

SSB 6620 - S AMD 955  
By Senator Frockt

1 On page 11, after line 29, insert the following:

2 **"Part VI - School-Based Mental Health Counselor Grant Program**

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The sum of five million dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019,  
7 from the general fund to the office of the superintendent of public  
8 instruction for the creation a grant program and award grants to  
9 school districts to employ school-based mental health counselors to  
10 improve school safety.

11 (2) Mental health counselors must be licensed by the state under  
12 chapter 18.225 RCW and may only work within the scope of their  
13 license.

14 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must  
15 identify criteria for awarding the grants, evaluating the applicants,  
16 and awarding grant money. The award criteria must include a  
17 requirement that a school district applicant must demonstrate a need  
18 for school-based mental health services.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) The Washington professional educator standards board shall  
22 review how the role of school-based mental health counselors differs  
23 from school counselors, psychologists, and social workers, which are  
24 positions certified by the board.

25 (2) By November 1, 2018, the board must make recommendations on  
26 whether school-based mental health counselors should be certified by  
27 the board and potential certification requirements.

28 (3) This section expires August 1, 2019."

29 Renumber the remaining parts and sections consecutively and  
30 correct any internal references accordingly.

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1       On page 1, line 10 of the title, after "rifles;" strike "and" and  
2 after "funds;" insert "and creating a mental health services grant  
3 program;"

4       On page 1, line 17 of the title, after "28A.310 RCW;" insert  
5 "adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW;"

6       On page 1, line 18 of the title, after "penalties;" insert  
7 "making an appropriation;"

8       On page 1, line 18 of the title, after "providing" strike "an  
9 expiration date" and insert "expiration dates"

EFFECT: Adds a school-based mental health counselor grant program and directs the Professional Educator Standards Board to make recommendations regarding future certification.

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