

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 486

BY REPRESENTATIVES FISHER, ADAMS, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, BOYD, BRASS,  
BRYANT, CHASSION, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GREEN, HUGHES, JACKSON,  
TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, KNOX, LAFLEUR, MANDIE LANDRY,  
LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MENA, MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL,  
PHELPS, SPELL, STAGNI, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, WALTERS, WILLARD,  
AND YOUNG AND SENATOR BARROW

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:173.1, relative to mental health services for students; to require public  
3 schools to offer a mental health assessment to certain students at the beginning of  
4 each school year; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:173.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §173.1. Mental health assessments

8 A. Each public school shall make available to each student in grades three  
9 through twelve a mental health assessment by a licensed behavioral health provider,  
10 so long as it is annually authorized by his parent or legal guardian. Such screening  
11 shall be offered within the year, and, if feasible, during the first semester rather than  
12 the second semester of the school year. Each public school principal or his designee  
13 may use discretion in determining a convenient time for scheduling such assessments  
14 and an appropriate time and place to conduct such assessments.

15 B. For the purposes of this Section, "licensed behavioral health provider"  
16 means an individual or provider that falls into one of the following categories:

17 (1) A mental health professional with a current and valid occupational  
18 license issued by a Louisiana professional occupational licensing board or  
19 commission under Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, acting within

1        the scope of practice authorized by the licensing board to conduct mental health  
2        assessments.

3                (2) A behavioral health services provider with a current and valid license  
4        issued by the Louisiana Department of Health pursuant to R.S. 40:2151 et seq. to  
5        provide mental health services and assessments.

6                C. Public schools may locate a current list of licensed mental health  
7        professionals who are authorized to conduct mental health assessments by contacting  
8        the individual licensing boards who regulate the licensed professionals. Public  
9        schools may locate a current list of behavioral health service providers licensed by  
10       the Louisiana Department of Health through the Louisiana Department of Health's  
11       website.

12               D. The assessments provided for in this Section shall be provided to the  
13       appropriate students at each public school at no cost to each city, parish, or other  
14       local public school board.

15               E. Each public school shall annually report at the end of each school year the  
16       number of screenings administered to students, by grade level, under its jurisdiction  
17       to the state Department of Education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_