

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill  
3 No. 197 entitled “An act relating to the Coordinated Mental Health Crisis  
4 Response Working Group” respectfully reports that it has considered the same  
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Mental Health Crisis Response Inventory \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. INVENTORY OF MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE  
9 PROGRAMS

10 The Department of Mental Health, in consultation with the Agencies of  
11 Education and of Human Services and the Department of Public Service, shall  
12 inventory all mental health crisis response programs that utilize State funds.  
13 On or before January 15, 2023, the Department shall submit the inventory to  
14 the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate Committee on Health  
15 and Welfare.

16 \* \* \* Integrating Mental Health and Afterschool Programming \* \* \*

17 Sec. 2. GRANT TO EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO YOUTH  
18 IN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING

19 (a) In fiscal year 2023, \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the federal  
20 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) to  
21 the Department of Mental Health to establish and administer a two-year

1 program, in consultation with the Agency of Education, that provides grants to  
2 both school-based and community-based afterschool programs to support the  
3 mental health and wellness needs of students, families, and staff. Grants shall  
4 be available to programs operating in a variety of settings outside the school  
5 day and over the summer, including before and after school, in-service days,  
6 and school vacation weeks.

7 (b) The Department shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines  
8 necessary for implementation of the program described in subsection (a) of this  
9 section.

10 (c) The Department shall issue grants to afterschool programs in  
11 geographically diverse regions on a first-come-first-served basis until funds are  
12 depleted when the applicant program meets the following eligibility criteria:

13 (1) uses evidence-based strategies to address students' social, emotional,  
14 mental health, and wellness needs;

15 (2) works in close partnership with classroom teachers and school  
16 guidance counselors to coordinate supports, communication, and strategies;

17 (3) uses specially trained staff to provide one-on-one and small group  
18 supports and resilience sessions for children and youth, including addressing  
19 specific needs, such as suicide prevention, social isolation, anxiety, and  
20 substance use;

1           (4) provides participating families with assistance in navigating  
2           behavioral health resources in their communities;

3           (5) provides opportunities for children and youth to participate in  
4           activities that heal and prevent social isolation, such as outdoor activities, art  
5           therapy, recreation, and time in nature;

6           (6) collects data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the mental health  
7           and wellness supports and interventions utilized in the program;

8           (7) consults with local pediatricians to provide referrals for support;

9           (8) connects to and aligns with statewide initiatives, including Building  
10          Flourishing Communities, Youth Thrive, and the Vermont Youth Project; and

11          (9) provides staff training on Youth Mental Health First Aid and other  
12          evidence-based techniques and approaches to crisis prevention and  
13          intervention, such as trauma-responsive practices, adolescent brain  
14          development, and how to build a culture of connection.

15          (d) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department shall submit a report to  
16          the House Committees on Education and on Human Services and to the Senate  
17          Committees on Education and on Health and Welfare summarizing the  
18          afterschool programs to which grants were awarded.



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2 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE