Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 11, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Majority of the Committee on Education to which was referred HB 96-FN-A,

AN ACT establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Ralph Boehm

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Education**
Bill Number:	**HB 96-FN-A**
Title:	**establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor.**
Date:	**February 11, 2021**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Department of Education should be using their budget to determine what their needs are. They should put in positions as they see the need. If the department thinks they should have a School Counselor Coordinator, then they should use their resources to make that position. If the department believes they need that position, they should put it in their budget request. Proponents for that and any other position should not be made by the legislature. Micromanagement is not our job.

Vote 11-9.

Rep. Ralph Boehm
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 96-FN-A, establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ralph Boehm for the **Majority** of Education. The Department of Education should be using their budget to determine what their needs are. They should put in positions as they see the need. If the department thinks they should have a School Counselor Coordinator, then they should use their resources to make that position. If the department believes they need that position, they should put it in their budget request. Proponents for that and any other position should not be made by the legislature. Micromanagement is not our job. **Vote 11-9.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 10, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Minority of the Committee on Education to which was referred HB 96-FN-A,

AN ACT establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Patricia Cornell

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Education**
Bill Number:	**HB 96-FN-A**
Title:	**establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor.**
Date:	**February 10, 2021**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The minority of the Education Committee agree that the intent of this bill, to reestablish and fund the position of the school counselor coordinator in the Department of Education (DOE), is an important one and should have been passed in this session of the legislature, as it was last session (18-2) in committee and by the full house. This position was in place until 2018. People in the field asked the sponsors for this bill, as, now more than ever, leadership from the top is needed. Students today are facing more and different issues than ever before and counselors, psychologists, and social workers need a specific liaison in the DOE that has the time to devote to them and the knowledge of available resources to aid them in assisting students and their families. There is a fiscal note to the bill of an appropriation of $118,000 in FY 2022.

Rep. Patricia Cornell
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 96-FN-A, establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Patricia Cornell for the **Minority** of Education. The minority of the Education Committee agree that the intent of this bill, to reestablish and fund the position of the school counselor coordinator in the Department of Education (DOE), is an important one and should have been passed in this session of the legislature, as it was last session (18-2) in committee and by the full house. This position was in place until 2018. People in the field asked the sponsors for this bill, as, now more than ever, leadership from the top is needed. Students today are facing more and different issues than ever before and counselors, psychologists, and social workers need a specific liaison in the DOE that has the time to devote to them and the knowledge of available resources to aid them in assisting students and their families. There is a fiscal note to the bill of an appropriation of $118,000 in FY 2022.

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 96-FN-A

BILL TITLE: establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor.

DATE: February 9, 2021

LOB ROOM: 201/203

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Boehm Seconded by Rep. A. Lekas Vote: 11-9

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Barbara Shaw, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/22/2021 9:56:47 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2021 SESSION

Education

Bill #: HB 96 FN Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2-9-2021

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman	✓		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman	✓		
Boehm, Ralph G.	✓		
Allard, James C.	✓		
Lekas, Alicia D.	✓		
Moffett, Michael	✓		
Hobson, Deborah L.	✓		
Andrus, Louise	✓		
Ford, Oliver J.	✓		
Layon, Erica J.	✓		
Soti, Julius F.	✓		
Myler, Mel		✓	
Luneau, David J.		✓	
Shaw, Barbara E. Clerk		✓	
Cornell, Patricia		✓	
Tanner, Linda L.		✓	
Ellison, Arthur S.		✓	
Mullen, Sue M.		✓	
Ley, Douglas A.		✓	
Woodcock, Stephen L.		✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	11	9	

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 96-FN-A

BILL TITLE: **establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor.**

DATE: **February 2, 2021**

LOB ROOM: **remote** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **10:50 AM**

Time Adjourned: **11:20 AM**

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, Cordelli, Shaw, Boehm, Allard, A. Lekas, Moffett, Hobson, Andrus, Ford, Layon, Soti, Myler, Luneau, Cornell, Tanner, Ellison, Mullen, Ley and Woodcock

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Cornell	**Rep. Mullen**	**Rep. Ellison**
Rep. Woodcock	**Rep. Andrew Bouldin**	**Rep. Heath**

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Patty Cornell – Bill Sponsor

- Establishes DOE position of school counselor coordinator
- Been vacant since 2018

David Doherty – Supports

- Important position stated in 60's and 70's
- Vacant for 10 years – lasts 2-4 years up and down and presently vacant
- Counselors do more and more and need a coordinator for consistency and reference as new issues and situations arise
- Need is great among students, not only mental, but physical and academic
- Each year, more and more complex issues in each area for consideration

Rep. Mary Heath – Supports

- Passed by House, but Finance II asked commissioner to add position to his budget
- Necessary position and supports

***Karen Merrill – Antle – Supports**

Laura Danika – NH School Counselor Association – Supports

- Supports for students at all levels of service
- Pandemic had intensified the daily efforts of counselors
- Grief counseling is critical
- DOE doesn't always respond – need that position

Anne Marie Banfield – Oppose -

- More important needs like closing of schools
- Depression, suicide need special training
- New bureaucratic position
- Doesn't alleviate testimony of more severe issues of students

- Mental health issues must be addressed
- Hampstead Hospital needs financial help

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Barbara Shaw, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # HB 96 FN-A-L

BILL TITLE: establishing the office of school counseling & psychology establishing the position of school counselor co-ordinator & make appropriations therefor

DATE: 2-2-2021

ROOM: remote **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:50

Time Adjourned: 11:20

(please circle if present) all present

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, Cordelli, Shaw, Boehm, Allard, A. Lekas, Moffett, Hobson, Andrus, Ford, Layon, Soti, Myler, Luneau, Cornell, Tanner, Ellison, Mullen, Ley and Woodcock

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

(1) Rep Patty Cornell – sponsor
- establishes DOE position of school counselor co-ordinator.
- been vacant since 2018

(2) David Doherty – supports
- important position started in 60's & 70's
- vacant for 10 years – last 2-4 years up and down & presently vacant
- counselors do more & more & need a co-ordinator for consistency & reference as new issues and situations arise.
- need is great among students, not only mental, but physical & academic
- each year more & more complex issues in each area for consideration

(3) Rep. Mary Heath – supports
- passed by House, but Finance II asked commissioner to add position to his budget.

- necessary position and supports

(4) Karen Merrill-Antle - supports
* written testimony

(5) Laura Danika - NH Sch. Counselor Assn - supports
- support for students at all levels of service
- pandemic has intensified the daily efforts of counselors
- ~~[illegible]~~ grief counseling is critical
- DOE doesn't always respond - Need that position

(6) Anne Marie Banfield - oppose
- more important needs like closing of schools
- depression, suicide need special training
- new bureaucratic position
- doesn't elevate treating of more severe issues of students
- mental health issues must be addressed
- Hamstead Hospital needs financial help

(7)

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Barbara Shaw, Clerk

House Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB96 on 2021-02-09

Support: 7 Oppose: 3 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Name	Email Address	Phone	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Signed Up
Love, Rep.David	davidlove4rep@gmail.com	603.275.9851	An Elected Official	Rockingham 6	Oppose	No	2/8/2021 8:47 AM
Leidinger, Brittany	brittanyleidinger@hotmail.com	603.568.4182	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2/8/2021 8:49 PM
Jones, Nathaniel	nate_jones@hotmail.com	603.714.4424	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2/8/2021 2:02 PM
Bickford, Travis	tdbickford@gmail.com	603.969.2192	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2/8/2021 8:35 PM
Rathbun, Eric	ericsrathbun@gmail.com	860.912.3751	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2/8/2021 11:52 PM
St. Pierre, Amanda	st_pierre_amanda@hotmail.com	603.289.5778	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2/9/2021 7:50 AM
Russell, Emily	emily.russell74@gmail.com	603.730.2997	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2/9/2021 8:18 AM
Pomykato, Jennifer	jennp@nhsaa.org	603.225.3230	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2/9/2021 9:45 AM
Howard Jr., Raymond	brhowardjr@yahoo.com	603.875.4115	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	2/9/2021 9:39 AM
Dontonville, Roger	rdontonville@gmail.com	603.632.7719	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2/9/2021 10:50 AM

Testimony

Archived: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:00:18 AM
From: David Doherty
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 12:44:28 PM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB 96
Importance: Normal

Good Day -

I just want to express my deep disappointment in the House Education Committee action on HB 96, a much needed bill. This bill was introduced in the last session and received bipartisan support by an 18-2 vote in committee and was later passed by the House on a voice vote. The bill received bipartisan support because of a request from Rep. Ladd to the original sponsor to add career pathway opportunities and career readiness training to the bill. The proposal by Rep. Ladd was more than acceptable and resulted in a bipartisan outcome. Now it appears that the same bill this term has become a partisan issue, particularly looking at the outcome of the vote this morning. I am saddened by this fact, and I find it particularly distressing that some members who voted in favor of the bill last term chose to vote against it this term. I fear that situations like this will make it more difficult in the future to come to agreement on any reasonable legislation. I believe that HB 96 was and is a bill that should receive an OTP vote by the House, yet I fear that this will not happen based on the committee vote. I hope that many of you will reconsider when this bill appears on the calendar.

Thank you for your consideration.

David B. Doherty

242 fourth Range Rd.

Pembroke, NH 03275

(603) 485-2788

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Archived: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:00:18 AM
From: Ann Marie Banfield
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:48:50 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: Written Testimony on HB 96-FN-A
Importance: Normal

FOLLOW UP FROM TODAY:

Honorable Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Ann Marie Banfield and I am an advocate for parental rights and academic excellence in education. Today I come here in opposition of HB 96-FN-A.

Why would someone who supports parental rights and excellence in education oppose funding for establishing a school counselor coordinator for the office of school counseling and psychology? Primarily because there are more important mental health needs that children have, and I want to share that with you today.

The mental health needs of children are probably more important today than at any other time. The COVID shut-downs of schools and the lack of socialization are having a terrible impact on many children throughout New Hampshire. I interact with New Hampshire parents daily whose children are having mental break-downs because of the isolation from school closures. It is important to mention that there are some who are still thriving, but that is not the case for many children in our state.

Fortunately many of these cases do not rise to the level of desperation. But I'm here to talk about the ones that do.

When children suffer emotionally, sometimes that results in depression, anger, and even the worse, suicidal attempts. Health care professionals are the ones who have to deal with those situations and oftentimes, the first responder is the local Emergency Room. Once those children are admitted, there is a call to Hampstead Hospital; the only treatment facility in New Hampshire that admits adolescents.

It would be nice to report to you that when this happens, children are admitted immediately and treated by a specialist in mental health. Unfortunately, that is not the case. If there is no space available, the child can sit at the hospital for days and sometimes a week or longer. Can you imagine the cost to the state when day after day, these kids are sitting in the local hospital untreated by a mental health professional?

HB 96 creates a new bureaucratic position within the Department of Education. This position does not, in any way, meet the psychological needs of children that require services right now. It does not alleviate the wait time that would offer some relief to the taxpayers, and it certainly does not offer relief to the children sitting in limbo.

I share your concerns but believe that there are better ways to allocate these funds to address the much needed issue of treating mental health for children who need that right now.

I ask you to vote Inexpedient to Legislate HB 96 and then look at ways to address the desperate need for accessibility to Hampstead Hospital. How can we work to meet the needs of children so they do not end up in the ER? How can we provide immediate care and allocate funding to cover those costs? In the end, it would save the state money if children have immediate access to Hampstead Hospital instead of sitting in our local hospital waiting for a room.

Let's prioritize spending on the mental health of children. Adding another bureaucratic position at the Department of Education may be a nice "want," but there are too many "needs" right now to move this legislation forward.

Respectfully,
Ann Marie Banfield

Parental Rights Advocate
North Hampton, NH

Archived: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:00:18 AM
From: Jennifer Murphy
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 8:11:23 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB 96
Importance: Normal

Good Morning,

I am writing in support of HB 96.

In my role as the current president of the NH Director's of School Counseling, I had a member reach out to request a mentor as they were working towards earning their School Counselor Director endorsement. This member reached out to the DOE helpdesk to ask what the requirements were to earn this endorsement. She was directed to a lengthy document that listed all the steps one would need to take to show competencies for Career Teach staff, teaching staff, etc. When I met with this member and looked over the documents she was given, it did not make sense nor was it similar to the process I went through 13 years ago. Granted a lot could have changed in 13 years, heck, a lot has changed in 9 months!

If we had a liaison specific to our endorsement, we would have been able to contact them directly to learn the appropriate steps.

Thankfully, I have been around long enough to remember our former liaison and still had her contact information. We reached out to her and were able to receive the correct information so this member could earn her endorsement, although much time and energy was wasted and misdirected. As we work to keep schools open for students, because science (and I) believes it is in the best interest for student's mental health, we don't have these hours to waste.

Separately, as the pandemic is continuing, school counselors are finding ourselves loaded with mental health issues on top of all our other responsibilities. Stress, anxiety, and depression are rampant not just for students, but staff as well. We need a liaison to support funding at the DOE and wider government so we have the tools to do what our communities need us to do for our students.

I am in strong support of this bill. Thank you for reading this.

Jennifer K.H. Murphy
Director of School Counseling
Kennett High School
409 Eagles Way
North Conway, NH 03860
603-356-4325
j_murphy@sau9.org
Follow us on Twitter @KHSMWVSchCoun

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Archived: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:00:18 AM
From: David Doherty
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:52:33 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB 96
Importance: Normal

January 28, 2021

Honorable Members of the House Education Committee:

I write to you today asking you to support an OTP motion on HB96, an act establishing the position of School Counselor Coordinator. I was a high school counselor for 38 years, 30 in the state of New Hampshire. For much of my professional career, this position was in place within the Department of Education. As a working counselor, and as a member, and for three years as president of the Guidance Directors Association (as it was called at that time), I was the beneficiary of the many services that the Guidance Coordinator provided. Counselors in both public and private schools benefited from an advocate at the state level who was an advocate for their profession. It has become more critically important during the difficulties of the pandemic and the stresses of providing services to students, that counselors are supported and aided by a statewide coordinator. Last term a similar bill was passed by the House Education Committee 18-2 and subsequently passed by the House in a voice vote. I encourage you to again pass this important bill that will definitely aid the community of counselors in New Hampshire and ultimately have a positive effect on the students they serve.

Thank you for your service to the people of the state.

David B. Doherty

242 Fourth Range Rd.

Pembroke NH 03275

(603) 485-2788

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Testimony as Presented in Support of HB 96 on February 2, 2021

Karen Merrill-Antle

School Counselors did not only replace guidance counselors in name, but in job description as well. Guidance counselors of old were charged with being primarily responsive to the students who presented a need. Guidance Counselors went to school awaiting - and prepared to manage - crisis.

In stark contrast and decades later, School Counselors - by definition - are still responsive as needed, but also proactive with all students - and I underline *all*. The profession has grown in depth, breadth and responsibility.

K-12 School Counselors work with all students equitably in three domains - Academic, Social/Emotional, and Career Ready. We design developmentally appropriate programming, deliver it in a systematic manner with the outcome based goal of improving the achievement, attendance, and discipline of all students.

With this context set, it is perhaps most important for this gathering to understand that School Counselors are the profession in our educational system that has its eye first to students as people and to people as students. This bears repeating. School Counselors are charged first to work intentionally and holistically with each individual child and each individual student - each child charged with learning, who is actually each student charged with navigating their developmental growth as a human being.

While of course all educators work with students as people, the lens with which we enter the building is necessarily different. Simplistically, administrators are charged with systems and personnel. Nurses focus first on physical health, school psychologists with mental health, social workers with transitions and family systems, teachers with academic success, special educators with learning challenges and specialists with targeted focus. The School Counselor is the professional that keeps an eye each moment of each day to each student as a person and each person as a student.

Indeed, as the inevitable pendulum of education swings - and we know it does - the school counselor works to steady its impacts on all students - never diminishing one domain for the other. When an increase in graduation rate is the state's focus, we rally the troops while still providing social/emotional programming and career exploration. When the state shines the light on mental health, we also continue career exploration and facilitate achievement toward graduation. And when the pendulum swings toward re-vitalizing NH's workforce, we jump on board, without taking our eye off academic achievement and still beating the mental health drum.

To this end, it is undeniably crucial that just as our students need the role of the school counselor in the schools, school counselors need their voice represented at the discussion and decision-making table at our NHDOE.

Furthermore, it is critical that our students graduate as healthy individuals prepared to be positive contributing members of our society. In order to do this, students must develop tenacity and confidence. They must have the fortitude to feel all their layered and evolving emotions and

self-regulate and display behaviors appropriate to changing situations. They must be able to problem-solve, collaborate, and navigate challenging relationships, and they must be able to set and achieve short- and long-term goals. They must be able to self-reflect, articulate and self-advocate, and develop and practice the soft skills every eventual employer demands. And as you know, this is just a partial list of what we need from our New Hampshire graduates.

Students have teachers that are typically with them for one year, and our New Hampshire teachers proficiently weave these skills into their work with students. However, this work is too important to leave its acquisition to chance. Most often counselors are with the same students year-after-year-after-year, supporting their developmental journey. Not only does this allow for consistency and accountability in programming, but relationship building between counselor and student as well. Strong relationships after all, are the true foundation for any lasting growth.

Decisions that impact our youth in public schools should not be made without considering the lens of the School Counselor. Any decision made on behalf of the youth of our great state should be done in consultation with the representative voice of the profession that works with the whole child for the long term - the representative voice of the school counselor.

New Hampshire's youth will be better served if the lens of the school counselor is articulated and considered as decisions at the DOE are made.

Please help us all best serve our New Hampshire students by including our voice at the table.

Thank you.

Archived: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:01:00 AM
From: Robin Hausheer
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 1:48:34 PM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: NH HB96
Importance: Normal

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I am in strong support of NH HB96--the establishment of the School Counseling Coordinator position within the New Hampshire Department of Education. As a former elementary school counselor and current counselor educator, I believe this position provides an opportunity to continue to support children, adolescents, and families at a higher systemic level, while providing support to the invaluable school counselors and school psychologists throughout our state. While the Department of Education offers ongoing support to educators, the unique positions of school counselors and school psychologists warrant a liaison at the state level that understands the comprehensive programming that addresses the academic, career, and social-emotional needs of all youth.

I encourage the Committee to omit the word "guidance" from any part of the bill and job position description, as this is old language that no longer encompasses the systemic, comprehensive work of school counselors and school psychologists. School counseling is no longer referred to as "guidance" counseling, as supported by the American School Counseling Association (ASCA). This is a change that ASCA has been advocating for, as school counselors are providing comprehensive programming that reaches all--instead of only some--students. I hope the Committee will take this into consideration as a decision is made about the bill.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Dr. Robin Hausheer

Robin Hausheer, EdD, NCC, LPC (ID)
Assistant Professor
School Counseling Program Coordinator
Addiction Treatment Certificate Coordinator
Dept. of Counselor Education and School Psychology
Plymouth State University
17 High Street, MSC 58
Plymouth, NH 03264
Phone: 603-535-2129

Bill as Introduced

HB 96-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0061
06/10

HOUSE BILL ***96-FN-A***

AN ACT establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor.

SPONSORS: Rep. Cornell, Hills. 18; Rep. Mullen, Hills. 7; Rep. Ellison, Merr. 27; Rep. Woodcock, Carr. 2; Rep. Andrew Bouldin, Hills. 12; Rep. Heath, Hills. 14

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the office of school counseling and psychology in the division of learner support, department of education. This bill also establishes the position of school counselor coordinator in the office of school counseling and psychology and makes an appropriation therefor.

- -

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 96-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

21-0061
06/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Section; Department of Education; Office of School Counseling and Psychology Established; New Position; School Counselor Coordinator. Amend RSA 21-N by inserting after section 6-a the following new section:

21-N:6-b Office of School Counseling and Psychology; School Counselor Coordinator.

I. There is established in the division of learner support, department of education, the office of school counseling and psychology.

II. There is established within the office of school counseling and psychology the position of school counselor coordinator who shall be a classified employee. The school counselor coordinator shall be certified as a school guidance counselor or school psychologist by the state board of education and shall be qualified to hold such position by reason of education and experience. The position shall be subject to any other employment requirements as determined by the department. The school counselor coordinator shall coordinate and provide assistance to guidance counselors, career counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers. The school counselor coordinator shall assist schools and districts in developing counseling programs and shall work with school counselors, the bureau of career development, representatives of postsecondary education, and New Hampshire's workforce business leaders to better provide students with an awareness of career pathway opportunities and career readiness training needed in the 21st century workplace.

2 Appropriation. The sum of $118,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of $119,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 are hereby appropriated to the department of education, division of learner support, for the position of school counselor coordinator established in RSA 21-N:6-b. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

LBA
21-0061
11/16/20

HB 96-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**
Appropriation	$0	$118,000	$119,000	$0
Revenue	$0	$0	$0	$0
Expenditures	$0	$118,000	$119,000	$123,000
Funding Source:	[X] General	[ ] Education	[ ] Highway	[ ] Other

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes the office of school counseling and psychology, establishes the position of school counselor coordinator, and appropriates $118,000 in FY 2022 and $119,000 in FY 2023 to the Department of Education for the purpose of this bill. The Department anticipates this position would be established as a classified labor grade 27 (step 5). Assuming a start date of July 1, 2021, salary and benefit costs are estimated to be approximately $101,000 in FY 2022, $102,000 in FY 2023, and $106,000 in FY 2023. In addition, the Department estimates approximately $17,000 per year in additional expenses (supplies, equipment, etc…).

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education