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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 126
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Manning

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes a mental health professional to provide a crisis assessment to a minor without parental consent or knowledge under specified circumstances.
- Requires the professional who provided the assessment to make a good faith effort to notify the minor's parent, guardian, or legal custodian about the assessment as soon as practicable.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Crisis assessment without parental consent

The bill authorizes a mental health professional to provide a crisis assessment to a minor of any age without parental consent or knowledge if both of the following are the case:¹

--The professional believes that the minor is suicidal or has received credible information from an adult supervising the minor that the minor is or is believed to be suicidal; and

--The minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian is not available to provide consent.

As soon as practicable after the crisis assessment, the mental health professional must make a good faith effort to notify the minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian that the assessment was provided.²

¹ R.C. 5122.04(D)(1).

² R.C. 5122.04(D)(2).

Under existing law not modified by the bill, a mental health professional may already provide not more than six sessions or 30 days of outpatient mental health services (whichever occurs sooner) to a minor 14 years of age or older without parental consent or knowledge, if the minor requests the services.³

For purposes of the new and existing laws described above, a “mental health professional” is defined as a person qualified to work with mentally ill persons under standards established by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services pursuant to current law.⁴ Currently, this term is defined to have the same meaning as in R.C. 340.02; however, that statute no longer includes a definition of “mental health professional.” Accordingly, under current law, it is unclear which mental health professionals may provide the outpatient mental health services described above.

Appropriation

The bill makes an appropriation of up to \$5,000,000 for FY 2019 (which has expired) to support the employment of social workers, mental health professionals, and behavioral health professionals at educational service centers.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-09-19

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³ R.C. 5122.04(B).

⁴ R.C. 5119.36, not in the bill.

⁵ Sections 3 and 5.