

HB 1987 -- Mental Health Screenings and Psychotropic Medications  
for Children

Sponsor: Leara

This bill changes the laws regarding mental health screenings in schools and establishes the Administration of Psychotropic Medications to Children Act.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must prohibit the use of a school for any mental health or psychological screening or testing of a student without the express written consent of his or her parent or legal guardian. The specified consent form must be signed by the parent or guardian at least 45 days in advance of any screening. Before consent to any screening, the school must provide a manual and other publications which fully describe specified information regarding the screening.

The Administration of Psychotropic Medications to Children Act is established which requires, by January 1, 2013, the Department of Social Services to promulgate or amend current rules to establish and maintain standards and procedures to govern the administration of psychotropic medications to specified youth for whom it is legally responsible. The department must submit, by July 31 of each year, a report to the General Assembly concerning the administration of psychotropic medications for the previous fiscal year which includes specified data and any recommendations for legislative changes or amendments to any of its rules or procedures.