

By Senator Rouson

16-01111B-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to pediatric behavioral and mental health screenings; creating s. 409.9746, F.S.; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to adopt rules establishing certain practice parameters and protocols for early periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services for pediatric behavioral and mental health screenings; specifying such practice parameters and protocols; requiring health care providers to provide a parent or legal guardian information on sleep, screen time, and nutrition; requiring the Department of Health to develop and make such information available for download by health care providers; requiring the agency, by a specified date, to adopt performance measures relating to early periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services; requiring the agency to collect and report performance measures and outcome data to the Governor and the Legislature, beginning on a specified date and annually thereafter; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 409.9746, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.9746 Early periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services; pediatric behavioral and mental health screenings.—

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30 (1) The agency shall adopt rules establishing practice
31 parameters and protocols and requiring managed care plans to
32 provide early periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment
33 services consistent with such practice parameters and protocols,
34 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

35 (a) The use of validated, age-appropriate, trauma-informed
36 diagnostic tools based on nationally recognized clinical
37 practice guidelines to provide early periodic screening,
38 diagnostic, and treatment services to participants from birth
39 through 21 years of age.

40 (b) Authorizing a health care provider to use mobile
41 response teams, community mental health centers, behavioral
42 health hubs, and other qualified health care providers for
43 consultation, support with medication management, and
44 introduction of a patient to another health care provider as a
45 referral.

46 (c) Encouraging parents or legal guardians to participate
47 in mental health programs that provide education and support,
48 including, but not limited to, general parenting skills or more
49 specialized programs that offer education and support for more
50 specific behavioral or mental health issues.

51 (d) Requiring health care providers to give parents or
52 legal guardians information created by the Department of Health
53 about sleep, screen time, and nutrition. The department shall
54 develop such information and make it available for download by
55 health care providers.

56 (2) By January 1, 2027, the agency shall adopt performance
57 measures related to early periodic screening, diagnostic, and
58 treatment services and establish outcome data reporting

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59 requirements. The agency shall use the measures as a tool to
60 monitor plan performance in connection with other measures
61 required pursuant to this part. Beginning January 1, 2028, and
62 annually thereafter, the agency shall submit a report on the
63 performance measures and outcome data to the Governor, the
64 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
65 Representatives.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.