

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - Second Session - 2018

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB998

Chairperson: Senator Mike Groene

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2018

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB998 creates the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program. The bill aims to aide students who are suffering from behavioral or mental health problems by providing them with preventative care or treatment as needed.

The Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program would allow each Educational Service Unit to hire a social worker as needed in their area. The social workers would train teachers and other school personnel and work with parents, schools, behavioral and mental health providers, and other community resources in order to provide services.

The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council will administer the program and hire a coordinator to oversee the program. The responsibilities of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council and the program director are defined in Section 4 of LB998.

To fund the program, the bill creates the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Fund. The program is implemented once the fund reaches \$3,600,000 from private donations. This is the amount estimated to fund the program for three years. Three years after the program is implemented, each educational service unit determines the cost of the program in it's service area. The cost to continue the program will be shared equally by the educational service unit, the school districts within the educational service unit, the General Fund, and private donations.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lynne Walz