

1 HB123
2 215998-2
3 By Representative Ledbetter
4 RFD: Ways and Means Education
5 First Read: 13-JAN-22

1 ENGROSSED

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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT
7

8 Relating to public K-12 education; to require each
9 local board of education and independent school system in the
10 state, subject to appropriations by the Legislature, to employ
11 a mental health service coordinator; to provide for the
12 qualifications and duties of the mental health service
13 coordinator; to require each local board of education and
14 independent school system to complete and submit a needs
15 assessment relating to the provision of mental health
16 resources to students; and to provide for the responsibilities
17 of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State
18 Department of Education.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. (a) Subject to appropriations by the
21 Legislature, commencing with the 2023-2024 school year, each
22 local board of education in the state shall employ a mental
23 health service coordinator. The coordinator shall be
24 responsible for coordinating student mental health services
25 throughout the local school system.

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

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

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

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

6 (4) Have professional mental health experience, or
7 have been licensed in a mental health occupation including,
8 but not limited to, licensure as a licensed professional
9 counselor or marriage and family therapist.

10 (5) Other qualifications as determined by the
11 Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State Department
12 of Education.

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

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

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

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

6 (g) As used in this section, the term "local board
7 of education" and "school system" shall include the schools or
8 school systems provided by Chapter 1 of Title 21; Chapters
9 26A, 26B, and 26D of Title 16; and Article 4 of Title 44.

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

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Ways and Means
Education..... 13-JAN-22

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar 1 amendment 09-FEB-22

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 16-FEB-22

Yeas 102, Nays 0, Abstains 0

Jeff Woodard
Clerk