

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 817 entitled “An act relating to mental health literacy and peer-to-peer
4 supports in schools” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 **Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY AND**
9 **PEER SUPPORT INITIATIVES**

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

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

18 As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of
19 Mental Health, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall explore
20 potential funding sources for the mental health literary and peer-to-peer
21 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, shall submit an inventory of
7 existing mental health programming and services in schools to the House
8 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.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE