

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 121

BY SENATOR SELDERS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. Provides for mental health screenings in schools. (8/1/25)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:416.24 and 3996(B)(89), relative to mental health screenings in schools;

3 to require public schools to offer annual mental health screenings for students; to

4 require notification of parents; to provide for parental consent; to provide for duties

5 of the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education; to

6 provide for confidentiality; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:416.24 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§416.24. Mental health screenings**

10 **A. Each city, parish, or other local public school board shall offer mental**

11 **health screenings for all students in grades kindergarten through twelve during**

12 **the first semester of the school year.**

13 **B. The school shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each student**

14 **that screenings are being offered and shall give the parent or legal guardian the**

15 **option to consent to the screening. A school shall not conduct a mental health**

16 **screening on a student whose parent or legal guardian has not consented to the**

17 **screening.**

1 C. If the results of a student's screening indicate a potential mental
 2 health condition, the school shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian
 3 of the results and provide a list of resources available to the student in the
 4 school or community.

5 D. The Louisiana Department of Health shall select a mental health
 6 screeener appropriate to the provisions of this Section and provide the screeener
 7 at no cost to each city, parish, and other local public school board.

8 E. Results of the screenings shall be confidential and shall not be subject
 9 to disclosure except to the student's parent or legal guardian. Within thirty days
 10 following notification of the parent or legal guardian, the mental health
 11 screening data collected by a school shall be destroyed.

12 F. No city, parish, or other school board shall use the results of any
 13 mental health screening to make any decision relating to student instruction,
 14 academic opportunities, or discipline.

15 G. There shall be no cause of action against the public school governing
 16 authority, or any employee thereof, related to the results of the screening
 17 provided for in this Section.

18 H. The provisions of this Section are subject to the approval and funding
 19 by the school board of a city, parish, or other local public school system.

20 Section 2. R.S. 17:3996(B)(89) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

21 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

22 * * *

23 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
 24 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
 25 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
 26 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
 27 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
 28 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
 29 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

Summary of Amendments Adopted by SenateCommittee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that the mental health screener will be provided at no cost to the city, parish, and other local public school board.
3. Provide that the mental health screening data will be destroyed within 30 days of notification of the parent or legal guardian.
4. Provide that there must be no cause of action against the public school governing authority, or any employee related to the results of the screener.
5. Make proposed law subject to the approval and funding by the school board of a city, parish, or other local public school system
6. Make proposed law applicable to charter schools.