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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 566  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Jarrells and Williams

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### SUMMARY

- Requires urgent care facilities and hospitals licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health to adopt domestic violence screening protocols.
- Modifies existing requirements for the creation of domestic violence screening protocols by hospitals licensed by the Director of Health.
- Requires the Director of Health to develop domestic violence screening protocols that may be adopted by hospitals and urgent care facilities.
- Requires the Director of Health, or an organization contracted by the Director, to offer training on domestic violence screening protocols to health care professionals in hospitals and urgent care facilities.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Hospital and urgent care facility protocols

H.B. 566 requires every urgent care facility and hospital licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health to adopt protocols within 90 days of the bill's effective date for (1) conducting an interview with a patient when a health care professional knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the patient has been a victim of domestic violence, (2) conducting interviews with present family or household members separate from the patient, and (3) documenting patient injuries or illnesses attributable to domestic violence in the patient's medical record, including a photographic record when possible.<sup>1</sup> The health care professionals that must follow the protocols are physicians, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified mental health assistants, and any health care worker

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3702.20 and 5119.335.

performing initial patient assessments such as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse aides, or medical assistants. Urgent care facilities include any facility, excluding primary care providers, where ambulatory care is provided outside a hospital emergency department on a walk-in, non-appointment basis.<sup>2</sup>

Hospitals licensed by the Director of Health are already required under existing law to adopt interview protocols for circumstances when a physician, hospital intern or resident, registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the patient has been the victim of domestic violence, as well as creating a photographic record of the patient's injuries. The bill specifies that, in addition to those requirements, the protocols provide for documenting the patient's injuries or illnesses attributable to domestic violence in the patient's medical record. It also expands the types of professionals that must follow the protocol to include the same health care providers as urgent care facilities and hospitals licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health: physician assistants, certified mental health assistants, and any health care worker performing initial patient assessments including nurse aides and medical assistants.<sup>3</sup>

## **Department of Health**

### **Protocols**

The bill requires the Director of Health to develop protocols for when a health care professional knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a patient has been the victim of domestic violence. The protocols must include guidance regarding the following:<sup>4</sup>

- Identifying patients who are victims of domestic violence during medical screenings;
- Conducting an interview with a patient;
- Conducting one or more interviews with any family or household member present, separate from the patient;
- Documenting patient injuries or illnesses attributable to domestic violence in a patient's medical record, including a photographic record whenever possible;
- Providing a current referral list of private and public community agencies that provide or arrange for the care of individuals experiencing domestic violence including hotlines, local shelter-based programs, legal services, and information about temporary restraining orders.

The protocols developed by the Director may be used by any hospital or urgent care facility when fulfilling their domestic violence protocol obligations.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3701.0413(A).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3722.15.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3701.0413(B).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3702.20(C), 3722.15(C), and 5119.335(C).

The Director is required to incorporate domestic violence detection and referral guidelines from the American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, and hospital accreditation organizations when developing the protocols.<sup>6</sup>

### **Training**

Within one year of the bill's effective date, the Director of Health is required to offer training to health care professionals in hospitals and urgent care facilities on how to recognize domestic violence and provide support to victims of domestic violence, including all the information contained in the protocols developed by the Director. As an alternative, the Director may contract an organization through a competitive bidding process to provide the training. If the Director contracts an organization, that organization must have (1) experience in the development and delivery of standardized curriculum for health care professionals regarding screening for domestic violence and supporting victims of domestic violence, (2) established relationships with private and public agencies that provide or arrange for the evaluation, counseling, and care of individuals experiencing domestic violence, (3) a history of leadership and collaboration with state and local domestic violence victim advocacy organizations, and (4) the capacity to provide training on the scale required.<sup>7</sup>

### **Rulemaking**

The Director of Health is required to adopt rules as necessary to develop the domestic violence protocols and implement the training the bill requires. These rules may determine how frequently health care professionals at hospitals and urgent care facilities must receive domestic violence training.<sup>8</sup>

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## **HISTORY**

Action	Date
Introduced	11-04-25

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<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3701.0413(F).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 3701.0413(C) to (E).

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 3701.0413(G).