



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 750

LCO No. 5975



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF
MENTAL ILLNESS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study the policies and procedures adopted by each institution of
3 higher education regarding the prevention and treatment of mental
4 illness in students and to recommend a state-wide policy regarding
5 mental health services available to students at institutions of higher
6 education. For each institution of higher education in the state, such
7 study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1)
8 the manner in which the institution informs students of the availability
9 of mental health services, (2) the manner in which the mental health
10 services are delivered to students, including whether mental health
11 services are available online, through individual counseling sessions or
12 group discussions and a listing of the types of mental health care
13 providers available to students, (3) the rate at which the mental health
14 services are utilized in comparison to the total student body, (4) the
15 level of engagement the institution has with community or nonprofit
16 organizations that provide mental health treatment and services, (5)

17 the solicitation and review of voluntary recommendations of students
18 and alumni that received mental health services while enrolled at the
19 institution, (6) the manner in which the institution facilitates the return
20 of students that take a leave of absence due to mental illness, (7) the
21 training provided to faculty and staff to identify students experiencing
22 mental illness, and (8) an analysis of the rate at which different types of
23 mental health services are sought by students, including, but not
24 limited to, the rate at which services for substance use disorder,
25 depression or anxiety are sought. No personally identifying
26 information shall be included on any information the task force
27 requests or analyzes for the purposes of the study.

28 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

29 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
30 one of whom shall be a representative of a community or nonprofit
31 provider of mental health treatment or services;

32 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
33 of whom shall be a mental health care provider;

34 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
35 Representatives;

36 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

37 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
38 Representatives;

39 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

40 (7) The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or
41 the president's designee; and

42 (8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
43 the commissioner's designee.

44 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),

45 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
46 of the General Assembly.

47 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
48 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
49 filled by the appointing authority.

50 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
51 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
52 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
53 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
54 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

55 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committees of the
56 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
57 education and employment advancement and public health shall serve
58 as administrative staff of the task force.

59 (g) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a
60 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
61 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
62 relating to higher education and employment advancement and public
63 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
64 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
65 submits such report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To create a task force to recommend a state-wide policy for and study the prevention and treatment of mental illness at institutions of higher education in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.; SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
SEN. ABRAMS, 13th Dist.; SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.
SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.; SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. BRADLEY, 23rd Dist.; SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.
SEN. HASKELL, 26th Dist.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.; SEN. BERGSTEIN, 36th Dist.

S.B. 750