
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7158

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

SUMMARY

This bill requires a health care provider that prepares a safety plan for a minor patient to (1) review it with the minor and (2) securely send it to the minor's school nurse or nurse practitioner. But under the bill, the provider may only send the safety plan to the school under the following conditions:

1. the provider gets written consent from the minor's parent or legally authorized representative (or the minor if they are at least age 16),
2. the provider sends the information in a way that complies with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and
3. the school nurse or nurse practitioner gave the provider their contact information to receive these safety plans.

Additionally, the bill requires health care providers that give inpatient behavioral health care treatment to a minor patient for more than 14 consecutive days to develop a discharge plan for the minor as soon as they determine the minor is showing improvement. Providers must do this in consultation with the following people:

1. the minor and the minor's parent or legally authorized representative;
2. a representative of the minor's school (e.g., school nurse, counselor, or social worker), if the minor's parent or legally authorized representative (or the minor if they are at least age 16)

consents to it; and

3. any health care provider the minor will be referred to when discharged if the same consent described above is given.

Lastly, the bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) commissioner, in conjunction with the public health commissioner, to develop a list of hospitals and other health care providers in Connecticut that provide inpatient behavioral health services. SDE must make the list available to school nurses and nurse practitioners. By August 1, 2025, these nurses must give their school contact information to each hospital and health care provider on the list to securely receive safety plans.

Under the bill, a “safety plan” is a written document health care providers and patients create collaboratively, outlining coping strategies, activities, and support networks the patient can access to manage a potential mental health crisis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except that the provision on SDE’s list of inpatient behavioral providers takes effect upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 7 (03/27/2025)