

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 well-being among students and staff.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. An Emotional Support Animal (ESA) is an animal that
5 provides therapeutic benefits to individuals superintendent 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 expel 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 acctnability 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.