SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 785
99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NASHEED.

Pre-filed December 7, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to student mental health at public institutions of higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 173.2528 and 173.2530, to read as follows:

173.2528. 1. There is hereby established within the department of higher education the coordinating board for mental health issues in higher education (CBMHI).

2. Each public institution of higher education shall have one representative on the CBMHI. The representative shall be either an administrator or counseling director at the institution.

173.2530. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term "student counseling facility" means any entity that provides confidential mental health counseling, psychiatric services, or developmental counseling to college students that is located on campus or is associated with the institution of higher education and operates in accordance with state and federal law pertaining to mental health professions as well as applicable professional and ethical codes.

2. Prior to January 1, 2020, the coordinating board for mental health issues in higher education CBMHI shall promulgate rules setting forth reasonable standards and regulations for student counseling facilities at public institutions of higher education in this state relating to average wait time to see a mental health professional for an initial appointment, the average number of sessions available to students, when appropriate, before an off-campus referral, prevention services and any other factors the CBMHI determines are contributing factors.
leading to the prevalence of mental health problems within the academic community. After establishing such standards and regulations, the CBMHI shall develop a process for measuring an institution's ability to adequately meet student mental health needs using assessment criteria developed in validated studies of well-being and student mental health in order to ensure that the effectiveness of the student counseling programs are objectively evaluated.

3. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, and continuing on an annual basis thereafter, each public institution of higher education shall publish a report measuring compliance with the standards established in subsection 2 of this section. If an institution does not meet these standards, it shall include in the report a plan to meet these standards within three academic years. Additionally, the report shall include a measure of the institution's ability to adequately meet student mental health needs, using the process established in subsection 2 of this section. All reports required by this section shall be made available to the public.

4. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2018, shall be invalid and void.