
Education Committee

HB 2037

Brief Description: Requiring mental health assessments for K-12 students who were removed from school due to violence or mental health issues.

Sponsors: Representative Klippert.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires a student who is suspended or removed for violence or mental health issues to be evaluated by a mental health professional prior to returning to school.

Hearing Date: 2/16/15

Staff: Robin Hammond (786-7291).

Background:

There are three types of suspensions and expulsions: (1) a short-term suspension that lasts up to 10 consecutive school days; (2) an emergency expulsion, which must end or be converted to another form of corrective action within 10 school days; and (3) a long-term suspension or expulsion that may last for up to one year for students who engage in certain activities and crimes. Where warranted based on public health or safety, a student may be expelled for more than one year.

All expulsion and suspension rules must comport with due process for the student and may not be for an indefinite period of time. Districts must make reasonable efforts to assist a student and his or her parents in returning to an educational setting. School districts must create a reengagement plan tailored to the student's individual circumstances that considers shortening the length of time that the student is suspended or expelled, other forms of corrective action, and supportive interventions that aid in the student's academic success and keep the student engaged and on track to graduate.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

School districts must require a student to be assessed by an independent, private, third-party mental health professional when the student is expelled, suspended, or removed from school for reasons related to violence or mental health issues. A mental health professional is a person who treats a patient's mental health needs, such as a psychologist or a psychiatrist, and who does not currently treat the student. The mental health professional must decide that the student is mentally healthy before the student may return to school.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 02/10/15.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.