**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**S. 761**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator M.B. Matthews

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Introduced in the Senate on April 10, 2019

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Education**

Summary: Mental health counselors

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

4/10/2019 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\sj\20190410.docx))

4/10/2019 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\sj\20190410.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=761&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[4/10/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\761_20190410.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 10, TITLE 59 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑10-230, TO PROVIDE THAT EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ENSURE THE CONTINUOUS PRESENCE OF A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR DURING OPERATING HOURS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT ONE COUNSELOR MUST BE PROVIDED FOR EVERY FIVE HUNDRED STUDENTS ENROLLED AT A SCHOOL.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 2, Chapter 10, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑10-230. (A) Contingent upon full funding by the General Assembly, each public school district shall ensure the continuous presence of at least one mental health counselor, such as a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist, during regular operating hours, in order to provide mental health services to each district. At least one mental health counselor for every five hundred students enrolled in a district shall be available. For students in kindergarten through the sixth grade, mental health counselors shall concentrate efforts on issues of bullying and social adjustment.

(B) In determining the number of mental health counselors required pursuant to subsection (A), a district may base its determination on the number of students enrolled at the school at the end of the preceding school year. The district may make adjustments to estimate changes expected from rezoning, if applicable, and may make estimates based on the capacity for new schools.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2020.

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