

House Bill 2954

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE (at the request of Students for a Healthy Oregon)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education to administer pilot program that enables school districts to deliver annual mental health screenings to students in grades 6 through 12.

Sunsets pilot program on January 2, 2025.
Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to mental health screenings for public school students; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall administer a pilot program that en-**
5 **ables school districts to deliver annual mental health screenings to students in grades 6**
6 **through 12.**

7 (2)(a) Any school district may apply to participate in the pilot program administered un-
8 der this section.

9 (b) The department shall select at least five school districts to participate in the pilot
10 program. If more school districts apply than funding or resources are available to allow
11 participation in the pilot program, the department shall give priority to school districts that
12 have diverse student populations or that represent geographic diversity throughout the
13 state.

14 (3) The department shall develop standards for the pilot program administered under this
15 section. The standards must include requirements that a school district participating in the
16 pilot program:

17 (a) Use a screening tool to help identify a student's existing, or risk of, mental health
18 issues, and the screening tool must be evidence based.

19 (b) Use a script during mental health screenings, and the script must encourage honesty
20 and reduce stigma around mental health issues.

21 (c) Ensure that persons conducting mental health screenings are trained to use the
22 screening tool and script selected by the school district.

23 (d) Ensure that mental health screenings are conducted in a supportive, safe environ-
24 ment that maximizes student privacy.

25 (e) Ensure that the results of a mental health screening are evaluated by a qualified
26 counselor or mental health professional.

27 (f) Develop a plan to refer students to appropriate services based on the results of a
28 mental health screening, and the plan must account for access to services for all students,
29 regardless of their ability to pay.

30 (4)(a) For school districts participating in the pilot program, the department shall pro-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **vide:**

2 **(A) Technical assistance; and**

3 **(B) Grants to assist with costs related to providing the mental health screenings.**

4 **(b) In addition to any moneys appropriated for the pilot program, the department may**
5 **seek and accept grants and donations from any public or private entity for the purpose of**
6 **the pilot program.**

7 **(5) The department shall submit a preliminary report on the pilot program to an interim**
8 **committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 15, 2022,**
9 **and a final report no later than September 15, 2024.**

10 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.**

11 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
12 **ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the**
13 **General Fund, the amount of \$_____, which shall be expended for the pilot program ad-**
14 **ministered under section 1 of this 2019 Act.**

15 **SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
16 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
17 **July 1, 2019.**

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