

SENATE BILL NO. 24

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS GRAY-JACKSON, Tobin, Claman, Hoffman, Stevens, Giessel, Dunbar

Introduced: 1/18/23

Referred: Education, Health & Social Services, Finance

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

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

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

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

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

1 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

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

6 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2023.