

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
Bill Instruction Sheet



Principal Author: Mattilyn Wiseman

Bill No: 66

Committee: Education 2

Status:

Passed by: Committee House Senate Governor

Tabled by: Committee House Senate Governor

Other: _____

Simple Title of Bill: Bill to require public school students biannual counselor check-ins

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BILL

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70TH SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2017

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INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

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RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS WITHIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS;
PREVENTION OF NEGLECT IN MENTAL HEALTH; INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND
SUCCESS OF STUDENT POPULATION; IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT
WELLBEING; INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE

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DEFINITIONS:

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A. “certified counselor” – must have national certified
school counselor credential issued by the national board for
certified counselors; or licensed professional mental health
counselor (LPC) or licensed professional clinical mental health
counselor (LPCC) credential issued by the New Mexico counseling
and therapy practice board and a minimum of six (6) semester
hours of graduate credit in school counseling coursework; or
master’s degree from a regionally accredited college or
university; the master’s degree requirement shall be satisfied
by meeting the requirements of either one of the following: (a),

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1 A master’s degree awarded by a New Mexico college or university
2 must incorporate the New Mexico PED approved competencies in the
3 area of school counseling, or (b), A master’s degree awarded by
4 a college or university outside of New Mexico must be for a
5 school counseling program approved by the PED.

6 B. “biannual mental health check-ins” – Biannual check-ins
7 with school counselors, which gives students opportunities for
8 future planning help, mental illness treatment, prevention of
9 drug abuse, bullying, and overwhelming stress, or whatever the
10 student sees fit to discuss to which is relevant to himself.

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12 **MAIN PROVISIONS:** All public schools should provide mental health
13 facilities, as well as require students to meet with a certified
14 school counselor biannually to: spread mental illness awareness
15 and treatment; provide helpful tools to deal with high school
16 issues such as bullying, anxiety, alcohol and drug abuse, among
17 other challenges; begin future planning, and other areas in which
18 a counselor might be able to help with. Mandatory biannual mental
19 health check-ins increase academic efficiency as well as long
20 term success and positive well being. Such visits would also help
21 to address issues that could later be detrimental to an
22 individual, which could prevent reckless, illegal, and
23 unsatisfactory behavior. Incarceration rates would drop, as it
24 should be noted that a systematic review of 62 surveys have
25 resulted in data that show, among men, 3.7 percent had psychotic
26 illness, 10 percent major depressive disorder, 65 percent with a
27 personality disorder, 47 percent of which with antisocial
28 personality disorder. Among women, 4 percent had psychosis, 12
29 percent major depressive disorder, and 42 percent a personality
30 disorder. In addition, a significant number suffered from Post
31 Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anxiety disorders, attention deficit
32 Hyperactivity Disorder, and other developmental disorders. With
33 correct mental illness awareness, and attention to importance of
34 dealing with any sort of developing mental issue early on, before
35 it progresses without treatment, the New Mexico population can
36 raise the standard of living, increase student success, raise
37 education standards, lower the unemployment rate, and lower
38 incarceration rates.

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40 **APPROPRIATION:**

41 All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New
42 Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

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44 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

45 The provisions of this act shall be effective on and after August 1st, 2018