requirement to provide parents the opportunity to exclude their children from the survey by denying permission in writing, on a form prescribed by the department, (3) the

requirement for the survey to be anonymous and administered in a manner designed to protect student privacy, (4) the timeframe for completion of the survey, and (5) the process by which the results of such survey are to be submitted to the department. On and after July 1, 2026, each administration of the Connecticut School Health Survey shall include the sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention survey for administrators that was created as part of the state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program described in section 17a-101q. Such survey for administrators shall be distributed to and completed by administrators of the school in which the Connecticut School Health Survey is being administered and the results of the administrators' surveys shall be submitted to the department at the same time as the results of the students' surveys.

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

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*