

House Bill 564

By: Representatives Berry of the 56th, Glaize of the 67th, Crawford of the 89th, Santos of the 117th, and Sanchez of the 42nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to health of students, so as to provide that the Department of Education
3 shall develop a mental health crisis plan to rapidly provide mental health services to students
4 experiencing incidents of violence, threats of violence, natural disasters, or other crisis
5 situations; to provide for a definition; to provide for the development and distribution of
6 promotional materials, training programs, and curricula; to provide for the adoption of rules
7 and regulations; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Prevention and Plan Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
14 relating to health of students, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

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15 "20-2-779.5.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'local education agency' shall have the same
17 meaning as set forth in Code Section 20-2-167.1.

18 (b) The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral
19 Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Suicide Prevention Program established
20 pursuant to Code Section 37-1-27, and mental health experts, shall develop a mental health
21 crisis plan to rapidly provide mental health services to students experiencing incidents of
22 violence, threats of violence, natural disasters, or other crisis situations.

23 (c) By January 1, 2026, the mental health crisis plan shall be made available to all local
24 education agencies in this state.

25 (d) The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral
26 Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Suicide Prevention Program established
27 pursuant to Code Section 37-1-27, and mental health experts, shall be authorized to develop
28 promotional materials, training programs, and curricula to be used in training students and
29 school personnel to recognize and report severe mental illness and to provide such
30 materials, programs, and curricula to local education agencies.

31 (e) The Department of Education shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the
32 provisions of this Code section."

33

SECTION 3.

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.