

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 785

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NASHEED.

Pre-filed December 7, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

4930S.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to student mental health at public institutions of higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 173.2528 and 173.2530, to read as follows:

173.2528. 1. There is hereby established within the department of higher education the coordinating board for mental health issues in higher education (CBMHI).

2. Each public institution of higher education shall have one representative on the CBMHI. The representative shall be either an administrator or counseling director at the institution.

173.2530. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term "student counseling facility" means any entity that provides confidential mental health counseling, psychiatric services, or developmental counseling to college students that is located on campus or is associated with the institution of higher education and operates in accordance with state and federal law pertaining to mental health professions as well as applicable professional and ethical codes.

2. Prior to January 1, 2020, the coordinating board for mental health issues in higher education CBMHI shall promulgate rules setting forth reasonable standards and regulations for student counseling facilities at public institutions of higher education in this state relating to average wait time to see a mental health professional for an initial appointment, the average number of sessions available to students, when appropriate, before an off-campus referral, prevention services and any other factors the CBMHI determines are contributing factors

16 leading to the prevalence of mental health problems within the
17 academic community. After establishing such standards and
18 regulations, the CBMHI shall develop a process for measuring an
19 institution's ability to adequately meet student mental health needs
20 using assessment criteria developed in validated studies of well-being
21 and student mental health in order to ensure that the effectiveness of
22 the student counseling programs are objectively evaluated.

23 3. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, and continuing on an
24 annual basis thereafter, each public institution of higher education
25 shall publish a report measuring compliance with the standards
26 established in subsection 2 of this section. If an institution does not
27 meet these standards, it shall include in the report a plan to meet these
28 standards within three academic years. Additionally, the report shall
29 include a measure of the institution's ability to adequately meet
30 student mental health needs, using the process established in
31 subsection 2 of this section. All reports required by this section shall
32 be made available to the public.

33 4. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
34 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section
35 shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of
36 the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This
37 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers
38 vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to
39 delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
40 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
41 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2018, shall
42 be invalid and void.

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