House File 692 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 692

BY ISENHART, GAINES, KRESSIG,
KURTH, CAHILL, STAED,
LEVIN, STECKMAN, MADISON,
CROKEN, EHLERT, BAETH,
FORBES, BAGNIEWSKI, BUCK,
WILSON, SRINIVAS, TUREK,
BROWN-POWERS, SCHEETZ,
AMOS JR., WILBURN, COOLING,
MATSON, JAMES, and KONFRST

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the staffing of brain health professionals
- 2 in primary and secondary schools and making appropriations.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 1 Section 1. Section 135.1, Code 2023, is amended by adding
- 2 the following new subsection:
- 3 NEW SUBSECTION. 01. "Brain health" means the same as in
- 4 section 225C.2, and incorporates the findings and purposes
- 5 stated in section 225C.1, subsection 3.
- 6 Sec. 2. Section 135.11, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
- 7 following new subsection:
- 8 NEW SUBSECTION. 22A. Adopt rules which allow mental health
- 9 providers to use the term "brain health" synonymously with the
- 10 terms "mental health" or "mental illness" and promote the usage
- ll of the term "brain health" for the purpose of reducing stigma
- 12 related to mental health disease and illness.
- 13 Sec. 3. Section 225C.1, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended
- 14 to read as follows:
- 1. The general assembly finds that services to persons
- 16 with mental illness, an intellectual disability disabilities,
- 17 developmental disabilities, or brain injury injuries or other
- 18 brain health issues are provided in many parts of the state by
- 19 highly autonomous community-based service providers working
- 20 cooperatively with state and county officials. However, the
- 21 general assembly recognizes that heavy reliance on property tax
- 22 funding for mental brain health and intellectual disability
- 23 services has enabled many counties to exceed minimum state
- 24 standards for the services resulting in an uneven level of
- 25 services around the state. Consequently, greater efforts
- 26 should be made to ensure close coordination and continuity
- 27 of care for those persons receiving publicly supported
- 28 disability services in Iowa. It is the purpose of this chapter
- 29 to continue and to strengthen the services to persons with
- 30 disabilities now available in the state of Iowa, to make
- 31 disability services conveniently available to all persons in
- 32 this state upon a reasonably uniform financial basis, and to
- 33 assure the continued high quality of these services.
- 34 Sec. 4. Section 225C.1, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
- 35 following new subsection:

- 1 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. a. The general assembly finds that
- 2 to reduce the stigma associated with brain health disease
- 3 and illness and to assist Iowans in receiving brain health
- 4 diagnosis and treatment, the term "brain health" may be used
- 5 synonymously with the terms "mental health" and "mental illness"
- 6 to allow for more preventative and earlier treatments of those
- 7 Iowans with brain health issues.
- 8 b. The recognition of the term "brain health" does not
- 9 replace the terms "mental health" or "mental illness" as it
- 10 relates to medical billing or state professional licensure.
- 11 Sec. 5. Section 225C.2, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
- 12 following new subsection:
- NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. "Brain health" means all aspects of the
- 14 brain impacted by biological and physical characteristics of
- 15 the brain affecting mood and behavior.
- 16 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 280.33 Brain health professionals —
- 17 appropriation.
- 18 1. As used in this section, "brain health" means the same as
- 19 in section 225C.2, and incorporates the findings and purposes
- 20 stated in section 225C.1, subsection 3.
- 21 2. Each public school and nonpublic school shall have a
- 22 minimum of one health care professional with brain health
- 23 credentials available on site daily to assist students during
- 24 normal hours of instruction.
- 25 3. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of
- 26 the state to the department of education an amount sufficient
- 27 to meet the requirements of subsection 1.
- 28 4. The department of health and human services shall assist
- 29 the department of education in determining the annual amount
- 30 necessary to meet the requirements of subsection 1.
- 31 EXPLANATION
- 32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
- 33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 34 This bill relates to the staffing of brain health
- 35 professionals in primary and secondary schools.

- 1 The bill includes brain health issues in the legislative
- 2 findings relating to services to persons with mental illness,
- 3 an intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, or
- 4 brain injury in Code chapter 225C (mental health and disability
- 5 services). The bill provides that the general assembly
- 6 finds that to reduce the stigma associated with brain health
- 7 disease and illness and to assist Iowans in receiving brain
- 8 health diagnosis and treatment, the term "brain health" may be
- 9 used synonymously with the terms "mental health" and "mental
- 10 illness" to allow for more preventative and earlier treatments
- ll of those Iowans with brain health issues.
- 12 The bill defines "brain health" as all aspects of the brain
- 13 impacted by biological and physical characteristics of the
- 14 brain affecting mood and behavior.
- The bill adopts the same intent and meaning of "brain health"
- 16 for Code chapters 135 (department of public health) and 280
- 17 (uniform school requirements) as established in Code chapter
- 18 225C.
- 19 The bill creates a duty for the department of public health
- 20 to adopt rules which allow mental health providers to use
- 21 the term "brain health" synonymously with the terms "mental
- 22 health" or "mental illness" and promote the usage of the term
- 23 "brain health" for the purpose of reducing stigma related to
- 24 mental health disease and illness. This recognition of the
- 25 term "brain health" does not replace the terms "mental health"
- 26 or "mental illness" as it relates to medical billing or state
- 27 processional licensure.
- 28 The bill makes it a requirement for all charter schools,
- 29 public schools, and accredited nonpublic schools to have a
- 30 minimum of one health care professional with brain health
- 31 credentials available on site to assist students during normal
- 32 hours of instruction.
- 33 The bill annually appropriates to the department of
- 34 education an amount sufficient to provide this staffing, and
- 35 requires the department of health and human services to assist

1 the department of education in determining the required amount.