

1

H.817

2 An act relating to mental health literacy and peer-to-peer supports in
3 schools

4 The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after
5 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY AND
7 PEER SUPPORT INITIATIVES

8 It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Mental
9 Health, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall oversee a mental
10 health literacy training grant program to provide mental health literacy training
11 to educators, other school personnel, and afterschool staff and a peer-to-peer
12 mental health program to support structured opportunities for student peer
13 connection in a supervised school or afterschool setting to take effect on July
14 1, 2028.

15 Sec. 2. FUNDING; MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY AND PEER SUPPORT
16 INITIATIVES

17 As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of
18 Mental Health, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall explore
19 potential funding sources for the mental health literacy and peer-to-peer
20 programming described in Sec. 1 of this act, including whether any existing

1 special funds are appropriate sources of funding, and provide
2 recommendations accordingly.

3 Sec. 3. INVENTORY; MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY AND PEER
4 SUPPORT INITIATIVES

5 On or before January 15, 2027, the Department of Mental Health, in
6 collaboration with the Agency of Education and stakeholders, shall submit an
7 inventory of existing mental health programming and services in schools to the
8 House Committees on Appropriations and on Health Care and to the Senate
9 Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare. The inventory
10 shall include a recommendation to integrate the mental health literacy and
11 peer-to-peer programming described in Sec. 1 of this act into the existing
12 programming and services listed in the inventory required pursuant to this
13 section.

14 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.