

## HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 486

## 2025 Regular Session

Fisher

**HEALTH:** Requires public schools to offer a mental health assessment to certain students

## Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes requirement that the La. Dept. of Health provide a list of licensed behavioral health providers to each public school. Instead authorizes public schools to locate current lists.
2. Changes definition of "licensed behavioral health provider".
3. Changes entity to which each public school is required to annually report certain data from La. Dept. of Health to state Dept. of Education.

## Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law requires public schools to make available to each 3rd through 12th grade student the opportunity to undergo a mental health assessment by a licensed behavioral health provider within the year, if feasible during the first semester. Requires the consent of his parent or legal guardian annually.

Provides that, for the purposes of proposed law, a "licensed behavioral health provider" means one of the following:

- (1) A mental health professional with a current and valid occupational license issued by a La. professional occupational licensing board or commission under present law, acting within the scope of practice authorized by the board to conduct mental health assessments.
- (2) A behavioral health services provider with a current and valid license issued by the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) pursuant to present law to provide mental health services and assessments.

Proposed law authorizes each public school governing authority to locate lists of licensed behavioral health providers by either contacting licensing boards for number (1) above and through LDH's website for number (2) above.

Proposed law authorizes each public school principal to use his discretion in establishing a time and location to conduct the assessments.

Proposed law requires each public school to annually report at the end of each school year the number of screenings administered to students, by grade level, to the state Dept. of Education.

(Adds R.S. 17:173.1)