

1 AN ACT relating to the safety and mental health of students.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) There is hereby created the Kentucky Mental Health Safety Center within the*
6 *University of Louisville. For purposes of this section, the Kentucky Mental*
7 *Health Safety Center shall be known as "SafeKY."*

8 *(2) The purpose of SafeKY shall be to create, implement, and maintain a real-time*
9 *crisis intervention electronic mental health application that is available at no cost*
10 *to all elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students, parents, and teachers.*
11 *The application shall be used, at a minimum, as a preventative measure and shall*
12 *be available for use twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, and*
13 *three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year to provide access to mental health*
14 *professionals who provide intervention services for mental health wellness and*
15 *safety. The purpose of the electronic application shall be to:*

16 *(a) Increase access to mental health services by elementary, secondary, and*
17 *postsecondary students via talk, text, or e-mail with a school-based mental*
18 *health services provider as defined in KRS 158.4416;*

19 *(b) Increase the timeliness and effectiveness of mental health crisis intervention*
20 *services for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students;*

21 *(c) Reduce the cost associated with providing mental health services to*
22 *elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students;*

23 *(d) Increase access to mental health services by elementary, secondary, and*
24 *postsecondary students in underserved areas;*

25 *(e) Provide a confidential mechanism that complies with the Health Insurance*
26 *Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 to elementary, secondary, and*
27 *postsecondary students to help navigate through or avoid a potentially life-*

- 1 threatening situation to themselves or others;
- 2 (f) Provide an alternative to schools that have experienced an increase in
- 3 mental health wellness challenges and campus safety;
- 4 (g) Identify best practices for providing electronic mental health application
- 5 services to elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students;
- 6 (h) Identify the best methods of using telecommunications devices, including
- 7 mobile devices, to remotely provide electronic mental health application
- 8 services to elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students; and
- 9 (i) Identify ways that schools can work with local law enforcement to provide a
- 10 safe and secure environment for students to learn.
- 11 (3) The University of Louisville shall:
- 12 (a) Develop and maintain SafeKY in accordance with its administrative and
- 13 governing regulations;
- 14 (b) Have the authority to hire staff, contract for services, expend funds, and
- 15 operate the normal business activities of SafeKY;
- 16 (c) Establish an advisory council to provide input regarding the electronic
- 17 mental health application. The advisory council shall consist of the
- 18 following fourteen (14) members:
- 19 1. The chief executive officer of University of Louisville Health, or his or
- 20 her designee, who shall be chair;
- 21 2. The president of the Council on Postsecondary Education or his or
- 22 her designee;
- 23 3. The commissioner of the Department of Education or his or her
- 24 designee;
- 25 4. The president of the University of Louisville or his or her designee;
- 26 5. The commissioner of the Department for Behavioral Health,
- 27 Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities or his or her designee;

- 1 6. The chair of the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children or his or
2 her designee;
- 3 7. The executive director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security or
4 his or her designee;
- 5 8. The commissioner of the Department of Criminal Justice Training or
6 his or her designee;
- 7 9. The commissioner of the Department of Kentucky State Police or his
8 or her designee;
- 9 10. The executive director of the Center for School Safety or his or her
10 designee;
- 11 11. The executive director of the Kentucky Psychological Association or
12 his or her designee with expertise in program evaluation;
- 13 12. The executive director of the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition or his
14 or her designee; and
- 15 13. Two (2) members from the general public to be appointed by the chair
16 of the council; and
- 17 (d) Seek, accept, and receive appropriations, federal funds, contributions, gifts,
18 and donations made available for the purposes set forth in this section,
19 which shall be excluded from the comprehensive funding model established
20 in KRS 164.092.
- 21 (4) By November 1, 2024, University of Louisville Health shall report to the Interim
22 Joint Committee on Education and the Interim Joint Committee on Health,
23 Welfare, and Family Services:
- 24 (a) The status of implementation of the electronic mental health application;
25 (b) The manner in which the electronic mental health application is being
26 used;
- 27 (c) A list of districts and postsecondary institutions using the electronic mental

- 1 health application;
- 2 (d) Data regarding the use of the electronic mental health application;
- 3 (e) Any information previously requested by members of the committee
- 4 regarding the electronic mental health application;
- 5 (f) Data gathered in relation to each district's and postsecondary institution's
- 6 use of the electronic mental health application;
- 7 (g) Knowledge gained from each district's and postsecondary institution's use
- 8 of the electronic mental health application service;
- 9 (h) Proposals for the future use of electronic mental health application services
- 10 in schools;
- 11 (i) Obstacles encountered in the provision of electronic mental health
- 12 application services;
- 13 (j) Recommendations for statutory changes which may be necessary to
- 14 overcome obstacles to providing electronic mental health application
- 15 services; and
- 16 (k) Costs associated with the administration of the service and the budget
- 17 necessary to continue providing the service.

18 ➔Section 2. In the event the Legislative Research Commission dissolves the

19 Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and Family Services and establishes another

20 interim joint committee with jurisdiction over health services, the report required in

21 Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to that interim joint committee.