

HB1312 – Introduction and Support

Chair Elkin, Vice-Chair Beard, and Members of the Committee on Education:

For the record, I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative.

The amendment to House Bill 1312 changes two dates in section 50-06-05.1, under powers and duties of the department. (Title 50 is Public Welfare; Chapter 50-06 is Department of Health and Human Services).

On page 1, lines 7 and 8: the year that this section is effective through was changed from 2025 to 2027.

The extension of the date to 2027 allows for legislation from the 67th legislative session to be “effective through” 2027.

This date change allows the Department of Health and Human Service to continue to provide resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to the behavioral health resource coordinator at each public school and to the designated individual at a nonpublic school. (See 28 - line 6 through 14 on page 6)

The extension of the date is because the department has funds through 2027 to provide the resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention free of charge. (See fiscal note)

On page 6, line 24: the year that sections of 50-06-05.1, powers and duties of the department, are “effective after” was changed from 2025 to 2027

The behavioral health resource coordinator is addressed in lines 14 through 17 (28) on page 11.

Although HB1312 is 11 pages in length, the focus of the amendment is a continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for staff in North Dakota schools. This virtual program, called Kognito (<https://kognito.com/>), is free to public and nonpublic schools in North Dakota. This program involves practice-based digital learning to improve mental health and well-being in schools. The role-play simulations enable educators to lead real-life conversations.

I am personally thankful that funds will be available through 2027. It is evidenced by data that programs to address mental health awareness and suicide prevention are needed and extremely important.

Thank you for your attention and I respectfully request the committee’s support of House Bill 1312.

March 8, 2023, 2PM