

House File 2391 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2391

BY HALL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to a mental health awareness course requirement
2 for students in secondary school.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, Code 2020, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. 1. One-half unit of mental health awareness
4 commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2021.

5 (1) The mental health awareness curriculum shall address at
6 a minimum all of the following:

7 (a) The skills and knowledge students need to understand,
8 recognize, and, if appropriate, address mental health issues
9 and disorders and access appropriate professional assistance,
10 counseling, and other resources.

11 (b) Optimizing and maintaining good mental health.

12 (c) The most common mental disorders, including but not
13 limited to stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse,
14 attention deficit hyperactive disorder, eating disorders,
15 obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder,
16 and pervasive developmental disorders.

17 (d) Decreasing stigma.

18 (e) Evidence-based treatments.

19 (2) The curriculum shall incorporate resources such as
20 school-based mental health services and other resources that
21 connect students and families with community-based mental
22 health services.

23 (3) (a) One-half unit of mental health awareness may
24 count as one-half unit of health education in meeting the
25 requirements of paragraph "j".

26 (b) Units of coursework that meet the requirements of
27 paragraph "h", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (d) and
28 incorporate the curriculum required under subparagraph (1)
29 satisfy the unit requirements of this paragraph "l".

30 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
31 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
32 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
33 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
34 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
35 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed

1 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
2 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
3 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
4 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
5 districts.

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 This bill adds one-half unit of coursework in mental health
10 awareness to the educational standards requirements for school
11 districts and accredited nonpublic schools commencing with the
12 school year beginning July 1, 2021.

13 The mental health awareness curriculum shall address at a
14 minimum the skills and knowledge students need to understand,
15 recognize, and, if appropriate, address mental health issues
16 and disorders and access appropriate professional assistance,
17 counseling, and other resources; optimizing and maintaining
18 good mental health; the most common mental disorders;
19 decreasing stigma; and evidence-based treatments.

20 The curriculum shall incorporate school-based mental health
21 services and other resources that connect students and families
22 with community-based mental health services.

23 One-half unit of mental health awareness may count as
24 one-half unit of health education. Units of coursework
25 that meet the requirements of career and technical education
26 health sciences requirements and incorporate the mental health
27 awareness curriculum satisfy the mental health awareness unit
28 requirements.

29 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
30 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
31 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
32 district from state school foundation aid received by the
33 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
34 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
35 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The

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1 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
2 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
3 mandates included in the bill.