

By Representative Crady

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to required instruction;
3 amending s. 233.061, F.S.; specifying content
4 of required instruction in mental and emotional
5 health; providing and effective date.

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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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9 Section 1. Paragraph (m) of subsection (2) of section
10 233.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 233.061 Required instruction.--

12 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
13 schools, subject to the rules and regulations of the
14 commissioner, the state board, and the school board, shall
15 teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and
16 materials required, following the prescribed courses of study,
17 and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

18 (m) Comprehensive health education that addresses
19 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental
20 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of
21 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the
22 consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional
23 health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition; personal
24 health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use
25 and abuse. Instruction in kindergarten through grade 12
26 regarding mental and emotional health must be age-appropriate
27 and must address depression, manic depression (bi-polar
28 disorder), schizophrenia, and anxiety disorders, including
29 obsessive-compulsive disorder, and must characterize such
30 mental illnesses as common, inherited, and treatable by
31 including information regarding their frequency in the

1 population, common ages of onset, common recognizable
2 symptoms, and the effectiveness of and the need for proper
3 medical treatment. Instruction regarding mental and emotional
4 health must also address the correlation between mental
5 illness and addiction and substance abuse due to
6 "self-medication"; the prevention of suicide, aggressive
7 behavior, criminal activities, and underachievement through
8 prompt and faithful medical treatment; and the progressive
9 deterioration of the brain, the increase in the severity of
10 symptoms and accompanying problematic behaviors, without
11 proper medical treatment. Positive examples of highly
12 successful people with such mental illness shall be presented
13 to remove stereotypes, stigma, and discrimination.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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16 HOUSE SUMMARY

17 Specifies content of required instruction in mental and
18 emotional health.