

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 395

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

SCHOOLS: Requires the state Department of Education to create a program to recruit, hire, and retain mental health professionals

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:173.2, relative to mental health professionals in public schools; to require
3 the state Department of Education to create a program to increase the number of
4 mental health professionals working in public elementary and secondary schools; to
5 provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:173.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §173.2. School mental health professionals; recruitment and retention program

9 A. The state Department of Education shall create an incentive program for
10 the purpose of recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified mental health professionals
11 to work in public elementary and secondary schools. Such professionals shall
12 include counselors, social workers, school psychologists, and other behavioral health
13 specialists.

14 B. Through the administration of the program, the department shall make
15 every effort to meet or exceed a ratio of one mental health professional per two
16 hundred fifty students across all public schools in Louisiana.

17 Section 2. The provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall become effective when an
18 Act of the Louisiana Legislature containing a specific appropriation of monies for the
19 implementation of the provisions of this Act becomes effective.

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)]

HB 395 Original

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Marcelle

Abstract: Requires the state Dept. of Education to create a program to recruit, hire, and retain mental health professionals.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to create an incentive program for the purpose of recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified mental health professionals to work in public elementary and secondary schools.

Requires DOE to make every effort to meet or exceed a ratio of at least one mental health professional per 250 students across all public schools in the state.

Proposed law is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.

(Adds R.S. 17:173.2)