

Amendment to HB 131

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT establishing a commission on mental health education and behavioral health and  
4 wellness programs.

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6 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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8 1 New Subdivision; Commission on Mental Health Education and Behavioral Health and  
9 Wellness Programs. Amend RSA 193-E by inserting after section 5 the following new subdivision:

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Commission on Mental Health Education Programs and

11

Behavioral Health and Wellness Programs

12

193-E:6 Commission Established.

13

I. There is established a commission to develop and promote mental health curriculum and  
14 behavioral health and wellness education programs in kindergarten through grade 12.

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II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

16

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the  
17 house of representatives.

18

(b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

19

(c) Two teachers of health or related subjects, appointed by the governor.

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(d) One member of the New Hampshire School Boards Association, appointed by the  
21 association.

22

(e) One member of the New Hampshire Association of School Principals, appointed by  
23 the association.

24

(f) One member of the New Hampshire School Administrators Association, appointed by  
25 the association.

26

(g) One member of the New Hampshire Association of Special Education  
27 Administrators, appointed by the association.

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(h) One member of the New Hampshire Association of School Psychologists, appointed  
29 by the association.

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(i) One member of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by the  
31 association.

32

(j) One member of the institute on disability of the university of New Hampshire,  
33 appointed by the institute.

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1           (k) One member of the New Hampshire Center for Effective Behavioral Interventions  
2 and Supports, appointed by the center.

3           (l) One representative of a New Hampshire mental health center, appointed by the  
4 governor.

5           (m) One school resource officer, appointed by the governor.

6           (n) One representative of the student assistance program of the department of health  
7 and human services, appointed by the commissioner.

8           (o) One school nurse, appointed by the New Hampshire School Nurses' Association,  
9 appointed by the association.

10          (p) One member of the Manchester health department, appointed by the director.

11          (q) One New Hampshire pediatrician, appointed by the New Hampshire Medical  
12 Society.

13          (r) One representative of the office of behavioral health, department of health and  
14 human services, appointed by the commissioner.

15          (s) One representative of the bureau of wellness, department of education, appointed by  
16 the commissioner.

17          (t) One member of NAMI New Hampshire, appointed by the alliance.

18          (u) One member of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, appointed by the  
19 foundation.

20          (v) One member of the New Hampshire School Counselor Association, appointed by the  
21 association.

22          III. The commission shall:

23           (a) Examine the K-12 mental health curriculum and social and emotional learning  
24 programs for all grade levels as a way to establish a culture of mental health in schools that adheres  
25 to safety protocols, is free of the stigmatization of mental health challenges, and reduces or prevents  
26 harm or violence.

27           (b) Determine methods for providing help for students in kindergarten through grade  
28 12 who are experiencing a mental health challenge.

29           (c) Assess possible threats posed by individuals or groups exhibiting warning signs or  
30 pre-incident indicators.

31           (d) Review the state's anti-bullying laws and recommend any needed updates to RSA  
32 193-F.

33           (e) Determine ways to expand community and not-for-profit mental health services.

34           (f) Develop an age-appropriate school outreach program that educates staff and  
35 students on reducing the stigma of mental illness and what to do when someone is in crisis.

36           (g) Increase and promote Mental Health First Aid to school staff, students, and families  
37 to provide the school community with the resources to effectively manage a mental health incident.

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1           (h) Develop a threat assessment task force at the community or district level that  
2 engages the local public health network, including an intervention and reporting protocol that  
3 evaluates students quickly and efficiently and provides a plan to help appropriately return students  
4 to school.

5           (i) Increase and promote evidence-based best practice suicide prevention to ensure  
6 assessors use the latest standards, knowledge, and techniques.

7           (j) Include instruction regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

8           (k) Determine methodologies for implementing recommendations of the governor's  
9 school safety preparedness task force.

10          (l) Examine and develop methodologies for implementing applicable recommendations  
11 of the 2018 10-year mental health plan of the department of health and human services, when  
12 completed.

13          IV. The chairperson may assign members to subgroups to accomplish the duties of the  
14 commission.

15          V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The  
16 first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting  
17 of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Fourteen  
18 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

19          VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
20 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house  
21 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library biannually on January 30 and June 30 of  
22 each year. The reports shall evaluate the implementation of recommendations.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to develop and promote mental health programs and behavioral health and wellness programs in kindergarten through grade 12.