



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

March 27, 2026

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H.817 – An act relating to mental health literacy and peer-to-peer supports in schools

As passed by the House¹

Bill Summary

The bill proposes a mental health literacy training curriculum for educators and other school personnel. The bill would also establish a pilot peer-to-peer mental health support program in schools. The bill does not include any appropriations for the programs.

Fiscal Impact

Sec. 1 states that “to the extent funds are available, a public school may apply to the Department of Mental Health or designee for a grant to provide mental health literacy training to educators and other school personnel.” However, the bill does not include any appropriation to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to award any such grants.

Sec. 1 also requires DMH to provide oversight and guidance to any school, afterschool program, or youth mentoring agency seeking to establish or maintain a peer-to-peer mental health program, including qualification of the adult overseeing the peer-to-peer mental health program. However, the bill does not identify or appropriate any resources to support the program.

Other

The bill as introduced was originally titled “An act relating to mental health support and substance use disorder prevention in schools.”

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations. The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.