

HB 867 -- SCREENING OF MEDICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR RISK OF DEPRESSION

SPONSOR: Frederick

This bill requires every medical student enrolled in a medical school in Missouri to be provided annually with an opportunity to be screened for risk of depression by completing an on-line survey. Each enrolled medical student must be provided with an opportunity to participate in the screening each year during the student's period of enrollment in medical school. Participation by medical students must be voluntary. The Department of Mental Health, in consultation with the medical schools in this state, must select and contract with an on-line survey organization to conduct the annual on-line surveys for all medical schools in this state, with the cost of the contract to be divided on a pro-rata basis between each medical school in Missouri. The on-line survey organization must have expertise and experience as specified in the bill and each medical school in this state must take certain actions as specified in the bill. The on-line survey organization must include checkoff boxes in the on-line survey to allow the medical student to elect to be notified if the student scored at an at-risk level or would like to request services from a mental health professional.

By October 1st of each year, Missouri medical schools must provide necessary information to conduct the survey of the students enrolled in the medical school to the on-line survey organization and by October 15th of each year, the on-line survey organization must electronically distribute surveys to medical students that includes a statement as specified in the bill. By November 15th of each year, the on-line survey organization must transmit anonymous scores of surveys to the department, identifying scores that are 22 or greater for each class at each school, the total number of scores obtained for each class at each school, and the total number of students enrolled in each class at each school. When the department certifies the anonymous data has been received, the department must instruct the on-line survey organization to destroy the individual data. By December 15th of each year, the department must assess the raw anonymous data as specified in the bill. By January 15th of each year, the department must transmit to each Missouri medical school the scores and the scores of each class of each Missouri medical school must be made available on every medical school's website in an easily accessible location on the site and in the format provided by the department which allows for easy comparison of the scores. The scores must also be made available on the department's website.

The surveys must be offered by the on-line survey organization

beginning October 1, 2015, and annually thereafter. Aggregate survey data must not be required to be made available to the public until the 2017-18 school year. The survey data made available by January 15, 2018, must include the survey data obtained from the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 classes. Subsequent disclosures of data must include the survey data for the current classes. The department must, in consultation with the on-line survey organization and the Missouri medical schools, establish protocols to ensure the confidentiality of survey data. For the 2015-16 classes only, if the department is unable to select and contract with an on-line survey organization in order to conduct the on-line survey in accordance with the dates under these provisions, the dates may be delayed as specified in the bill.