

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2024 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, SCHLOSSBERG, CIRESI, OTTEN AND BOYLE, MARCH 9, 2022

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 25, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for mental health instruction study.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
11 section to read:

12 Section 1555. Mental Health Instruction Study.--(a) The
13 State Board of Education shall conduct a study regarding the
14 manner in which instruction in mental health is offered by
15 school entities in this Commonwealth.

16 (b) In conducting the study under this section, the State
17 Board of Education shall request that each school entity provide
18 the State Board of Education with information concerning whether <--
19 the school entity offers instruction in mental health and the

1 ~~manner in which the instruction is offered.:~~ <--

2 (1) WHETHER THE SCHOOL ENTITY OFFERS INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL
3 HEALTH.

4 (2) HOW MANY EMPLOYEES OF THE SCHOOL ENTITY PROVIDE
5 INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH.

6 (3) THE MANNER IN WHICH THE INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH IS
7 OFFERED.

8 (4) ANY RESOURCES OR SUPPORT NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE PROVISION
9 OF INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH.

10 (c) Each school entity shall provide information to the
11 State Board of Education in response to a request under this
12 section.

13 (d) The following shall apply to the report of the State
14 Board of Education:

15 ~~(1) Following the 2020-2021 school year, but not later than~~ <--
16 ~~November 30, 2021~~ NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2023, the State <--
17 Board of Education shall issue a report to the following:

18 (i) The Governor.

19 (ii) The Secretary of Education.

20 (III) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES. <--

21 ~~(iii)~~ (IV) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the <--
22 Education Committee of the Senate.

23 ~~(iv)~~ (V) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the <--
24 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

25 (2) The report must address the following:

26 (i) The number of school entities offering instruction in
27 mental health.

28 (ii) A description of the manner in which school entities
29 are offering instruction in mental health, including the number
30 of hours of instruction offered, the grade levels at which the

1 instruction is offered, the course within which the instruction
2 is integrated and the job title of individuals delivering
3 instruction.

4 (iii) The recommendations for improvements to the offering
5 of instruction in mental health, including recommended <--
6 legislation.

7 (e) For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"
8 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter
9 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area career
10 and technical school. OF INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH. <--

11 (E) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES
12 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION:

13 "MENTAL HEALTH." AN INDIVIDUAL'S CONDITION WITH REGARD TO
14 THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING, INCLUDING ANXIETY,
15 STRESS, TRAUMA OR OTHER MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS.

16 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL
17 CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE UNIT OR AREA
18 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.