STATE OF NEW YORK

844

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring at least a ratio of one clinical, non-student mental health staff member per one thousand students on all SUNY and CUNY campuses

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 20 to read as follows:

20. Through on-campus capacity, each state college or university center of the state university of New York and each state college and university center of the city university of New York shall have at least a ratio of one clinical, non-student mental health staff member per one thousand full-time equivalent students. Two years after the effective date of this subdivision, and once every five years thereafter, each state college and university shall establish a board of advisors and experts and have such board update such ratio based on actual ratios in this state and any new information related to appropriate benchmarks for clinician-to-student ratios; provided, however, such updated ratio shall be at least a ratio of one clinical, non-student mental health staff member per one thousand students. This subdivision shall not be funded by student fees created on or after the effective date of this subdivision. State colleges or universities may seek federal funding or private grants, if available, to support the provisions of this subdivision.

§ 2. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 20 to read as follows:

20. Through on-campus capacity, each state college or university center of the state university of New York and each state college and university center of the city university of New York shall have at least a ratio of one clinical, non-student mental health staff member per one

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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thousand full-time equivalent students. Two years after the effective date of this subdivision, and once every five years thereafter, each state college and university shall establish a board of advisors and experts and have such board update such ratio based on actual ratios in this state and any new information related to appropriate benchmarks for clinician-to-student ratios; provided, however, such updated ratio shall be at least a ratio of one clinical, non-student mental health staff member per one thousand students. This subdivision shall not be funded by student fees created on or after the effective date of this subdivision. State colleges or universities may seek federal funding or private grants, if available, to support the provisions of this subdivision.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.