

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU, DUPLESSIS, AND SCHLEGEL

STUDENTS: Requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education study and submit a report relative to the provision of mental health services in schools and the possibility of providing mental health education to certain students

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the
3 provision of mental health services in schools and the feasibility and advisability of
4 providing mental health education to students in grades six through twelve and to
5 submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations
6 for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days
7 prior to the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

8 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that it is the goal of the state's
9 public educational system to afford every individual an equal opportunity to develop to his
10 full potential; and

11 WHEREAS, one way to meet this goal is to ensure a well-rounded education by not
12 only addressing students' academic needs but helping them to develop to be socially,
13 emotionally, and mentally healthy; and

14 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental health is
15 defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his own potential, can
16 cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to
17 make a contribution to his community; and

18 WHEREAS, when young people are educated about mental health, the likelihood
19 increases that they will be able to effectively recognize signs and symptoms of mental health
20 issues in themselves and others and will know where to turn for help; and

1 WHEREAS, studies show that mental health education in schools reduces stigma
2 surrounding mental health; education that incorporates the importance of mental health, as
3 well as the challenges of mental illness, can not only help young people and their families
4 and communities feel more comfortable seeking help but can improve academic
5 performance and, most importantly, save lives; and

6 WHEREAS, mental health education can also support youth in the development of
7 positive routines and practices and stress management skills; in fostering caring
8 relationships; and in developing strong social-emotional skills; and

9 WHEREAS, mental health challenges can directly impact student attendance,
10 behavior, and readiness to learn, and students with unmet mental health needs have worse
11 educational outcomes than students who are receiving appropriate treatment and support;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, when students' mental health needs are not addressed, they are more
14 likely to experience difficulties in school, including higher rates of suspensions, expulsions,
15 dropouts, and truancy, as well as lower grades and test scores; and

16 WHEREAS, many believe that schools have an important role to play in directly
17 addressing students' mental health; and

18 WHEREAS, schools can be sites for conducting mental health screenings and
19 assessments, providing treatment, linking students to services in the community,
20 coordinating case management for students, and providing early intervention and prevention
21 services; and

22 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
23 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that the
24 provision of mental health services in schools and the feasibility and advisability of
25 providing mental health education to certain students receive a thorough evaluation.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
27 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and
28 Secondary Education to study the provision of mental health services in schools and the
29 feasibility and advisability of providing mental health education to students in grades six
30 through twelve and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any

1 recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education not later than
2 sixty days prior to the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study and report shall include, at a
4 minimum, an examination of laws, policies and best practices from other states with regard
5 to providing mental health services to students and with regard to mental health education,
6 including curricula and instructional materials.

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)]

HR 101 Engrossed

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Beaulieu

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study the provision of mental health services to students and the feasibility and advisability of providing mental health education to students in grades six through 12 and submit a written report to the House Committee on Education not later than 60 days prior to the 2022 R.S.