

**TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

6TH REGULAR Session, 20 **26**

Y.C.B. No. 20- **03**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To promote student mental health awareness by
requiring secondary schools in the Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands to include information on local
mental health and crisis support resources on student
identification cards, and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS:**

1 **Section 1. Title.** This Act may be cited as the “Student Mental Health
2 Resource Awareness Act of 2026.”

3 **Section 2. Findings.** The CNMI Youth Congress finds that:

4 (a) Adolescents and young people in the Commonwealth face
5 increasing mental health challenges, including stress, anxiety,
6 depression, and risk of self-harm;

7 (b) Early awareness of and access to mental health support
8 services can reduce crisis situations and improve student well-being;

9 (c) Students often carry their identification cards daily, making
10 such cards an effective means of communicating essential support
11 information; and

1 (d) The Commonwealth has existing local mental health and
2 counseling resources that can be better utilized through increased
3 visibility and awareness.

4 The purpose of this Act is to increase awareness of available mental health and
5 crisis support services among students by requiring secondary schools in the CNMI
6 to include contact information for local mental health resources on student
7 identification cards.

8 **Section 3. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision
9 Commission, the following provision shall hereby be enacted:

10 **“§101. Mental Health & Crisis Support Resources Promotion**

11 (a) Secondary schools in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
12 Islands shall promote awareness of available mental health and crisis
13 support services among students by including information on local
14 mental health and crisis support resources on student identification
15 cards.

16 **Section 4. Definition.**

17 For purposes of this Act:

18 1. **“Secondary educational institution”** means any public or private
19 school in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that provides
20 instruction for grades 7 through 12.

1 2. **“Student identification card”** means an identification card issued
2 by a secondary educational institution for student use.

3 3. **“Mental health resource information”** means the name and
4 telephone number or other contact method of at least one locally available
5 mental health, counseling, or crisis support service operating in the CNMI.

6 4. **“Corporation”** means the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation,
7 or its agency division tasked with responsibility for mental health services.

8 **Section 5. Provisions.**

9 (a) Requirement. Beginning with the first full school year following the
10 effective date of this Act, each secondary educational institution in the
11 Commonwealth shall include mental health resource information on all newly
12 issued student identification cards.

13 (b) Format. The required information shall be printed or displayed in a
14 legible and reasonably prominent manner on the student identification card.

15 (c) Scope. Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure of personal
16 student information or participation in any mental health program.

17 **Section 6. Implementation and Administration.**

18 (a) Guidance.

19 The Corporation, in coordination with the CNMI Public School System and
20 relevant private school representatives, shall develop and publish guidance

identifying appropriate mental health resource information to be used by schools.

(b) Updates.

The Corporation shall review and update the recommended list of mental health resources at least once every two years to ensure accuracy and relevance.

(c) Technical Assistance.

The Corporation may provide technical assistance to schools to support compliance with this Act using existing staff and resources.

Section 7. Funding and Resource Considerations. Implementation of this Act shall, to the extent practicable, rely on existing resources of schools and the Corporation. Schools may incorporate the required information during regular reissuance or redesign of student identification cards to minimize costs. Nothing in this Act mandates new fees or charges to students.

Section 8. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

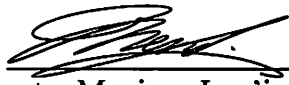
Section 9. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired

1 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
2 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
3 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect
4 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
5 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

6 **Section 10. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
7 the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

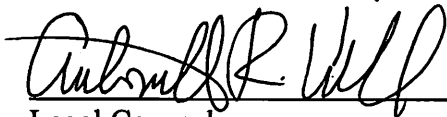
Prefiled: _____

Date: 02/21/2020

Introduced by: 
Senator Monique Lou'isa P. Mendiola


Senator Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


Legal Counsel