

HB0908



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB0908

by Rep. Jonathan Carroll

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Higher Education Mental Health Act. Provides for legislative findings and purposes. Requires the Board of Higher Education to establish the Advisory Commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education; provides for the membership and meetings of the Commission. Requires the Commission to conduct a study and prepare reports for the Higher Education Committee of the House of Representatives and the Higher Education Committee of the Senate; specifies the report's requirements. Provides that the Commission is dissolved on the day after it submits its final report. Repeals the Act on June 1, 2023.

LRB101 05899 AXK 50920 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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 Higher
5 Education Mental Health Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purposes.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds the following:

8 (1) More than 75% of mental health conditions begin
9 before the age of 24.

10 (2) More than 25% of students 18 years of age or older
11 and under 24 reported a mental health concern.

12 (3) More than 50% of students 18 years of age or older
13 and under 24 reported having a severe psychological
14 problem.

15 (4) More than 50% of students 18 years of age or older
16 and under 24 reported feelings of hopelessness.

17 (5) Higher education counseling centers are devoting
18 more time to rapid-response treatment, with more than 25%
19 of students who sought help reporting that they had
20 intentionally hurt themselves.

21 (6) Over a 5-year period, counseling center
22 utilization increased by an average of 30% to 40%, while
23 enrollment increased by only 5%, forcing institutions of

1 higher education to provide mental health services to more
2 students without increasing resources.

3 (b) The purposes of this Act are the following:

4 (1) To ensure institutions of higher education are
5 provided with accurate information on the mental health
6 concerns facing students.

7 (2) To provide detailed recommendations that
8 institutions of higher education and this State can use to
9 improve the mental health services available to students
10 and properly treat the rising number of students with
11 mental health issues.

12 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

13 "Commission" means the Advisory Commission on Serving and
14 Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in
15 Institutions of Higher Education.

16 "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the
17 Board of Higher Education.

18 Section 15. Commission created.

19 (a) The Board of Higher Education shall establish a
20 commission to be known as the Advisory Commission on Serving
21 and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in
22 Institutions of Higher Education. The Commission may not be
23 comprised of more than 25 members and must include all of the
24 following members, to be appointed within 60 days after the

1 effective date of this Act:

2 (1) One Representative appointed by the Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives.

4 (2) One Representative appointed by the Minority
5 Leader of the House of Representatives.

6 (3) One Senator appointed by the President of the
7 Senate.

8 (4) One Senator appointed by the Minority Leader of the
9 Senate.

10 (5) One member appointed by the Governor.

11 (6) One member appointed by the Executive Director.

12 (7) One member representing the Department of Human
13 Services' Division of Mental Health, appointed by the
14 Secretary of Human Services.

15 (8) One member from each dean of students' office at
16 the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
17 State University, and Northwestern University, appointed
18 by the Executive Director.

19 (9) One member from the Student Success Center at
20 Richland Community College, appointed by the Executive
21 Director.

22 (10) One member from Wellness Services at Southwestern
23 Illinois College, appointed by the Executive Director.

24 (11) One member from a Wellness Center at the City
25 Colleges of Chicago, appointed by the Executive Director.

26 (12) One member representing the Illinois Association

1 for Behavioral Health, appointed by the Executive
2 Director.

3 (13) One member representing Mental Health America of
4 Illinois, appointed by the Executive Director.

5 (14) One member representing an association of
6 administrative and personnel professionals focused on
7 creating an inclusive higher education environment for
8 individuals with disabilities, appointed by the Executive
9 Director.

10 (15) One member representing an organization of
11 secondary and postsecondary education students with mental
12 health disabilities advocating for mental health services
13 and suicide prevention, appointed by the Executive
14 Director.

15 (16) The following members representing institutions
16 of higher education of varying size in this State,
17 appointed by the Executive Director:

18 (A) Three members who are each a family member of
19 an individual who is:

20 (i) enrolled in an institution of higher
21 education on the date the family member is
22 appointed to the Commission; or

23 (ii) a former student of an institution of
24 higher education with a mental health disability.

25 (B) Four members who are individuals with mental
26 health disabilities, at least 2 of whom must be

1 enrolled in an institution of higher education on the
2 date of appointment. Any remaining members must be
3 individuals with a mental health disability who have
4 attended an institution of higher education.

5 (b) The members of the Commission shall serve without
6 compensation, but must be reimbursed for reasonable travel
7 expenses, subject to appropriation to the Board of Higher
8 Education and the rules of the appropriate travel control
9 board. The Board of Higher Education and the federal government
10 may provide administrative and other support to the Commission.
11 The Board of Higher Education shall make available to the
12 Commission necessary equipment, supplies, and services.

13 Section 20. Meetings. No later than 60 days after the
14 appointment of the members of the Commission under Section 15,
15 the Commission shall hold its first meeting, on a date
16 determined by the Board of Higher Education, and must select a
17 chairperson and vice chairperson from among the members of the
18 Commission. The vice chairperson must be a member who is a
19 student or former student with a mental health disability.
20 After its first meeting, the Commission must meet at the call
21 of the chairperson, but not more than a total of 8 times.

22 Section 25. Study and report.

23 (a) The Commission shall conduct a study and prepare
24 reports for the Higher Education Committee of the House of

1 Representatives and the Higher Education Committee of the
2 Senate that includes all of the following:

3 (1) Findings from stakeholders, including through the
4 solicitation of public testimony, related to the
5 challenges faced by students with mental health
6 disabilities in institutions of higher education,
7 including:

8 (A) the services available to students with mental
9 health disabilities at institutions of higher
10 education and the services' effectiveness in
11 supporting these students;

12 (B) the impact of policies and procedures that help
13 or hinder the goal of providing equal opportunity for
14 students with mental health disabilities, such as
15 reasonable accommodation policies, mandatory and
16 voluntary leave policies, and disciplinary policies;

17 (C) the use of protected health information of
18 students with mental health disabilities by
19 institutions of higher education, including the extent
20 to which campus-based mental health providers share
21 this information with college or university officials
22 without a student's consent; and

23 (D) the impact of providing mental health services
24 on a student's academic performance, well-being, and
25 ability to complete college.

26 (2) Conclusions on the major challenges facing

1 students with mental health disabilities in institutions
2 of higher education.

3 (3) Recommendations to improve the overall education
4 and retention and graduation of students with mental health
5 disabilities in institutions of higher education, with the
6 goal of helping those students access educational
7 opportunities equal to those of their peers who do not have
8 a disability.

9 (b) The Commission shall prepare and submit to the
10 Executive Director, the Higher Education Committee of the House
11 of Representatives, and the Higher Education Committee of the
12 Senate all of the following:

13 (1) An interim report that summarizes the progress of
14 the Commission, along with any interim findings,
15 conclusions, and recommendations, as described in
16 subsection (a).

17 (2) A final report that states final findings,
18 conclusions, and recommendations, as described in
19 subsection (a).

20 (c) The reports required under subsection (b) shall be
21 prepared and submitted by the following dates:

22 (1) in the case of the interim report, no later than
23 one year after the date in which all of the members of the
24 Commission are appointed; and

25 (2) in the case of the final report, no later than 2
26 years after the date in which all of the members of the

1 Commission are appointed.

2 Section 90. Dissolution and repealer.

3 (a) The Commission is dissolved on the day after the date
4 the Commission submits its final report under Section 25.

5 (b) This Act is repealed on June 1, 2023.