SENATE BILL SB-39

Introduced by Senator Shannon Grove (R-12)

An act relating to An act improving access to mental health services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-39, Shannon Grove (R-12). An act improving access to mental health services.

Existing California laws provide for mental health services through state and local programs

This bill will establish a statewide mental health access and education program to improve awareness of available mental health resources, and increase access to counseling and support services for young people.

This bill will require the Department of healthcare services to coordinate with schools, local agencies and qualified mental health organizations to provide educational resources, referrals, and information about available mental health services. This bill would also need a budget of $10 million annually

Vote: Majority. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** yes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.
This act shall be known and may be cited as the mental health access and support act

SEC. 2.
The legislator finds and declares all of the following:
(a) Mental health is an important part of the overall health and well-being of Californians
(b) Young people may experience barriers to receiving mental healthcare, including cost, lack of awareness and limited availability of providers
(c) Early access to mental health services may help individuals address mental health concerns before they become more severe
(d) California should have access to information about available mental health resources, and services

SEC. 3.
The Department of healthcare services shall establish a statewide, mental health, education, and referral program

The program shall provide:
1. Information about common mental health, concerns, and warning sign
2. Information about how to access counseling and other mental health services referrals to available community base mental health providers

3. Information regarding crisis and emergency mental health resource
4. Education, materials for schools, families, and communities

Section 4

The department shall coordinate with local education, agencies, county, behavioral health department, community organizations, and qualified mental health providers to increase awareness of available services.

Section 5
The department may provide grants to eligible organizations to expand mental health, education, outreach, and referral services and communities with limited access.

Section 6
Nothing in this act shall be construed to require an individual to receive mental health treatment or to limit the confidentiality rights provided under state or federal law.

Section 7
This actual take affect January 1 following it’s enactment