HLS 22RS-1406 ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 981

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

CURRICULA: Requires instruction on mental health to be provided for students in grades kindergarten through twelve

AN ACT

2	To enact R.S. 17:271.1 and 3996(B)(67), relative to curricula; to require the provision of
3	mental health instruction to public school students; to provide relative to content of
4	the instruction; to provide for incorporation of the instruction into an existing
5	required course; to provide relative to the mental health component of the state
6	content standards for health education; and to provide for related matters.
7	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
8	Section 1. R.S. 17:271.1 and 3996(B)(67) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
9	§271.1. Mental health; required instruction
10	A. The governing authority of each public school shall provide to students
11	in grades kindergarten through twelve age- and grade-appropriate classroom
12	instruction relative to mental health.
13	B. The instruction shall include, at minimum, information on the following:
14	(1) Preventive mental health measures, including but not limited to proper
15	diet, exercise, risk avoidance, and stress reduction.
16	(2) The relationship between mental health and physical health.
17	(3) Brain health, emotional health, identifying trauma and stress, and the
18	impact of trauma and stress on mental health and physical health.
19	(4) Resources and services available to assist people with mental health
20	issues.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	C. The instruction shall be integrated into an existing required course, such
2	as health education or another course deemed appropriate by the governing authority.
3	D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon its review
4	and revision of the state content standards for health education, shall increase the
5	emphasis on the mental health component of health education in order to enhance
6	student understanding, attitudes, and behaviors that promote overall health and well-
7	being.
8	* * *
9	§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements
10	* * *
11	B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
12	except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
13	charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
14	Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
15	exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
16	applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
17	the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:
18	* * *
19	(67) Mental health instruction, R.S. 17:271.1.
20	* * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 981 Original

2022 Regular Session

Duplessis

Abstract: Requires instruction on mental health in public schools.

Proposed law:

- (1) Requires each public school governing authority to provide instruction relative to mental health to students in kindergarten through grade 12.
- (2) Requires the instruction to include, at minimum, preventive mental health measures; the relationship between mental health and physical health; brain health, emotional

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health, identifying trauma and stress, and the impact of trauma and stress on mental health and physical health; and resources and services available to assist people with mental health issues.

(3) Requires the instruction to be integrated into an existing required course such as health education.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon its review and revision of the state content standards for health education, to increase the emphasis on the mental health component of health education.

(Adds R.S. 17:271.1 and 3996(B)(67))