
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6113

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children, in collaboration with a national association of adult survivors of child abuse, by December 1, 2021, to:

1. develop instructional guidelines for youth coaches on best practices for appropriate interaction with youth athletes;
2. develop child sexual abuse informational guidelines that describe (a) abusers' grooming techniques, (b) victim behavior, and (c) methods for contacting the appropriate authorities and communicating that one is a victim to a parent or other adult if abuse has occurred; and
3. make both guidelines available on the department's website.

The bill also requires certain municipalities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations operating youth athletic activities ("operators") and youth camp licensees, starting January 1, 2022, to distribute a copy of the child sexual abuse informational guidelines to the parent or guardian of each activity or camp participant upon enrollment or registration. Under the bill, youth athletic activity operators must by January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, distribute a copy of the instructional guidelines to their youth coaches.

Under the bill, the instructional and informational guidelines may be distributed by electronic mail.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DEFINITIONS

Operator

Under the bill, an "operator" is any municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that conducts, coordinates, organizes or otherwise oversees any youth athletic activity. It does not include any of these entities, whether or not compensated, that solely provide access to, or use of, a field, court, or other recreational area.

Youth Athletic Activity

"Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity involving participants aged seven through 19, who:

1. (a) engage in, or practice or prepare for, an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity or (b) attend an organized athletic camp or clinic that trains, instructs, or prepares such participants and
2. pay a fee to participate in such organized athletic game or competition or attend such camp or clinic, or whose fee is sponsored by a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization.

It does not include any college or university athletic activity, or one that is incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson.

Youth Camp

"Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during school vacations or on weekends by a person, partnership, corporation, association, the state, or a municipal agency for recreational or educational purposes and accommodating at least five children, from ages three to 16. These children (1) may not be bona fide personal guests in the private home of an individual and (2) must live apart from their relatives, parents, or legal guardian at least three full or partial days per week, unless a relative or guardian is a camp employee. It does not include classroom-based summer instructional programs, public or private schools' summer educational programs, licensed child care centers, or drop-in programs for children who are at

least age six administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls' club.

Youth Coach

Under the bill, a "youth coach" is anyone who (1) holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education or (2) volunteers or is paid to act as a youth athletic activity's head coach, manager, instructor, or the assistant to such positions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (02/25/2021)