

# **A Bill to Incentivize Public Schools to Provide Emotional Support Animals**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.** This bill will create financial incentives for public schools to  
2                   provide emotional support animals (ESAs) to improve mental health and  
3                   wel-being among students and staff.

4                   **SECTION 2.** A. An Emotional Support Animal (ESA) is an animal that  
5                   provides therapeutic benefits to individuals from emotional  
6                   or psychological conditions. While an ESA is not considered a Service  
7                   Animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is not classified as a pet  
8                   and may include a variety of animal types.

9                   B. Mental Health is a state of mental well being that  
10                  enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn  
11                  and work well, and contribute to their community.

12                  **SECTION 3.** A. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
13                  Administration (SAMHSA) shall provide public schools that implement ESA  
14                  programs with \$5,000 per animal to support their use within counseling or  
15                  wellness programs.

16                  B. SAMHSA shall also fund the training of these animals to  
17                  ensure they are properly socialized and suitable for school environments.

18                  C. The Department of Education, in coordination with  
19                  SAMHSA, shall oversee the funds and ensure accountability in program  
20                  implementation.

21                  **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 1, 2026. All laws in  
22                  conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Delta High School.*