

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 596

Introduced by Senator Yee

February 22, 2013

An act to ~~amend Section 12803 of the Government Code~~ *add Section 33319.1 to the Education Code*, relating to ~~pupil health and human services~~.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 596, as amended, Yee. ~~California Health and Human Services Agency. Pupil health: school-based mental health services.~~

Existing law establishes a system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state, and provides for the establishment of school districts and other local educational agencies to operate these schools and provide instruction to pupils. Under existing law, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is required, among his or her other duties, to serve as the chief executive officer of the State Department of Education.

This bill would require, to the extent that nonstate funds are received, the Superintendent to establish a pilot program pursuant to which the State Department of Education and relevant state and local partners would assist school districts in their efforts to establish or enhance mental health services and support for pupils at public elementary and secondary schoolsites. The bill would specify that these services may include, but are not necessarily limited to, screenings, assessments, evaluations, interventions, and treatment. The bill would specify the primary goals of the pilot program, which would include the facilitation of the coordination of school staff, as defined, school districts, county mental health departments, and community-based organizations in establishing or enhancing school-based mental health services.

~~Existing law creates the California Health and Human Services Agency, which has under its jurisdiction designated departments and offices.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to a provision related to the California Health and Human Services Agency.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 33319.1 is added to the Education Code,
 2 to read:

3 33319.1. (a) Subject to subdivision (e), the Superintendent
 4 shall establish a pilot program pursuant to which the State
 5 Department of Education and relevant state and local partners
 6 will assist school districts in their efforts to establish or enhance
 7 mental health services and support for pupils at public elementary
 8 and secondary schoolsites. These services may include, but are
 9 not necessarily limited to, screenings, assessments, evaluations,
 10 interventions, and treatment.

11 (b) A focus of the program established by this section shall be
 12 to establish mental health services and support at schools that
 13 already have school-based health centers and thus have some
 14 existing health care partnerships and infrastructure on which to
 15 build, but that lack mental health services at those sites. In
 16 implementing the program under this section, the Superintendent
 17 shall collaborate with other education and mental health agencies
 18 and organizations, including those entities that are currently
 19 working to promote school-based mental health services.

20 (c) The primary goals of the pilot program established by this
 21 section shall be as follows:

22 (1) To facilitate the coordination of school staff, school districts,
 23 county mental health departments, and community-based
 24 organizations in establishing or enhancing school-based mental
 25 health services that effectively and efficiently provide screenings,
 26 assessments, referrals, and treatment to support the academic
 27 achievement and emotional health of pupils. As used in this section,
 28 “school staff” includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher,
 29 teacher’s aide or assistant, school aide, principal, vice principal,
 30 counselor, or mental health professional.

1 (2) To identify the barriers to providing effective, school-based
2 mental health services, including services that are culturally and
3 linguistically appropriate.

4 (3) To identify and implement best practices that address the
5 barriers to providing school-based mental health services.

6 (4) To document the pilot program's outcomes, including the
7 number of schools that establish mental health services on the
8 schoolsite, the number of pupils that receive mental health services
9 at those schools, and the impacts on pupils related to their
10 academic achievement and emotional health.

11 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Superintendent and
12 the State Department of Education continue to explore and
13 implement, as appropriate, the recommendations from the K-12
14 Student Mental Health Policy Workgroup that was convened by
15 the Superintendent in 2012.

16 (e) The State Department of Education shall seek nonstate
17 sources of funding to support the pilot program, to the extent that
18 funding is necessary, and shall implement this section only to the
19 extent that those necessary nonstate funds are received.

20 SECTION 1. ~~Section 12803 of the Government Code is~~
21 ~~amended to read:~~

22 12803. (a) ~~The California Health and Human Services Agency~~
23 ~~includes the following departments: Health Care Services; Mental~~
24 ~~Health; Developmental Services; Public Health; Social Services;~~
25 ~~Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Aging; Rehabilitation; and Community~~
26 ~~Services and Development.~~

27 (b) ~~The agency also includes the Office of Statewide Health~~
28 ~~Planning and Development and the State Council on~~
29 ~~Developmental Disabilities.~~

30 (c) ~~The Department of Child Support Services is hereby created~~
31 ~~within the agency commencing January 1, 2000, and shall be the~~
32 ~~single organizational unit designated as the state's Title IV-D~~
33 ~~agency with the responsibility for administering the state plan and~~
34 ~~providing services relating to the establishment of paternity or the~~
35 ~~establishment, modification, or enforcement of child support~~
36 ~~obligations, as required by Section 654 of Title 42 of the United~~
37 ~~States Code. State plan functions shall be performed by other~~
38 ~~agencies as required by law, by delegation of the department, or~~
39 ~~by cooperative agreements.~~

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