

SSB 5365 - S AMD 156
By Senator Keiser

NOT CONSIDERED

1 On page 5, after line 30, insert the following:

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) The legislature finds that a lack of
3 information about mental health problems amongst the general public
4 leads to stigmatizing attitudes and prevents people from seeking help
5 early and seeking the best sort of help. It also prevents people from
6 providing support to family members, friends, and colleagues because
7 they might not know what to do. This lack of knowledge about mental
8 health problems limits the initial accessibility of evidence-based
9 treatments and leads to a lack of support for people with a mental
10 disorder from family, friends, and other members of the community.

11 (2) The focus on training for teachers and educational staff is
12 intended to provide opportunities for early intervention when the first
13 signs of developing mental illness may be recognized in children,
14 teens, and young adults, so that appropriate referrals may be made to
15 evidence-based behavioral health services.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 Subject to appropriation for this specific purpose, the department
19 shall provide funds for mental health first-aid training targeted at
20 teachers and educational staff. The training will follow the model
21 developed by the department of psychology in Melbourne, Australia.
22 Instruction provided will describe common mental disorders that arise
23 in youth, their possible causes and risk factors, the availability of
24 evidence-based medical, psychological, and alternative treatments,
25 processes for making referrals for behavioral health services, and
26 methods to effectively render assistance in both initial intervention
27 and crisis situations. The department shall collaborate with the
28 office of the superintendent of public instruction to identify sites

1 and methods of instruction that leverage local resources to the extent
2 possible for the purpose of making the mental health first-aid training
3 broadly available."

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4 On page 1, line 4 of the title, after "28A.310 RCW;" insert "adding
5 a new section to chapter 71.24 RCW;"

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