



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB2152

by Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act. Provides for intent, legislative findings, purposes of the Act, and definitions. Provides that to raise mental health awareness on college campuses, each public college or university in this State must complete specified tasks. Provides that the board of trustees of each public college or university must designate an expert panel to develop and implement policies and procedures that (i) advise students, faculty, and staff on the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting symptoms of mental health conditions, (ii) promote understanding of the rules of Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to increase knowledge and understanding of student protections under the law, and (iii) provide training if appropriate. Provides that because peer support programs may be beneficial in improving the emotional well-being of the student population, each public college or university must develop and implement a peer support program utilizing student peers to support individuals living with mental health conditions on campus; specifies best practices for the peer support programs. Provides that each public college or university must form strategic partnerships with local mental health service providers to improve overall campus mental wellness and augment on-campus capacity; specifies what the partnerships must include. Requires the Board of Higher Education to develop a Technical Assistance Center; specifies the duties of the Center. Requires each public college or university to evaluate the required programs under the Act using specified criteria. Effective July 1, 2020.

LRB101 08528 AXK 53606 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act.

6 Section 5. Intent. This Act is intended to address gaps in  
7 mental health services on college campuses across Illinois,  
8 including both 2-year and 4-year institutions, through  
9 training, peer support, and community-campus partnerships.

10 Section 10. Findings. The General Assembly finds all of the  
11 following:

12 (1) Mental health is a pressing and growing issue on  
13 college campuses across this State and the country. A  
14 recent national survey found that one in 4 college students  
15 are treated for or diagnosed with a mental health condition  
16 and one in 5 has considered suicide.

17 (2) About 75% of all mental health conditions start by  
18 age 24, with higher rates of diagnosed disorders in  
19 college-aged students. College counseling center directors  
20 believe mental health conditions among students on their  
21 campuses are increasing, signaling a growing issue that  
22 must be addressed.

1           (3) Students who come from low-income households are  
2 more likely to have a mental health condition.

3           (4) Between 2007 and 2017, the diagnosis rate of  
4 college students increased from 22% to 36%, indicating a  
5 higher need for services. Treatment rates over the same  
6 period increased by 15%.

7           (5) Young adults are less likely to receive mental  
8 health support than any other age group. College campuses  
9 can play a big role in addressing this challenge. Over 70%  
10 of Illinois high school graduates enroll in a postsecondary  
11 program shortly after graduation.

12           (6) College-aged students are more accepting of mental  
13 health services than the general population, but most  
14 struggle accessing them. An overwhelming 96% of college  
15 students reported they would provide support to peers whom  
16 they knew were thinking about suicide.

17           (7) Many students lack knowledge of mental health signs  
18 and symptoms and do not know how to help or where to refer  
19 their friends for services.

20           (8) Services offered by most college campuses are  
21 limited in scope and capacity, with 67% of campus  
22 counseling center directors saying that their campus  
23 psychiatric service capacity is inadequate or does not meet  
24 student demand.

25           (9) Combined with a dearth of available services, the  
26 vast majority of students do not seek out services, and

1 many students who complete a suicide never received  
2 on-campus services. Paying for community-based services is  
3 an issue for about half of students. Combining insufficient  
4 on-campus services with unaffordable community resources  
5 leaves students on their own.

6 Section 15. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to  
7 accomplish all of the following:

8 (1) Further identify students with mental health needs  
9 and connect them to services.

10 (2) Increase access to support services on college  
11 campuses.

12 (3) Increase access to clinical mental health services  
13 on college campuses and in the surrounding communities for  
14 college students.

15 (4) Empower students through peer-to-peer support and  
16 training on identifying mental health needs and resources.

17 (5) Reduce administrative policies that put an undue  
18 burden on students seeking leave for their mental health  
19 conditions through technical assistance and training.

20 Section 20. Definitions. As used in this Act:

21 "Advisor" means a staff member who provides academic,  
22 professional, and personal support to students.

23 "Campus security" means a law enforcement officer who has  
24 completed his or her probationary period and is employed as a

1 security officer or campus police officer by a public college  
2 or university.

3 "Linkage agreement" means a formal agreement between a  
4 public college or university and an off-campus mental health  
5 provider or agency.

6 "Mental health condition" means a symptom consistent with a  
7 mental illness, as defined under Section 1-129 of the Mental  
8 Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, or a diagnosed  
9 mental illness.

10 "Public college or university" means any public community  
11 college subject to the Public Community College Act, the  
12 University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago  
13 State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State  
14 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois  
15 University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois  
16 University, and any other public university, college, or  
17 community college now or hereafter established or authorized by  
18 the General Assembly.

19 "Recovery model" means the model developed by the federal  
20 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that  
21 defines the process of recovery and includes the 4 major  
22 dimensions that support a life in recovery, which are health,  
23 home, purpose, and community.

24 "Resident assistant" means a student who is responsible for  
25 supervising and assisting other, typically younger, students  
26 who live in the same student housing facility.

1 "Telehealth" means the evaluation, diagnosis, or  
2 interpretation of electronically transmitted patient-specific  
3 data between a remote location and a licensed health care  
4 professional that generates interaction or treatment  
5 recommendations. "Telehealth" includes telemedicine and the  
6 delivery of health care services provided by an interactive  
7 telecommunications system, as defined in subsection (a) of  
8 Section 356z.22 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

9 Section 25. Awareness. To raise mental health awareness on  
10 college campuses, each public college or university must do all  
11 of the following:

12 (1) Develop and implement an annual student  
13 orientation session aimed at raising awareness about  
14 mental health conditions.

15 (2) Assess courses and seminars available to students  
16 through their regular academic experiences and implement  
17 mental health awareness curricula if opportunities for  
18 integration exist.

19 (3) Create and feature a page on its website or mobile  
20 application with information dedicated solely to the  
21 mental health resources available to students at the public  
22 college or university and in the surrounding community.

23 (4) Distribute messages related to mental health  
24 resources that encourage help-seeking behavior through the  
25 online learning platform of the public college or

1 university during high stress periods of the academic year,  
2 including, but not limited to, midterm or final  
3 examinations. These stigma-reducing strategies must be  
4 based on documented best practices.

5 (5) Three years after the effective date of this Act,  
6 implement an online screening tool to raise awareness and  
7 establish a mechanism to link or refer students of the  
8 public college or university to services. Screenings and  
9 resources must be available year round for students and, at  
10 a minimum, must (i) include validated screening tools for  
11 depression, an anxiety disorder, an eating disorder,  
12 substance use, alcohol-use disorder, post-traumatic stress  
13 disorder, and bipolar disorder, (ii) provide resources for  
14 immediate connection to services, if indicated, including  
15 emergency resources, (iii) provide general information  
16 about all mental health-related resources available to  
17 students of the public college or university, and (iv)  
18 function anonymously.

19 (6) At least once per term and at times of high  
20 academic stress, including midterm or final examinations,  
21 provide students information regarding online screenings  
22 and resources.

23 Section 30. Training.

24 (a) The board of trustees of each public college or  
25 university must designate an expert panel to develop and

1 implement policies and procedures that (i) advise students,  
2 faculty, and staff on the proper procedures for identifying and  
3 addressing the needs of students exhibiting symptoms of mental  
4 health conditions, (ii) promote understanding of the rules of  
5 Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the  
6 federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to increase  
7 knowledge and understanding of student protections under the  
8 law, and (iii) provide training if appropriate.

9 (b) The Technical Assistance Center under Section 45 shall  
10 set initial standards for policies and procedures referenced in  
11 subsection (a) to ensure statewide consistency.

12 (c) All resident assistants in a student housing facility,  
13 advisors, and campus security of a public college or university  
14 must participate in a national Mental Health First Aid training  
15 course or a similar program prior to the commencement of their  
16 duties. Training must include the policies and procedures  
17 developed by the public college or university referenced under  
18 subsection (a).

19 Section 35. Peer support.

20 (a) Because peer support programs may be beneficial in  
21 improving the emotional well-being of the student population,  
22 each public college or university must develop and implement a  
23 peer support program utilizing student peers to support  
24 individuals living with mental health conditions on campus.  
25 Peer support programs may be housed within resident assistant



1 programs, counseling centers, or wellness centers on campus.

2 (b) Peer support programs must utilize best practices for  
3 peer support, including, but not limited to, (i) utilizing the  
4 tenets of the recovery model for mental health, (ii) adequate  
5 planning and preparation, including standardizing guidance and  
6 practices, identifying needs of the target population, and  
7 aligning program goals to meet those needs, (iii) clearly  
8 articulating policies, especially around role boundaries and  
9 confidentiality, (iv) systematic screening with defined  
10 selection criteria for peer supporters, such as communication  
11 skills, leadership ability, character, previous experience or  
12 training, and ability to serve as a positive role model, (v)  
13 identifying benefits from peer status, such as experiential  
14 learning, social support, leadership, and improved  
15 self-confidence, (vi) continuing education for peer supporters  
16 to support each other and improve peer support skills, and  
17 (vii) flexibility in availability by offering services through  
18 drop-in immediate support and the ability to book appointments.

19 Section 40. Local partnerships.

20 (a) Each public college or university must form strategic  
21 partnerships with local mental health service providers to  
22 improve overall campus mental wellness and augment on-campus  
23 capacity. The strategic partnerships must include linkage  
24 agreements with off-campus mental health service providers  
25 that establish a foundation for referrals for students when

1 needs cannot be met on campus due to capacity or preference of  
2 the student. The strategic partnerships must also include (i)  
3 avenues for on-campus and off-campus mental health service  
4 providers to increase visibility to students via marketing and  
5 outreach, (ii) opportunities to engage the student body through  
6 student outreach initiatives like mindfulness workshops or  
7 campus-wide wellness fairs, and (iii) opportunities to support  
8 awareness and training requirements under this Act.

9 (b) Through a combination of on-campus capacity,  
10 off-campus linkage agreements with mental health service  
11 providers, and contracted telehealth therapy services, each  
12 public college or university must maintain a ratio of one  
13 clinical, non-student staff member to 1,250 students. If  
14 linkage agreements are used, the agreements must include the  
15 capacity of students providers are expected to serve within the  
16 agency. Five years after the effective date of this Act, each  
17 public college or university must maintain a ratio of one  
18 clinical, non-student staff member to 1,000 students. Funding  
19 made available through this Act must be used by a public  
20 college or university to build on-campus clinical capacities  
21 under this subsection.

22 (c) Each public college or university must work with local  
23 resources, such as on-campus mental health counseling centers  
24 or wellness centers, local mental health service providers, or  
25 non-providers, such as affiliates of the National Alliance on  
26 Mental Illness, and any other resources to meet the awareness

1 and training requirements under Sections 25 and 30 of this Act.

2 Section 45. Technical Assistance Center. The Board of  
3 Higher Education must develop a Technical Assistance Center  
4 that is responsible for all of the following:

5 (1) Developing standardized policies for medical leave  
6 related to mental health conditions for students of a  
7 public college or university, which may be adopted by the  
8 public college or university.

9 (2) Providing tailored support to public colleges or  
10 universities in reviewing policies related to students  
11 living with mental health conditions and their academic  
12 standing.

13 (3) Establishing initial standards for policies and  
14 procedures under subsection (a) of Section 30.

15 (4) Disseminating best practices around peer support  
16 programs, including widely accepted selection criteria for  
17 individuals serving in a peer support role.

18 (5) Developing statewide standards and best practices  
19 for partnerships between local mental health agencies and  
20 college campuses across this State.

21 (6) Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data  
22 related to mental health needs and academic engagement  
23 across this State.

24 (7) Housing data collected by each public college or  
25 university related to Section 50 and analyzing and

1 disseminating best practices to each public college or  
2 university based on that data.

3 (8) Monitoring and evaluating linkage agreements  
4 required under Section 40 to ensure required capacity is  
5 met by each public college or university.

6 (9) Facilitating a learning community across all  
7 public colleges or universities to support capacity  
8 building and learning across those institutions.

9 Section 50. Evaluation. Each public college or university  
10 must evaluate the following programs under this Act in the  
11 following manner:

12 (1) Awareness and training programs under Sections 25  
13 and 30 must be monitored for effectiveness and quality by  
14 the public college or university. Monitoring measures  
15 shall include, but are not limited to, (i) increased  
16 understanding of mental health conditions, (ii) reduced  
17 stigma toward mental health conditions, (iii) increased  
18 understanding of mental health resources available to  
19 students, (iv) increased understanding of resources for  
20 mental health emergencies available to students, and (v)  
21 viewing each mental health resource website or mobile  
22 application of the public college or university.

23 (2) Peer support programs under Section 35 must be  
24 monitored for effectiveness and quality by the public  
25 college or university. Monitoring measures shall include,

1 but are not limited to, (i) improved symptomatology, (ii)  
2 if needed, connection to additional services, (iii)  
3 student satisfaction, (iv) wait time for drop-in  
4 appointments, (v) wait time for scheduled appointments,  
5 and (vi) satisfaction with the training curriculum for peer  
6 supporters.

7 (3) Local partnership programs under Section 40 must be  
8 monitored for effectiveness and quality by the public  
9 college or university. Monitoring measures shall include,  
10 but are not limited to, (i) wait time for drop-in  
11 appointments for on-campus or off-campus telehealth  
12 therapy providers, (ii) wait time for scheduled  
13 appointments for on-campus or off-campus telehealth  
14 therapy providers, (iii) the number of linkage agreements  
15 and contracts in place based on student population, (iv)  
16 student satisfaction with on-campus or off-campus  
17 telehealth therapy providers, (v) range of treatment  
18 models offered to students, (vi) average length of stay in  
19 treatment, (vii) number and range of student outreach  
20 initiatives, such as telehealth mindfulness workshops or  
21 campus-wide wellness fairs, and (viii) number of students  
22 being served annually.

23 Section 55. Funding. This Act is subject to appropriation,  
24 and no Section of this Act may be funded by new student fees.  
25 Public colleges or universities may seek federal funding or

1 private grants, if available, to support the provisions of this  
2 Act.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
4 2020.