

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-28—sHB 7213

Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

SUMMARY: This act allows minors (under age 18) to give consent for services, examination, or treatment related to pregnancy and pregnancy prevention without the consent or notification of their parents or guardian. These services specifically include contraceptive counseling and services, prenatal care, and appropriate care and pain management during labor and delivery (e.g., epidural administration), but not sterilization.

The act prohibits physicians and other health care providers from sharing any information about these services or a related consultation (including sending a bill) with the minor's parent or guardian without the minor's express consent.

Additionally, under the act:

1. these provisions do not affect a provider's obligation to make a report to the departments of public health or children and families (DCF), or any other report or disclosure, that may be required under state law and
2. a parent or guardian who was not informed of these services is not liable to pay for them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Medical Treatment Without Parental Consent

Existing law does not require parental consent for a minor's:

1. treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (if the minor is age 12 or younger, the treating facility must report his or her name to DCF for investigating child abuse) (CGS § 19a-216);
2. alcohol and drug treatment (CGS § 17a-688);
3. HIV testing (CGS § 19a-582);
4. HIV or AIDS prophylaxis or treatment if the provider determines that (a) notifying the parents will result in denial of prophylaxis or treatment or (b) the minor will not start or continue prophylaxis or treatment if the parents are notified and the minor requests they not be notified (if the minor is age 12 or younger, the treating provider must report his or her name to DCF for investigating child abuse) (CGS § 19a-592);
5. abortion and abortion counseling (minors under 16 generally must receive counseling before an abortion) (CGS § 19a-601); and
6. outpatient mental health treatment (not including prescribing legend drugs) under certain circumstances (CGS § 19a-14c).