



Substitute House Bill No. 5447

Public Act No. 26-62

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY
AND PLANNING COMMITTEE.**

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall convene two working groups. Each working group shall include one or more members of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee and such other members as selected by the executive director.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a working group concerning the treatment of eating disorders. The working group shall, in consultation with the Commissioners of Public Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services, compile information to be made available to the public concerning (1) providers of eating disorder treatment services in the state, including, but not limited to, facilities that provide such treatment, (2) details concerning the types of services each such provider offers and the ages of persons typically served by such providers, and (3) other resources available in the state for persons with eating disorders. The working group shall also consult with the Commissioner of Public Health to establish best practice

Substitute House Bill No. 5447

guidelines for facilities in providing treatment for eating disorders.

(c) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a working group to develop a state-wide food education roadmap and a model school nutrition curriculum that includes, but is not limited to, developmentally appropriate evidence-based education programs on disordered eating behaviors, nutrition, culinary skills, growing food, food safety and food systems.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the executive director shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the chairpersons of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, public health, education and human services concerning the results of the working groups' studies.

Sec. 2. Section 2-137 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (o) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(NEW) (o) The committee shall annually review the progress of the working groups concerning eating disorders and food education and nutrition, established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Children and Families, Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate, study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one, inclusive, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities.

(b) The study shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The

Substitute House Bill No. 5447

appropriate size of such facility and number of persons to be served at one time; (2) the best treatment practices for the population; (3) the operational costs of establishing such a facility and the feasibility of operating the facility within available agency appropriations; (4) appropriate sites, which may include state-owned property, on which the facility may be built; and (5) billing options for payment of inpatient psychiatric services for the population served, including Medicaid billing options.

(c) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of the study with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services, public health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) On and after January 1, 2027, each school-based health center shall (1) use an evidence-based screening tool for early identification of disordered eating behaviors, as a supplement to existing methods used to diagnose disordered eating behaviors, and (2) provide such screening tool to each patient who is in grades six to twelve, inclusive, during such patient's annual health assessment, including, but not limited to, the health assessments conducted pursuant to section 10-206 of the general statutes.