

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 920

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK.

1753H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to student mental health at public institutions of higher education.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 173.2530 and 173.2532, to read as follows:

**173.2530. 1. Prior to January 1, 2018, the department of mental health shall promulgate rules setting forth reasonable standards and regulations for student counseling facilities at public institutions of higher education in this state relating to student-to-staff ratios, average wait time to see a counselor for an initial appointment, and any other factors the department determines are contributing factors leading to the prevalence of mental health problems within the academic community. After establishing such standards and regulations, the department of mental health shall develop a process for evaluating student counseling programs at public institutions of higher education to assess whether programs have met the department's criteria. The evaluation process at each institution of higher education shall include measurement of an institution's ability to adequately meet student mental health needs using assessment criteria developed in validated studies of well-being and mental health of students in order to ensure that the effectiveness of the student counseling programs are objectively evaluated.**

**2. After consulting with the department of higher education, the department of mental health shall prescribe policies and procedures for annual review of an institution's counseling program and actions to be taken when an institution's counseling program fails to meet the department's standards.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **3. For purposes of sections 173.2530 and 173.2532, the term "student counseling**  
19 **facility" means any entity that provides confidential mental health counseling, psychiatric**  
20 **services, or developmental counseling to college students that is located on campus or is**  
21 **associated with the institution of higher education and operates in accordance with state**  
22 **and federal law pertaining to mental health professionals as well as applicable professional**  
23 **and ethical codes.**

24           **4. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is**  
25 **created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it**  
26 **complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,**  
27 **section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers**  
28 **vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective**  
29 **date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the**  
30 **grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2017,**  
31 **shall be invalid and void.**

**173.2532. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, and continuing on an annual basis**  
2 **thereafter, student counseling facilities in operation at public institutions of higher**  
3 **education in this state shall participate in an annual needs assessment to identify**  
4 **deficiencies that place such facilities below standards established by the department of**  
5 **mental health under section 173.2530. The department of mental health, in consultation**  
6 **with the department of higher education, shall develop specific procedures through which**  
7 **the assessments are written, distributed, collected, and evaluated.**

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