

PA 21-64—sHB 6113

Committee on Children

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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

- 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 (d) methods for victims to tell a parent or other adult if abuse has occurred; and
- 3. make both sets of guidelines available on the department's website.

The act 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 each participant's parent or guardian upon enrollment or registration. Under the act, youth athletic activity operators must, by January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, distribute a copy of the best-practices instructional guidelines to their youth coaches.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DEFINITIONS

Operator

Under the act, 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

The act defines "youth athletic activity" as 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

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- 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

Under the act, "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. To qualify as a youth camp, the program or activity must accommodate at least five children from ages three to 16 who are (1) not bona fide personal guests in an individual's private home and (2) living 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 administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls' club for children who are at least age six.

Youth Coach

Under the act, 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.