HB341

205045-1

By Representatives Ledbetter, Simpson, Allen, Stadthagen, Shedd, Baker, Collins, Meadows, Lovvorn, Moore (P), Robertson, Ball, Standridge, Drake, Treadaway, Ellis, Carns, Crawford, Rich, Hanes, Fincher, Whorton, Kitchens, Faust, Farley, Whitt, Reynolds, Brown (K), Isbell, Pettus, Brown (C), Drummond, Jones (S), Lawrence, Gray, Boyd, Hollis, Daniels, Warren and Howard

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 27-FEB-20
SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish and provide for the qualifications and duties of a mental health service coordinator and would require each local board of education in the state, subject to appropriations by the Legislature, to employ a mental health service coordinator to serve those schools under the jurisdiction of the board.

This bill would also provide for the responsibilities of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Education in providing continuing evaluation and support of mental health services provided to students through local boards of education.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to require each local board of education in the state, subject to
appropriations by the Legislature, to employ a mental health
service coordinator; to provide for the qualifications and
duties of the mental health service coordinator; to require
each local board of education to complete and submit a needs
assessment relating to the provision of mental health
resources to students; and to provide for the responsibilities
of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State
Department of Education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) Subject to appropriations by the
Legislature, commencing with the 2021-2022 school year, each
local board of education in the state shall employ a mental
health service coordinator. The coordinator shall be
responsible for coordinating student mental health services
throughout the local school system.

(b) An individual hired as a coordinator shall
possess at least one of the following qualifications:

(1) Have a bachelor's degree in social work.

(2) Satisfy State Department of Education
qualifications for a school counselor.

(3) Satisfy State Department of Education
qualifications for a school nurse.

(4) Have professional mental health experience, or
have been licensed in a mental health occupation including,
but not limited to, licensure as a licensed professional
counselor or marriage and family therapist.
(5) Other qualifications as determined by the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Education.

(c) Within one year after being hired as a mental health service coordinator, an individual shall earn a school-based mental health certificate by successfully completing a certification program developed by the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

(d) On or before the last day of the 2021 fiscal year, and as requested thereafter, each local board of education shall complete, and submit to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, a needs assessment and resource map for the schools under the jurisdiction of the board. The assessment shall document the status of mental health for the entire school system and allow the local board of education to engage in a quality improvement process to improve the provision of mental health resources to students within the school system.

(e) The Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Education may adopt rules and policies as necessary for implementation of this section.

(f) The administration of this act shall be subject to appropriations made by the Legislature.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.