

**SHB 1373** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

**ADOPTED 04/03/2021**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that student  
4 behavioral health issues have become a crisis in Washington state,  
5 necessitating the deployment of behavioral health resources in  
6 schools throughout the state. The legislature's concerns are based on  
7 the following facts:

8 (a) According to the healthy youth survey conducted by the office  
9 of the superintendent of public instruction in 2018, one in five  
10 students in eighth, 10th, and 12th grades considered attempting  
11 suicide in the past year while just half of those surveyed had an  
12 adult to turn to when feeling sad or hopeless;

13 (b) According to the national institute for mental health, more  
14 than one in 25 adolescents between 13 and 18 years of age are  
15 experiencing an eating disorder;

16 (c) According to the national institute of drug abuse, nearly  
17 half of 12th grade students have used illicit drugs, six in 10 have  
18 drank alcohol, and four in 10 have used marijuana;

19 (d) The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the prevalence of and  
20 exacerbated existing behavioral health disorders for minors across  
21 the state; and

22 (e) A major barrier to behavioral health support for minors is  
23 lack of awareness and access to information about existing services.

24 (2) The legislature intends to require that contact information  
25 for a suicide prevention organization, depression or anxiety support  
26 organization, eating disorder support organization, substance abuse  
27 support organization, and a mental health referral service for  
28 children and teens be listed on the home page of each public school  
29 website for the following reasons:

30 (a) Immediate access to behavioral health services often prevents  
31 suicide, attempted suicide, and other self-harm; and

1 (b) Students in public schools often have access to and spend  
2 time on the website for their school.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1)(a) Within existing resources, every public school that  
6 maintains a website must publish onto the home page of that website  
7 the following information:

8 (i) The website address and phone number for one or more national  
9 suicide prevention organizations;

10 (ii) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
11 state, or national organizations specializing in suicide prevention  
12 or crisis intervention;

13 (iii) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
14 state, or national organizations specializing in depression, anxiety,  
15 or counseling for adolescents;

16 (iv) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
17 state, or national organizations specializing in eating disorders for  
18 adolescents;

19 (v) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
20 state, or national organizations specializing in substance abuse for  
21 adolescents; and

22 (vi) The website address and phone number for a mental health  
23 referral service for children and teens under chapter . . . (Second  
24 Substitute House Bill No. 1325), Laws of 2021.

25 (b) A public school may meet the requirements of this subsection  
26 by publishing a prominent link on its home page to a behavioral and  
27 emotional health website that contains the required information.

28 (2) Public schools, in complying with the requirements of this  
29 section, must post information on social media websites used by the  
30 school district for the purpose of notifying students, families, and  
31 the public of the behavioral health resources available on websites  
32 as required by this section. The postings required by this subsection  
33 (2) must occur multiple times each year and no less than quarterly."

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1        On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "resources;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter  
3 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: (1) Allows a public school to publish a prominent link on its home page to a behavioral and emotional health webpage that contains the required information to meet the requirements of this section.

(2) Specifies that the contact information for organizations specializing in depression, anxiety, or counseling; eating disorders; and substance abuse are for adolescents.

(3) Adds a mental health referral service for children and teens to the list of organizations whose contact information must be published.

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