
HOUSE BILL 1373

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

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 01/26/21. Referred to Committee on Education.

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

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

22 (2) 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 (3) The website address and phone number for one or more local,
26 state, or national organizations specializing in depression, anxiety,
27 or counseling;

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

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

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