

1 **** BILL NO. ****
2 INTRODUCED BY ****
3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****
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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PARTNER WITH LAW
6 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE A DISTRICT
7 'HANDLE WITH CARE' PROGRAM; REQUIRING DISTRICTS TO DESIGNATE A CONTACT PERSON;
8 SPECIFYING THE LIMITED INFORMATION THAT MADE BE SHARED THROUGH THE PROGRAM;
9 REQUIRING THE DISTRICTS TO MAKE CERTAIN TRAINING AVAILABLE; AND PROVIDING AN
10 IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Handle with care programs authorized.** (1) The board of trustees may
15 authorize the creation of a handle with care program on behalf of the pupils in the district. To implement the
16 program, the trustees shall enter into an agreement to partner with any of the following:

- 17 (a) a law enforcement agency, as defined in 45-8-108;
18 (b) an emergency services organization, as defined in 50-16-701.

19 (2) The trustees shall notify the appropriate interdisciplinary child information and school safety team
20 provided for in 52-2-111 that the district has implemented a handle with care program.

21 (3) As part of the agreement with partner organizations, the trustees shall designate a contact person
22 at the school district to be the recipient of a handle with care message from a law enforcement agency or
23 emergency services organization. If the designated contact person is someone other than the superintendent or
24 principal, the agreement must specify that there is a chain of communication from the designated contact
25 person to the appropriate superintendent or principal to the appropriate teacher of the pupil who is involved.

26 (3) When an employee of a law enforcement agency or emergency services organization responds to
27 an event where a pupil was present, the employee may contact the designated contact person at the school
28 district to inform the school district that the pupil was present at the scene of a potentially traumatic event. The

1 employee:

2 (a) may only release the pupil's name and state "handle with care" to the designated school district

3 contact person;

4 (b) may not provide any further information about the event or the pupil; and

5 (c) shall contact the designated contact person before the start of the next school day.

6 (4) When a district implements a handle with care program, the trustees shall ensure training is

7 available to the employees of the district regarding:

8 (a) the procedure by which a handle with care message is forwarded to a pupil's teacher;

9 (b) evidence-based or evidence-informed training for trauma-informed care, including nationally
10 recognized practices on the impact of substance use-related and other trauma on pupils and how best to
11 support impacted pupils;

12 (c) improving communication between district staff and experts in trauma-informed care to share best
13 practices to mitigate the impact of traumatic stress; and

14 (d) resource sharing and communication between youth service providers and school district staff to
15 provide referrals to wrap around services to pupils and families.

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17 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
18 integral part of Title 20, chapter 7, part 13, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 13, apply to [section 1].

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20 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and
21 approval.

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