

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 486

2025 Regular Session

Fisher

HEALTH: Requires public schools to offer a mental health assessment to certain students

DIGEST

Proposed law requires public schools to make available to each student the opportunity to undergo a mental health assessment by a licensed behavioral health provider within the year. Requires the consent of his parent or legal guardian annually. Applies to students in grades three through 12.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to provide to each public school a list of licensed behavioral health providers. Provides that, for the purposes of proposed law, such provider means one of the following:

- (1) A mental health professional with a current and valid occupational license issued by a Louisiana professional occupational licensing board or commission under Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, acting within the scope of practice authorized by the licensing board to conduct mental health assessments.
- (2) A behavioral health services provider with a current and valid license issued by the Louisiana Department of Health pursuant to R.S. 40:2151 et seq., to provide mental health services and assessments.

Proposed law provides that public schools may locate a current list of licensed mental health professionals who are authorized to conduct mental health assessments by contacting the individual licensing boards who regulate the licensed professionals.

Proposed law provides that public schools may locate a current list of behavioral health service providers licensed by the La. Dept. of Health through the department's website.

(Adds R.S. 17:173.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

- 1. Change lowest grade of student to which assessment is made available from fourth to third.
- 2. Require the assessments be done at no cost to local, parish, and other public school boards.
- 3. Authorize each public school principal to use his discretion in establishing a time and location to conduct the assessments.
- 4. Require LDH to provide to each public school a list of licensed behavioral health providers.
- 5. Define "licensed behavioral health provider".

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Require MCOs to provide a list of individual providers who are licensed and authorized to conduct mental health assessments to LDH.

2. Specify that parental consent is required annually for an assessment to be administered.
3. Change timing of availability of assessment from within the first 90 days of each school year to within the year, with preference for the first semester.
4. Require each public school to annually report the number of screenings administered, by grade level, to LDH.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill

1. Change definition of "licensed behavioral health provider".
2. Require public schools to report certain information to the state Dept. of Education instead of the La. Dept. of Health.
3. Make technical changes.