
DIGEST

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HB 486 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Fisher

Abstract: Requires public schools to offer a mental health assessment to certain students at the beginning of each school year.

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 first 90 days of each school year. Requires the consent of his parent or legal guardian. 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 provider approved by LDH to provide behavioral health services and who is properly credentialed by an accrediting body.
- (2) An individual provider who is licensed and authorized to conduct mental health assessments.

Proposed law authorizes each public school principal to use his discretion in establishing a time and location to conduct the assessments.

(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".