

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 Mental  
11 Health, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall oversee a mental  
12 health literacy training grant program to provide mental health literacy training  
13 to educators, other school personnel, and afterschool staff and a peer-to-peer  
14 mental health program to support structured opportunities for student peer  
15 connection in a supervised school or afterschool setting to take effect on July  
16 1, 2028.

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

19 As part of its fiscal year 2028 budget presentation, the Department of  
20 Mental Health, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall explore  
21 potential funding sources for the mental health literacy and peer-to-peer

1 programming described in Sec. 1 of this act, including whether any existing  
2 special funds are appropriate sources of funding, and provide  
3 recommendations accordingly.

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

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

15 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 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