

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 3 - 0
Yeas:	Fagan, Gomberg, Gorsek, Reardon, Sprenger, Gelser
Nays:	Huffman, Parrish, Whisnant
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/5, 4/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows parent or guardian to request in writing that student not participate in a mental health screening conducted in school when screenings applies to all students in one of more grades or all students in one or more classrooms. Requires school district to mail notice to last known address of family at least two weeks in advance of screening. Specifies that notice must explain that there is the right to request in writing not to participate in the screening; that student may refuse to participate on day of screening even if student had not provided prior written notice; explain who will administer and have access to screening; and, meet other requirements established by State Board of Education rules. Prohibits result from being included in student's education record. Specifies that for a school to conduct a mental health screening on an individual student, that parent or legal guardian must give written consent. Prohibits altering rights of a child with a disability from receiving evaluations under current special education statutes. Applies to screenings on or after effective date of Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purpose of amendment
- Early identification of mental illness
- Process involved in screening

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: A 2007 study by Harvard Medical School researcher Ronald Kessler found that 50 percent of all mental illnesses start by age 14. The 2011 Oregon Healthy Teens survey found that 13.6 percent of eighth-graders who responded said they had seriously considered attempting suicide. A recent pilot program in Linn County introduced mental health screening of students, much like vision or hearing checks in schools.

According to the American Psychological Association, an estimated 15 million of our nation's young people can currently be diagnosed with a mental health disorder. Many more are at risk of developing a disorder due to risk factors in their biology or genetics; within their families, schools, and communities; and among their peers. However, a Surgeon General's Report estimated that only about 7 percent of these youth who need services receive appropriate help from mental health professionals.