1

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARVER

BESE: Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prioritize mental health instruction and training in suicide prevention in its rulemaking process

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prioritize
policies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health education in its
rulemaking process as authorized by House Bill No. 320 of this 2024 Regular
Session should that bill become law.

6 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 320 of this 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature 7 repeals certain student instruction and teacher training requirements, authorizes the State 8 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for instruction and 9 training requirements by rule, and requires BESE to consider in the rule promulgation 10 process the specific statutory requirements that will be repealed if this bill becomes law; and 11 WHEREAS, one of the laws proposed to be repealed in House Bill No. 320, R.S. 12 17:437.1, requires training for teachers and other school employees on suicide prevention 13 that addresses increasing awareness of risk factors; how teachers should respond to 14 suspicious behavior or warning signs exhibited by students; how teachers should respond to 15 a crisis situation in which a student is an imminent danger to himself; policies and protocol

16 for communication with parents; counseling services available within the school for students 17 and their families related to suicide prevention; dissemination of information concerning 18 crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and mental health services in the community for 19 students and their families and school employees; and community organizations and 20 agencies for referral of students to health, mental health, substance abuse, and social support

21 services; and

1

WHEREAS, this law is part of what is known as the Jason Flatt Act, legislation that 2 the Louisiana Legislature passed along with numerous other state legislatures in the effort 3 to provide for statewide suicide awareness and prevention in schools; and

4 WHEREAS, another law proposed to be repealed by House Bill No. 320, R.S. 5 17:271.1, requires the governing authority of each public school to provide to students in 6 grades kindergarten through twelve classroom instruction relative to mental health, 7 including, at minimum, information on preventive mental health measures; the relationship 8 and the difference between mental health and physical health; brain health, emotional health, 9 identifying trauma and stress, and the impact of trauma and stress on mental health and 10 physical health; resources and services available to assist people with mental health issues; 11 and the management of stress and anxiety; and

12 WHEREAS, many legislators have stated that they wish to remove certain 13 requirements previously enacted by the legislature and grant BESE the general authority to 14 provide for instructional and training requirements by rule; however, at the same time, many 15 legislators have expressed their belief in the importance of some of these requirements and 16 their desire for BESE to prioritize them in its rulemaking process, particularly as they pertain 17 to suicide prevention and mental health.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 19 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prioritize 20 policies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health education in its rulemaking 21 process as authorized by House Bill No. 320 of this 2024 Regular Session should that bill 22 become law.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board shall provide ample opportunity 24 for input from concerned citizens and advocacy groups, including but not limited to Peer 25 Initiative, in the rule promulgation process.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 27 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state 28 superintendent of education.

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)]

HCR 46 Original

2024 Regular Session

Tarver

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education prioritize policies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health education in the rule promulgation authorized by H.B. No. 320 of this 2024 R.S. should that bill become law.