

By: Hinojosa

H.B. No. 2160

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to mental health professional staffing requirements at law schools at public institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9197 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9197. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STAFFING REQUIREMENT. (a) In this section:

(1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(2) "Mental health professional" has the meaning assigned by Section 164.003, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Each law school at an institution of higher education shall ensure that at least one full-time equivalent mental health professional is available at the school.

(c) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this section.

SECTION 2. Section 51.9197, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.