

# SB-25

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Coombs of North Carolina introduced the following bill;

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## A BILL

The purpose of this Act is to promote comprehensive mental health education in schools, focusing on awareness, stigma reduction, and resource provision. It seeks to address the importance of mental health education as a means to promote overall well-being.

*Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "This Act may be cited as the Mental Health Education Act."

### **SECTION 2. Integration of Mental Health Education.**

(a) All schools receiving federal assistance shall include comprehensive mental health education as part of their curriculum.

(b) Mental health education shall cover topics such as recognizing signs of mental distress, coping strategies, stress management, promoting resilience, and accessing mental health resources.

(c) The curriculum shall be age-appropriate and culturally sensitive, designed to address the needs of diverse student populations.

### **SECTION 3. Teacher Training and Support.**

(a) Schools shall provide professional development opportunities for teachers to enhance their understanding of mental health issues, identification of mental health concerns, and effective strategies to support students.

(b) Resources, such as counseling services and mental health professionals, shall be made available to assist teachers in addressing mental health needs within the school community.

### **SECTION 4. Awareness and Stigma Reduction.**

(a) Schools shall conduct awareness campaigns and activities to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health conditions.

(b) These campaigns may include guest speakers, workshops, student-led initiatives, and partnerships with mental health organizations.

### **SECTION 5. Funding.**

(a) The Department of Education shall oversee the execution and implementation of this Act, including the development of guidelines, monitoring, and evaluation of mental health education programs in schools.

(b) The Department of Education shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including mental health professionals, educators, and community organizations, to ensure the effective execution of the Act.

(c) Funding for the implementation of this Act shall be allocated from the federal budget through appropriations determined by Congress.

(d) The Department of Education may also seek additional funding through partnerships, grants, and private contributions to support the execution and sustainability of mental health education initiatives.

## **SECTION 6. Reporting and Evaluation.**

- (a) Schools shall be required to report on their implementation of mental health education programs and provide data on the outcomes and effectiveness of these initiatives.
- (b) The Department of Education shall conduct periodic evaluations to assess the impact of mental health education on students, teachers, and the overall school environment.
- (c) Based on the evaluation findings, the Department of Education shall make recommendations for improvements and share best practices with schools and educational institutions.

## **SECTION 7. Definitions**

- (a) In this bill "school" shall refer only to schools that receive federal assistance.

## **SECTION 8. Effective Date.**

- (a) This Act shall take effect on the date of its enactment.