

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health*
3 *and Developmental Services, to incentivize and facilitate participation in the Mental Health First Aid*
4 *Program by public school staff and students.*

5 [S 1377]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. § 1.** *The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and*
9 *Developmental Services, shall develop and implement a plan to incentivize and facilitate participation in the*
10 *Commonwealth Mental Health First Aid Program (the Program), established pursuant to § 37.2-312.2 of*
11 *the Code of Virginia, by public school staff and students. Such plan shall (i) ensure that training provided*
12 *pursuant to the Program is offered at several public schools in school divisions across the Commonwealth*
13 *and at a variety of dates and times, including during and outside of the school day, to provide flexibility and*
14 *maximize opportunities for participation by public school staff and students; (ii) include strategies for*
15 *incentivizing or encouraging public school staff and students to participate in such training; (iii) provide for*
16 *the development and dissemination of informational materials for public school staff and students that (a)*
17 *describe the Mental Health First Aid Program and the benefits of participating in such training, (b) list the*
18 *dates, times, and locations at which such training shall be offered, and (c) clearly state that such training*
19 *provided pursuant to the Program is available at no cost to public school staff or students; and (iv) include*
20 *any other strategies deemed appropriate or effective for incentivizing participation in or facilitating the*
21 *provision of such training.*

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