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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1373**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Callan, Steele, Ortiz-Self, Dolan, J. Johnson, Slatter, Bergquist, Leavitt, Davis, Fey, Simmons, Berry, Thai, Wicks, Ryu, Kloba, Chambers, Berg, Wylie, Santos, Paul, Ormsby, Ramel, Macri, Pollet, Morgan, and Harris-Talley)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting student access to information about  
2 behavioral health resources; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (2) The legislature intends to require that contact information  
7 for a suicide prevention organization, depression or anxiety support  
8 organization, eating disorder support organization, and substance  
9 abuse support organizations be listed on the home page of each public  
10 school website for the following reasons:

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

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

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

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

20 (a) The website address and phone number for one or more national  
21 suicide prevention organizations;

22 (b) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
23 state, or national organizations specializing in suicide prevention  
24 or crisis intervention;

25 (c) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
26 state, or national organizations specializing in depression, anxiety,  
27 or counseling;

28 (d) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
29 state, or national organizations specializing in eating disorders;

30 (e) The website address and phone number for one or more local,  
31 state, or national organizations specializing in substance abuse.

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

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