

# ACT No. 650

HOUSE BILL NO. 981

BY REPRESENTATIVES DUPLESSIS, BEAULLIEU, AND SCHLEGEL AND SENATORS BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, JACKSON, LUNEAU, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, AND WOMACK

1 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.

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.

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9                   §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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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:

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19                   (67) Mental health instruction, R.S. 17:271.1.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_