

Date of Hearing: April 10, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
AB 624 (Gabriel) – As Introduced February 15, 2019

[Note: This bill has been double-referred to the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and will be heard by that Committee as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Pupil and student health: identification cards: sexual assault and domestic violence hotline telephone numbers

SUMMARY: Requires that public and private schools serving students in grades 7 through 12 print the telephone numbers of sexual assault and domestic violence hotlines on student identification cards. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires, commencing July 1, 2020, public schools, including charter schools, and private schools that serve students in grades 7 to 12 and that issue pupil identification cards to print on either side of the pupil identification cards the following telephone numbers:
 - a) The National Sexual Assault Hotline, 1-800-656-4673
 - b) The National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-7233
 - c) A sexual or reproductive health hotline
- 2) Authorizes these schools to have printed on either side of the pupil identification cards the following telephone numbers:
 - a) A local sexual assault hotline
 - b) A local domestic violence hotline
- 3) Places the same requirements on public or private institutions of higher education that issue student identification cards.
- 4) Permits, as of January 1, 2020, schools and institutions of higher education subject to these requirements which have a supply of unissued pupil or student identification cards that do not comply with these requirements, the schools or institutions of higher education to issue those identification cards until that supply is depleted.
- 5) States that these requirements apply for identification cards issued for the first time to a student, and to identification cards issued to replace a damaged or lost identification card.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires, beginning July 1, 2019, a public school, including a charter school, or private school that serves students in any of grades 7-12 that issues student identification cards to have printed on either side of the cards the telephone number for the National Suicide

Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255.

- 2) Authorizes, beginning July 1, 2019, a public school or private school that serves students in any of grades 7-12 that issues student identification cards to have printed on either side of the cards:
 - a) The Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741.
 - b) A local suicide prevention hotline telephone number.
- 3) Requires, beginning July 1, 2019, a public or private institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to have printed on either side of the cards the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255.
- 4) Authorizes, beginning July 1, 2019, a public or private institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to have printed on either side of the cards:
 - a) The Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741.
 - b) The campus police or security telephone number or, if the campus does not have a campus police or security telephone number, the local nonemergency telephone number.
 - c) A local suicide prevention hotline telephone number.
- 5) Requires a school or institution of higher education that has a supply of unissued identification cards that do not comply with the requirements of this bill to issue those identification cards until that supply is depleted.
- 6) Provides that the requirements of this bill apply for an identification card issued for the first time, and to identification cards issued to replace a damaged or lost identification card.
- 7) Requires schools operated by school districts, county boards of education, county superintendents of schools, and the California Schools for the Deaf and for the Blind, to provide comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention instruction to all students in grades 7 to 12, at least once in middle school and once in high school.
- 8) Requires the instruction to include content on sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, and sex trafficking.
- 9) Requires that instruction to information about local resources, including local resources for assistance with sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. The author states, “AB 624 will ensure that students—especially those facing a challenging situation involving domestic violence, sexual assault, or sexual health—are able to access timely and accurate information that may be essential to their physical or mental health.”

National Sexual Assault Hotline and National Domestic Violence Hotline. RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country, and operates the DoD Safe Helpline for the Department of Defense.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides support to enable victims to find safety and live lives free of abuse. Callers to The Hotline receive support, crisis intervention information, educational services, and referral services. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is a non-profit organization established in 1996 as a component of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Sexual harassment and intimate partner violence prevalent among adolescent girls. Research suggests that adolescent girls frequently experience sexual harassment. One study of adolescent girls in California and Georgia (Leaper, 2008) found that 90% of girls report experiencing sexual harassment, among other forms of abuse, and that likelihood increases with age.

The California Healthy Youth Act requires that students learn about sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, and sex trafficking at least once in junior high school and at least once in high school. Current law also requires that instruction provide students with knowledge and skills they need to form healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection, and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation, and also requires that instruction provide information about local resources for assistance with sexual assault and intimate partner violence. The California Healthy Youth Act represents the only mandated instruction on these topics.

The draft California health curriculum framework cites data from the CDC (2003) showing that nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse by a dating partner in a single year. The draft framework also reports that one in three teens will experience teen dating violence, and most do not report or even recognize their experience as abuse. The draft framework notes that it is important for students to understand that relationship abuse or intimate partner violence impacts people of all genders and sexual orientations and is about one person having power and control over another.

Health curriculum framework under revision, will include content on sexual assault and relationship abuse. The state's health content standards adopted in 2008 for grades 7-12 include mental, emotional and social health concepts such as analyzing signs of depression, potential suicide, and other self-destructive behaviors, and identifying warning signs for suicide.

The state's current health framework was last revised in 2003. It does not reflect the state's health content standards, which were adopted in 2008. Work on revising the health framework was initiated in 2008, but was suspended in 2009 as a result of state's fiscal emergency.

The Health curriculum framework revision is now underway, and final adoption by the SBE is scheduled for May, 2019. According to the CDE, the draft framework includes content on sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, and sex trafficking. One example of this content, in the section for grades 9-12, reads:

According to the National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey (CDC 2010), 29 percent of female rape victims were first victimized as a minor between the ages of 11–17, making middle school and high school critical times to discuss culture change and non-

victim blaming prevention strategies. It is important to address affirmative consent, the right to refuse sexual contact, and laws related to sexual behavior and the involvement of minors. Students learn in earlier grade levels the definition of sexual assault and consent and revisit this topic in ninth through twelfth grades...It is important to remind students that sexual assault is not limited to heterosexual relationships and is inclusive of same-sex relationships and other gender dynamics.

How much text can fit on a student identification card? Current law requires schools to print at least one suicide prevention hotline number on their identification cards for students in grades 7-12. This bill would add three additional numbers. This text must fit in space not required for other identification purposes, such as a photo, school logo and name, magnetic strip. ***The Committee may wish to consider***, when reviewing any future proposals to require content to be printed on student ID cards, whether student ID cards can fit any text beyond the requirements of current law and this bill.

Arguments in support. The California Women’s Law Center writes, “It is critical that students are able to receive unbiased and scientifically-based reproductive health information. Our country’s teen birth rate remains higher than that of other industrialized countries and over 80% of teen births in California are unplanned. As STI rates continue to increase among California teens and young adults, we must ensure students have information about reproductive health care. AB 624 ensures that vital information and resources are accessible to California’s teenagers and that they can easily seek out assistance if needed.”

Arguments in opposition. The California Association of Private Schools Organization writes, “If AB 624 were enacted, the state would compel private religious schools to furnish pupils with what amounts to an endorsement of viewpoints and practices that contradict certain faith-based principles and teachings common to many such schools by mandating the inclusion of a sexual or reproductive health hotline telephone number on official school documents. In so doing, CAPSO believes the state is overstepping its regulatory authority.

Recommended amendments. ***Staff recommends that this bill be*** amended to:

- 1) Remove the requirement that private schools serving students in grades 7-12 print a sexual or reproductive health hotline on student ID cards.
- 2) Remove the provisions authorizing the printing of a local sexual assault hotline and a local domestic violence hotline on student ID cards in schools serving students in grades 7-12.

Prior and related legislation. SB 316 (Rubio) of this Session would require a public school that serves students in grades 9 to 12, and that issues student identification cards, to have printed on the back of the identification cards the telephone number for a domestic violence hotline.

SB 972 (Portantino) Chapter 460, Statutes of 2018 requires schools that serve students in any of grades 7-12, and institutions of higher education, that issue student identification cards to have printed on either side of the identification card the number for a suicide hotline.

AB 329 (Weber) Chapter 398, Statutes of 2015 requires schools provide comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention instruction to all students in grades 7 to 12, including content on

sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, and sex trafficking, and information about local resources, including local resources for assistance with sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

SB 695 (De Leon and Jackson) Chapter 424, Statutes of 2015 requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider adding content to the health curriculum framework for grades 9-12 on sexual harassment and violence, including the affirmative consent standard, and requires school districts which require a health course for graduation to include this content.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Federation of Teachers
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California School Nurses Organization
California Women's Law Center

Opposition

California Catholic Conference
California Right to Life Committee, Inc.
Faith and Public Policy

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