House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 860

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6951

House of Representatives, May 8, 2025

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.

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

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee, established pursuant to section 2-137 of the general statutes, shall conduct a study concerning existing behavioral health services for children and anticipated demand for such services in the future. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the rates of utilization of the following providers of behavioral health services for children: (A) The United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1 Infoline program, (B) 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, (C) mobile crisis intervention services, urgent crisis centers, as defined in section 19a-179f of the general statutes, (D) subacute crisis stabilization centers, and (E) hospital emergency departments, (2) outreach and marketing strategies utilized by the service providers listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection, (3) common sources of patient referrals to such service providers, (4) the

allocation of state and other financial resources to such service providers, and (5) the anticipated demand for behavioral health services for children into the future.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to developmental services, public health and children. Such report shall include an analysis of (1) data collected in conducting the study required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2) recommendations to improve the delivery of behavioral health services for children and meet anticipated demand for such services into the future.

Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee established pursuant to section 2-137 of the general statutes shall, in collaboration with (1) a state-wide association of school-based health centers, develop a survey for administration at such centers that is designed to obtain information from such centers concerning existing data collection practices and the anticipated challenges and opportunities presented by the implementation of more comprehensive data collection systems at such centers, and (2) the Commissioner of Public Health, develop appropriate reporting requirements for school-based health centers to determine and respond to the needs of such centers. The committee may contract with a consultant to develop the survey required pursuant to this subsection.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, the survey and reporting requirements developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 2	*July 1, 2025*	New section

KID *Joint Favorable-LCO C/R* APP

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Potential Cost	Up to 10,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes various requirements of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee resulting in the potential cost described below.

Section 1 requires the committee to conduct a study concerning existing behavioral health services for children and anticipated demand for future services resulting in no fiscal impact because the Committee has the necessary expertise and resources to conduct the study.

Section 2 requires the committee to develop a survey for administration at school-based health centers and allows the committee to contract with a consultant resulting in a potential cost to the Office of Legislative Management (OLM)[1]. If the committee decides to contract with a consultant, there is a potential cost to OLM of up to $10,000[2].

Additionally, this section requires the Department of Public Health

[1]The Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee resides in OLM's budget.

[2]The exact cost will depend on the hourly rate of the consultant and the number of hours the consultant will need to work to help create the survey.

(DPH) to develop appropriate reporting requirements for school-based health centers resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because DPH has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years

None.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6951

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - APP
Yea 15 Nay 2 (03/06/2025)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 52 Nay 2 (04/24/2025)