

House File 2120 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2120

BY PRICHARD

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to protocols and school employee training
2 relating to suicide prevention and the identification of
3 adverse childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate
4 toxic stress response and including effective date and
5 applicability provisions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 33, Code 2020, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 33. *a.* For purposes of **this subsection**:

4 (1) "*Adverse childhood experience*" means the same as defined
5 in **section 279.70 280.31**.

6 (2) "*Postvention*" means the same as defined in section
7 ~~279.70~~ **280.31**.

8 *b.* Adopt rules to require school districts and accredited
9 nonpublic schools to adopt protocols for suicide prevention
10 and postvention and the identification of adverse childhood
11 experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response.
12 The protocols shall be based on ~~nationally recognized best~~
13 ~~practices~~ protocols developed by the department pursuant to
14 paragraph "c".

15 *c.* The department shall develop protocols necessary to
16 implement paragraph "b". Such protocols shall address student
17 needs relating to suicide, including the needs of students with
18 suicidal tendencies, students who have expressed thoughts about
19 suicide, and students reentering school after a mental health
20 crisis. The protocols shall be based on nationally recognized,
21 research-based best practices. The department shall provide
22 initial protocols to school districts and accredited nonpublic
23 schools in time for implementation in the school year beginning
24 July 1, 2020.

25 **Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 280.31 Training on suicide prevention,**
26 **adverse childhood experiences identification, and toxic stress**
27 **response mitigation strategies.**

28 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
29 otherwise requires:

30 *a.* "*Adverse childhood experience*" means a potentially
31 traumatic event occurring in childhood that can have negative,
32 lasting effects on an individual's health and well-being.

33 *b.* "*Postvention*" means the provision of crisis intervention,
34 support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or
35 suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.

1 2. By July 1, 2020, the board of directors of a school
2 district and the authorities in charge of each accredited
3 nonpublic school shall require annual, evidence-based
4 training at least one hour in length on suicide prevention
5 and postvention for all school personnel who hold a license,
6 certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition issued
7 by the board of educational examiners and who have regular
8 contact with students in kindergarten through grade twelve.
9 The content of the training shall be based on protocols
10 developed by the department of education pursuant to section
11 256.7, subsection 33, paragraph "c".

12 3. By July 1, 2020, the board of directors of a school
13 district and the authorities in charge of each accredited
14 nonpublic school shall require annual, evidence-based,
15 evidence-supported training on the identification of adverse
16 childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic
17 stress response for all school personnel who hold a license,
18 certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition issued
19 by the board of educational examiners and who have regular
20 contact with students in kindergarten through grade twelve.
21 The content of the training shall be based on protocols
22 developed by the department of education pursuant to section
23 256.7, subsection 33, paragraph "c".

24 Sec. 3. REPEAL. Section 279.70, Code 2020, is repealed.

25 Sec. 4. EMERGENCY RULES. The board of education shall adopt
26 emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection 3, and section
27 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the provisions
28 of this Act and the rules shall be effective immediately upon
29 filing unless a later date is specified in the rules. Any
30 rules adopted in accordance with this section shall also be
31 published as a notice of intended action as provided in section
32 17A.4.

33 Sec. 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
34 3, shall not apply to this Act.

35 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate

1 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

2 Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY. The requirements of section 279.70,
3 Code 2020, shall continue to apply until the conclusion of the
4 school year beginning July 1, 2019.

5 EXPLANATION

6 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This bill requires the department of education to develop
9 protocols necessary to implement current statutory requirements
10 for school districts to adopt protocols for suicide prevention
11 and postvention and the identification of adverse childhood
12 experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response.
13 The bill applies the statutory requirements to accredited
14 nonpublic schools. The bill requires that the protocols
15 developed by the department address student needs relating
16 to suicide, including the needs of students with suicidal
17 tendencies, students who have expressed thoughts about
18 suicide, and students reentering school after a mental health
19 crisis. The bill also requires that the protocols be based on
20 nationally recognized, research-based best practices.

21 The bill requires the department to provide initial
22 protocols to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools
23 in time for implementation in the school year beginning July 1,
24 2020, and requires the board of education to adopt emergency
25 rules to do so.

26 The bill repeals existing requirements for similar training
27 in school districts. The requirements shall continue to apply
28 until the conclusion of the school year beginning July 1, 2019.

29 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

30 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
31 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section 25B.2,
32 subsection 3, which would relieve a political subdivision from
33 complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of
34 the state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore,
35 political subdivisions are required to comply with any state

H.F. 2120

1 mandate included in the bill.