



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

May 11, 2026

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H.817 – An act relating to mental health literacy and peer-to-peer supports in schools

As recommended by the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, Draft 3.1¹

Bill Summary

The bill would require, as part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, that the Department of Mental Health (DMH), in collaboration with the Agency of Education (AOE), explore and provide recommendations on potential funding sources for a mental health literacy and peer-to-peer training program for educators, other school personnel, and afterschool staff, including whether any existing special funds are appropriate sources of funding.

The bill would also require DMH, in collaboration with AOE, to submit an inventory of existing mental health programming services in schools to the legislative committees of jurisdiction. The inventory would include a recommendation to integrate a mental health literacy and peer-to-peer programming into the existing programming and services listed in the inventory.

The bill does not include any appropriations.

Other

The bill as introduced was originally titled “An act relating to mental health support and substance use disorder prevention in schools.”

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations. The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.