



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5168**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECURE TRANSMISSION OF SAFETY PLANS OF MINOR PATIENTS TO SCHOOLS BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

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

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

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

9 (2) "Health care provider" means any person, corporation, limited  
10 liability company, facility or institution operated, owned or licensed by  
11 this state to provide health care or professional medical services;

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

15 (4) "Safety plan" means a written document created collaboratively  
16 between a health care provider and a patient outlining coping strategies,

17 activities and support networks the patient can access to prevent or  
18 manage a potential mental health crisis;

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

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

28 (b) On and after April 1, 2027, each health care provider that prepares  
29 a safety plan for a minor patient who received inpatient behavioral  
30 health care treatment for a period not less than twelve consecutive days  
31 shall (1) review such safety plan with the minor patient if the health care  
32 provider believes such a review is medically appropriate, and (2)  
33 inquire as to whether the minor patient or minor patient's parent or  
34 legally authorized representative consents to sharing such safety plan  
35 with the minor patient's school. If the minor patient or minor patient's  
36 parent or legally authorized representative consents to sharing such  
37 safety plan with the minor patient's school, the health care provider  
38 shall obtain written consent from (A) the minor patient's parent or  
39 legally authorized representative, or (B) if the minor patient is sixteen  
40 years of age or older, such minor patient, and transmit such safety plan  
41 to the minor patient's school district or school (i) using a secure  
42 messaging system, or (ii) in a form and manner that complies with the  
43 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-  
44 191, as amended from time to time, and 45 CFR 160.101 to 45 CFR  
45 164.534, inclusive, as amended from time to time.

46 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) create a standard  
47 of medical care with respect to any minor patient, (2) require a health  
48 care provider to create a safety plan, (3) require a health care provider

49 to release information to a parent or legally authorized representative if,  
50 pursuant to state or federal law, a minor patient may withhold such  
51 information from such minor patient's parent or legally authorized  
52 representative, including, but not limited to, information regarding  
53 pregnancy, abortion, contraceptives, human immunodeficiency virus or  
54 other sexually transmitted disease testing or treatment, mental health  
55 treatment or any other area of care that a health care provider has  
56 promised a minor patient that the health care provider will keep  
57 confidential, or (4) require a health care provider to transmit a safety  
58 plan or provide any other information to any person in violation of the  
59 provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of  
60 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time.

61       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before January 1, 2027,  
62 each local or regional board of education shall ensure that each school  
63 district or school, as determined by the board, (1) signs up for an  
64 organizational account on a secure messaging system, as defined in  
65 section 1 of this act, and (2) provides access to one or more designated  
66 employees, as defined in section 1 of this act, one of whom shall be a  
67 school nurse supervisor, as defined in section 1 of this act, to such  
68 organizational account for the purpose of accessing minor patient safety  
69 plans, as defined in section 1 of this act, transmitted by health care  
70 providers, pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of this act. A  
71 designated employee shall retain minor patient safety plans in a  
72 confidential file separate from any cumulative academic or health  
73 record, provided information contained in a minor patient safety plan  
74 may be used to provide appropriate interventions pursuant to an  
75 individualized education program or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of  
76 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

77       (b) On or before April 1, 2027, each local or regional board of  
78 education shall submit each school district or school's secure messaging  
79 system address to the Commissioner of Education in a form and manner  
80 prescribed by the commissioner. On and after April 1, 2027, if a school  
81 district or school's secure messaging system address changes, each local  
82 or regional board of education shall, in a form and manner prescribed

83 by the commissioner, submit such new address to the commissioner as  
84 soon as practicable but not later than thirty days after acquiring such  
85 new address. The commissioner shall compile and maintain a list of each  
86 school district or school's secure messaging system address and make  
87 such list available to health care providers in the state for the purpose of  
88 transmitting minor patient safety plans pursuant to the provisions of  
89 section 1 of this act.

90       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2027*) For the school year commencing  
91 July 1, 2027, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional  
92 board of education shall provide guidance regarding the requirements  
93 of section 1 of this act for all new designated employees, as defined in  
94 section 1 of this act. The Department of Education shall develop and  
95 make available such guidance and training materials for use by each  
96 local and regional board of education. Such materials shall include  
97 instruction for using a secure messaging system for the purpose of  
98 accessing minor patient safety plans, as defined in section 1 of this act,  
99 transmitted by health care providers pursuant to the provisions of  
100 section 1 of this act.

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

104       (b) It shall be the goal of the State-wide Health Information Exchange  
105 to: (1) Allow real-time, secure access to patient health information and  
106 complete medical records across all health care provider settings; (2)  
107 provide patients with secure electronic access to their health  
108 information in accordance with 45 CFR 171; (3) allow voluntary  
109 participation by patients to access their health information at no cost; (4)  
110 support care coordination through real-time alerts and timely access to  
111 clinical information; (5) reduce costs associated with preventable  
112 readmissions, duplicative testing and medical errors; (6) promote the  
113 highest level of interoperability; (7) meet all state and federal privacy  
114 and security requirements; (8) support public health reporting, quality  
115 improvement, academic research and health care delivery and payment

116 reform through data aggregation and analytics; (9) support population  
 117 health analytics; (10) be standards-based; [and] (11) provide for broad  
 118 local governance that (A) includes stakeholders, including, but not  
 119 limited to, representatives of the Department of Social Services,  
 120 hospitals, physicians, behavioral health care providers, long-term care  
 121 providers, health insurers, employers, patients and academic or medical  
 122 research institutions, and (B) is committed to the successful  
 123 development and implementation of the State-wide Health Information  
 124 Exchange; and (12) provide, within available appropriations, (A) a  
 125 secure messaging system organizational account to each school district  
 126 or school, as determined by each local and regional board of education,  
 127 for the purposes of receiving minor patient safety plans pursuant to the  
 128 provisions of section 1 of this act, and (B) access to such organizational  
 129 account for designated employees, as defined in section 1 of this act, at  
 130 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, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17b-59d(b)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a)(1), "minor patient safety plans" was changed to "safety plans of minor patients" for clarity; and in the first sentence of Section 3, "regarding the requirements of section 1 of this act" was added for clarity.

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*