



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5168

LCO No. 1144



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECURE TRANSMISSION OF MINOR PATIENT SAFETY PLANS 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 minor patient safety plans 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 that 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 annually provide professional development for
93 all new designated employees, as defined in section 1 of this act. The
94 Department of Education shall provide professional development
95 training materials for use by each local and regional board of education.
96 As part of such professional development, each new designated
97 employee shall receive and complete training and instruction for using
98 a secure messaging system for the purpose of accessing minor patient
99 safety plans, as defined in section 1 of this act, transmitted by health care
100 providers pursuant to the provisions of 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) to 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 Purpose:

To facilitate communication of minor safety plans between health care providers and schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]