

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 80(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/26/22

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS GRAY-JACKSON, Begich

REPRESENTATIVE Josephson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to mental health education; and providing for an effective date."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
4 to read:

5 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the Board of Education
6 and Early Development develop guidelines for instruction in mental health in consultation
7 with the Department of Health, the Department of Family and Community Services, regional
8 tribal health organizations, and representatives of national and state mental health
9 organizations.

10 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.30.360(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) Each district in the state public school system shall be encouraged to
12 initiate and conduct a program in health education for kindergarten through grade 12.
13 The program should include instruction in [PHYSICAL] health and personal safety
14 including alcohol and drug abuse education, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR),
15 early cancer prevention and detection, dental health, family health including infant

1 care, environmental health, **mental health, physical health**, the identification and
 2 prevention of child abuse, child abduction, neglect, sexual abuse, and domestic
 3 violence, and appropriate use of health services.

4 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.30.360(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) The state board shall establish guidelines for a health and personal safety
 6 education program. **Guidelines for developmentally appropriate instruction in**
 7 **mental health shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Health,**
 8 **the Department of Family and Community Services, regional tribal health**
 9 **organizations, and representatives of national and state mental health**
 10 **organizations.** Personal safety guidelines shall be developed in consultation with the
 11 Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Upon request, the Department of
 12 Education and Early Development, the Department of Health, **the Department of**
 13 **Family and Community** [AND SOCIAL] Services, and the Council on Domestic
 14 Violence and Sexual Assault shall provide technical assistance to school districts in
 15 the development of personal safety curricula. A school health education specialist
 16 position shall be established and funded in the department to coordinate the program
 17 statewide. Adequate funds to enable curriculum and resource development, adequate
 18 consultation to school districts, and a program of teacher training in health and
 19 personal safety education shall be provided.

20 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 21 read:

22 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE. Two years after the effective date of this Act, the
 23 state Board of Education and Early Development shall submit a report to the senate secretary
 24 and chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is
 25 available. The report must

26 (1) include a copy of the guidelines for developmentally appropriate
 27 instruction in mental health developed by the state Board of Education and Early
 28 Development as required under AS 14.30.360(b), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act; and

29 (2) describe the process the state Board of Education and Early Development
 30 used to develop the guidelines.

31 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to

1 read:

2 TRANSITION. The state Board of Education and Early Development shall develop
3 the mental health guidelines required by AS 14.30.360(b), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act,
4 within two years after the effective date of this Act.

5 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2022.