

**CHAPTER 255**  
**HB 131 - FINAL VERSION**

14Feb2019... 0249h  
27Jun2019... 2605-CofC

2019 SESSION

19-0046  
06/04

HOUSE BILL                    ***131***

AN ACT                    establishing a commission on mental health education and behavioral health and wellness programs.

SPONSORS:                Rep. Cornell, Hills. 18; Rep. Heath, Hills. 14; Rep. Martin, Hills. 23; Rep. Berrien, Rock. 18; Rep. T. Le, Rock. 31; Rep. Van Houten, Hills. 45; Rep. Fenton, Ches. 8; Rep. T. Smith, Hills. 17

COMMITTEE:                Education

---

AMENDED ANALYSIS

      This bill establishes a commission to develop and promote mental health programs and behavioral health and wellness programs in kindergarten through grade 12.

-----

Explanation:                Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                                  Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
                                  Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

**CHAPTER 255**  
**HB 131 - FINAL VERSION**

14Feb2019... 0249h  
27Jun2019... 2605-CofC

19-0046  
06/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen*

AN ACT                    establishing a commission on mental health education and behavioral health and wellness programs.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            255:1 New Subdivision; Commission on Mental Health Education and Behavioral Health and  
2 Wellness Programs. Amend RSA 193-E by inserting after section 5 the following new subdivision:

3                            Commission on Mental Health Education Programs and  
4    Behavioral Health and Wellness Programs

5            193-E:6 Commission Established.

6            I. There is established a commission to develop and promote mental health curriculum and  
7 behavioral health and wellness education programs in kindergarten through grade 12.

8            II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

9                    (a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the  
10 house of representatives.

11                    (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

12                    (c) One teacher of health or related subjects, appointed by the governor.

13                    (d) One member of the New Hampshire School Boards Association, appointed by the  
14 association.

15                    (e) One member of the New Hampshire Association of School Principals, appointed by  
16 the association.

17                    (f) One member of the New Hampshire School Administrators Association, appointed by  
18 the association.

19                    (g) One member of the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators,  
20 appointed by the association.

21                    (h) One member of the New Hampshire Association of School Psychologists, appointed  
22 by the association.

23                    (i) One member of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by the  
24 association.

25                    (j) One member of the Institute on Disability of the university of New Hampshire,  
26 appointed by the institute.

27                    (k) One member of the New Hampshire Center for Effective Behavioral Interventions  
28 and Supports, appointed by the center.

**CHAPTER 255**  
**HB 131 - FINAL VERSION**  
**- Page 2 -**

1           (l) One representative of a New Hampshire mental health center, appointed by the  
2 governor.

3           (m) One school resource officer, appointed by the governor.

4           (n) One representative of the student assistance program of the department of health  
5 and human services, appointed by the commissioner.

6           (o) One school nurse, appointed by the New Hampshire School Nurses' Association,  
7 appointed by the association.

8           (p) One member of the Manchester health department, appointed by the director.

9           (q) One New Hampshire pediatrician, appointed by the New Hampshire Medical Society.

10          (r) One representative of the office of behavioral health, department of health and  
11 human services, appointed by the commissioner.

12          (s) One member of NAMI New Hampshire, appointed by the alliance.

13          (t) One member of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, appointed by the  
14 foundation.

15          (u) One member of the New Hampshire School Counselor Association, appointed by the  
16 association.

17          (v) One staff member of the department of education with expertise in health care,  
18 health education, or curriculum development, appointed by the commissioner of education.

19          (w) One teacher of health or related subjects, appointed by NEA-NH.

20          III. The commission shall:

21           (a) Examine the K-12 mental health curriculum and social and emotional learning  
22 programs for all grade levels as a way to establish a culture of mental health in schools that adheres  
23 to safety protocols, is free of the stigmatization of mental health challenges, and reduces or prevents  
24 harm or violence.

25           (b) Determine methods for providing help for students in kindergarten through grade 12  
26 who are experiencing a mental health challenge.

27           (c) Assess possible threats posed by individuals or groups exhibiting warning signs or  
28 pre-incident indicators.

29           (d) Review the state's anti-bullying laws and recommend any needed updates to RSA  
30 193-F.

31           (e) Determine ways to expand community and not-for-profit mental health services.

32           (f) Develop an age-appropriate school outreach program that educates staff and students  
33 on reducing the stigma of mental illness and what to do when someone is in crisis.

34           (g) Increase and promote Mental Health First Aid to school staff, students, and families  
35 to provide the school community with the resources to effectively manage a mental health incident.

36           (h) Develop a threat assessment task force at the community or district level that  
37 engages the local public health network, including an intervention and reporting protocol that

**CHAPTER 255**  
**HB 131 - FINAL VERSION**  
**- Page 3 -**

1 evaluates students quickly and efficiently and provides a plan to help appropriately return students  
2 to school.

3 (i) Increase and promote evidence-based best practice suicide prevention to ensure  
4 assessors use the latest standards, knowledge, and techniques.

5 (j) Include instruction regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

6 (k) Determine methodologies for implementing recommendations of the governor's  
7 school safety preparedness task force.

8 (l) Examine and develop methodologies for implementing applicable recommendations of  
9 the 2018 10-year mental health plan of the department of health and human services, when  
10 completed.

11 IV. The chairperson may assign members to subgroups to accomplish the duties of the  
12 commission.

13 V. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when  
14 attending to the duties of the commission.

15 VI. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The  
16 first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting  
17 of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Fourteen  
18 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

19 VII. The commission shall submit interim reports of its findings and any recommendations  
20 for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate,  
21 the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on January 30, 2020 and June  
22 30, 2020, and a final report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the  
23 speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate  
24 clerk, the governor, and the state library on November 30, 2020. The reports shall evaluate the  
25 implementation of recommendations.

26 255:2 Repeal. RSA 193-E:6, relative to the commission on mental health education programs, is  
27 repealed.

28

29 255:3 Effective Date.

30 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 30, 2020.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: July 19, 2019

Effective Date:

I. Section 2 shall take effect November 30, 2020.

II. Remainder shall take effect July 19, 2019.