



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8543



Offered by:

REP. BIGGINS, 11th Dist.

REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY, 133rd Dist.

SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.

SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7158

File No. 629

Cal. No. 390

**"AN ACT CONCERNING SAFETY PLANS AND DISCHARGE PLANS
FOR MINOR PATIENTS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Designated employee" means a school nurse or nurse practitioner
5 appointed pursuant to section 10-212 of the general statutes, school
6 nurse supervisor, school counselor, school social worker or school
7 psychologist who a local or regional school board of education
8 designates to access minor patient safety plans transmitted by health
9 care providers to a school district or school's secure messaging system
10 account pursuant to the provisions of this section;

11 (2) "Health care provider" means any person, corporation, limited
12 liability company, facility or institution operated, owned or licensed by

13 this state to provide health care or professional medical services;

14 (3) "Legally authorized representative" means a minor patient's
15 parent, guardian appointed by the Probate Court or a personal
16 representative, as described in 45 CFR 164.502(g);

17 (4) "Safety plan" means a written document created collaboratively
18 between a health care provider and a patient outlining coping strategies,
19 activities and support networks the patient can access to prevent or
20 manage a potential mental health crisis;

21 (5) "School nurse supervisor" means a school nurse or nurse
22 practitioner appointed pursuant to section 10-212 of the general statutes
23 designated by the local or regional board of education as the supervisor,
24 or, if no designation has been made by the board, the lead or
25 coordinating school nurse or nurse practitioner; and

26 (6) "Secure messaging system" means a platform capable of sending
27 and receiving secure messages and may include a platform that
28 complies with the Direct Project specifications published by the federal
29 Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

30 (b) On and after April 1, 2026, each health care provider that prepares
31 a safety plan for a minor patient that received inpatient behavioral
32 health care treatment for a period not less than twelve consecutive days
33 shall (1) review such safety plan with the minor patient if the health care
34 provider believes such a review is medically appropriate, and (2)
35 inquire as to whether the minor patient or minor patient's parent or
36 legally authorized representative consents to sharing such safety plan
37 with the minor patient's school. If the minor patient or minor patient's
38 parent or legally authorized representative consents to sharing such
39 safety plan with the minor patient's school, the health care provider
40 shall obtain written consent from (A) the minor patient's parent or
41 legally authorized representative, or (B) if the minor patient is sixteen
42 years of age or older, such minor patient, and transmit such safety plan
43 to the minor patient's school district or school (i) using a secure

44 messaging system, or (ii) in a form and manner that complies with the
45 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-
46 191, as amended from time to time, and 45 CFR 160.101 to 45 CFR
47 164.534, inclusive, as amended from time to time.

48 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) create a standard
49 of medical care with respect to any minor patient, (2) require a health
50 care provider to create a safety plan, (3) require a health care provider
51 to release information to a parent or legally authorized representative if,
52 pursuant to state or federal law, a minor patient may withhold such
53 information from such minor patient's parent or legally authorized
54 representative, including, but not limited to, information regarding
55 pregnancy, abortion, contraceptives, human immunodeficiency virus or
56 other sexually transmitted disease testing or treatment, mental health
57 treatment or any other area of care that a health care provider has
58 promised a minor patient that the health care provider will keep
59 confidential, or (4) require a health care provider to transmit a safety
60 plan or provide any other information to any person in violation of the
61 provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
62 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time.

63 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before January 1, 2026,
64 each local or regional board of education shall ensure that each school
65 district or school, as determined by the board, (1) signs up for an
66 organizational account on a secure messaging system, as defined in
67 section 1 of this act, and (2) provides access to one or more designated
68 employees, as defined in section 1 of this act, one of whom shall be a
69 school nurse supervisor, as defined in section 1 of this act, to such
70 organizational account for the purpose of accessing minor patient safety
71 plans, as defined in section 1 of this act, transmitted by health care
72 providers, pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of this act. A
73 designated employee shall retain minor patient safety plans in a
74 confidential file separate from any cumulative academic or health
75 record, provided information contained in a minor patient safety plan
76 may be used to provide appropriate interventions pursuant to an

77 individualized education program or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of
78 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

79 (b) On or before April 1, 2026, each local or regional board of
80 education shall submit each school district or school's secure messaging
81 system address to the Commissioner of Education in a form and manner
82 prescribed by the commissioner. On and after April 1, 2026, if a school
83 district or school's secure messaging system address changes, each local
84 or regional board of education shall, in a form and manner prescribed
85 by the commissioner, submit such new address to the commissioner as
86 soon as practicable but not later than thirty days after acquiring such
87 new address. The commissioner shall compile and maintain a list of each
88 school district or school's secure messaging system address and make
89 such list available to health care providers in the state for the purpose of
90 transmitting minor patient safety plans pursuant to the provisions of
91 section 1 of this act.

92 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the school year commencing
93 July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional
94 board of education shall annually provide professional development for
95 all new designated employees, as defined in section 1 of this act. The
96 Department of Education shall provide professional development
97 training materials for use by each local and regional board of education.
98 As part of such professional development, each new designated
99 employee shall receive and complete training and instruction for using
100 a secure messaging system for the purpose of accessing minor patient
101 safety plans, as defined in section 1 of this act, transmitted by health care
102 providers pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of this act.

103 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 17b-59d of the general statutes is
104 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
105 *passage*):

106 (b) It shall be the goal of the State-wide Health Information Exchange
107 to: (1) Allow real-time, secure access to patient health information and
108 complete medical records across all health care provider settings; (2)

109 provide patients with secure electronic access to their health
 110 information in accordance with 45 CFR 171; (3) allow voluntary
 111 participation by patients to access their health information at no cost; (4)
 112 support care coordination through real-time alerts and timely access to
 113 clinical information; (5) reduce costs associated with preventable
 114 readmissions, duplicative testing and medical errors; (6) promote the
 115 highest level of interoperability; (7) meet all state and federal privacy
 116 and security requirements; (8) support public health reporting, quality
 117 improvement, academic research and health care delivery and payment
 118 reform through data aggregation and analytics; (9) support population
 119 health analytics; (10) be standards-based; [and] (11) provide for broad
 120 local governance that (A) includes stakeholders, including, but not
 121 limited to, representatives of the Department of Social Services,
 122 hospitals, physicians, behavioral health care providers, long-term care
 123 providers, health insurers, employers, patients and academic or medical
 124 research institutions, and (B) is committed to the successful
 125 development and implementation of the State-wide Health Information
 126 Exchange; and (12) to provide, within available appropriations, (A) a
 127 secure messaging system organizational account to each school district
 128 or school, as determined by each local and regional board of education,
 129 for the purposes of receiving minor patient safety plans pursuant to the
 130 provisions of section 1 of this act, and (B) access to such organizational
 131 account for designated employees, as defined in section 1 of this act, at
 132 no cost to such school district, school and designated employee."

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17b-59d(b)