

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB852

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 22, 2022
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Day
One Liner: Require behavioral health points of contact for school districts

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Day, Linehan, McKinney, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Jen Day
Liz Lyons
Kyle McGowan

Colby Coash

John Skretta
Kyle Kinney
Rose Godinez
Kyle McGowan

Representing:
Introducer
Children's Hospital & Medical Center
Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council
Nebraska Association of School Boards, Nebraska School Psychologists Association
Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, ESU6
Boys Town
ACLU of Nebraska
NCSA

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:
Legislative Bill 852 is a new section of statute.

Subsection 1:

Requires each school district, on or before August 1, 2023, to designate one or more behavioral health points of contact (POC) for each school building or other division as determined by the school district. Such POC shall have knowledge of community behavioral health service providers and other resources available for students and families, and may be an administrator, a school nurse, a school psychologist, or another designated school employee.

Subsection 2:

On or before August 1 each year, beginning in 2023, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), in consultation with the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), shall provide each school district with an updated registry of state and local behavioral health resources available to work with students and families by geographic area, including both school-based services and services accessible by students' families outside of school.

Subsection 3:

Each such POC shall coordinate access to community behavioral health services and facilitate access to such at school during the day whenever possible. Except as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-2101, such facilitation shall be approved by the student's parent or guardian.

Subsection 4:

Designated POC under this section shall be reported annually by each school district to NDE prior to the start of each school year beginning in 2023-24.

Explanation of amendments:

Amendment 1607 strikes "whenever possible" on page 2, line 20 of the bill, thus making the facilitation of access to services during the school day at the school the student attends mandatory.

Lynne Walz, Chairperson