

1 HB341
2 205045-2
3 By Representatives Ledbetter, Simpson, Allen, Stadthagen,
4 Shedd, Baker, Collins, Meadows, Lovvorn, Moore (P), Robertson,
5 Ball, Standridge, Drake, Treadaway, Ellis, Carns, Crawford,
6 Rich, Hanes, Fincher, Whorton, Kitchens, Faust, Farley, Whitt,
7 Reynolds, Brown (K), Isbell, Pettus, Brown (C), Drummond,
8 Jones (S), Lawrence, Gray, Boyd, Hollis, Daniels, Warren and
9 Howard
10 RFD: Education Policy
11 First Read: 27-FEB-20

1 ENGROSSED

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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT
7

8 Relating to public K-12 education; to require each
9 local board of education in the state, subject to
10 appropriations by the Legislature, to employ a mental health
11 service coordinator; to provide for the qualifications and
12 duties of the mental health service coordinator; to require
13 each local board of education to complete and submit a needs
14 assessment relating to the provision of mental health
15 resources to students; and to provide for the responsibilities
16 of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State
17 Department of Education.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

19 Section 1. (a) Subject to appropriations by the
20 Legislature, commencing with the ~~2021-2022~~ 2020-2021 school
21 year, each local board of education in the state shall employ
22 a mental health service coordinator. The coordinator shall be
23 responsible for coordinating student mental health services
24 throughout the local school system.

25 (b) An individual hired as a coordinator shall
26 possess at least one of the following qualifications:

27 (1) Have a bachelor's degree in social work.

1 (2) Satisfy State Department of Education
2 qualifications for a school counselor.

3 (3) Satisfy State Department of Education
4 qualifications for a school nurse.

5 (4) Have professional mental health experience, or
6 have been licensed in a mental health occupation including,
7 but not limited to, licensure as a licensed professional
8 counselor or marriage and family therapist.

9 (5) Other qualifications as determined by the
10 Alabama Department of Mental Health and the State Department
11 of Education.

12 (c) Within one year after being hired as a mental
13 health service coordinator, an individual shall earn a
14 school-based mental health certificate by successfully
15 completing a certification program developed by the Alabama
16 Department of Mental Health.

17 (d) On or before the last day of the 2021 fiscal
18 year, and as requested thereafter, each local board of
19 education shall complete, and submit to the Alabama Department
20 of Mental Health, a needs assessment and resource map for the
21 schools under the jurisdiction of the board. The assessment
22 shall document the status of mental health for the entire
23 school system and allow the local board of education to engage
24 in a quality improvement process to improve the provision of
25 mental health resources to students within the school system.

1 (e) The Alabama Department of Mental Health and the
2 State Department of Education may adopt rules and policies as
3 necessary for implementation of this section.

4 (f) The administration of this act shall be subject
5 to appropriations made by the Legislature.

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
7 first day of the third month following its passage and
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Education Policy
..... 27-FEB-20

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar 1 amendment 05-MAR-20

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 12-MAR-20

Yeas 102, Nays 0, Abstains 2

Jeff Woodard
Clerk