

**HB 2456-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds that children's behavioral and mental health is critical to school readiness and when left untreated, behavioral and mental health issues create the potential of significant damage and life-long consequences.

Finds that behavioral and mental health consultation in child-care settings can provide information, education, and support for caregivers, administrators, and parents to enable them to identify and work more effectively with children presenting difficult behaviors or other challenges.

Declares an intent to promote the integration of behavioral and mental health services into early care and education settings as a means of early intervention to prevent more serious, long-term consequences and to promote quality child care continuity and school readiness for more children.

Establishes the child care mental health consultation pilot program.

Provides that the act shall be null and void if appropriations are not approved.