Bill to study mental health screenings for elementary students passes House

The measure introduced by Del. Joseph Yost passed Monday 84-8

Chris Hurst, churst@wdbj7.com
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ROANOKE, Va. -

The full House of Delegates overwhelmingly approved a bill by Giles County Delegate Joseph Yost (R) to study mental illness screenings for students in elementary schools.

HJ586 requests that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services identify screening tools and potential school divisions as well as analyze the number and type of mental illness diagnoses and most appropriate grade level for the administration of such screenings. The study findings would then go to the Governor and General Assembly by November 30, 2016.

It passed a reading in the House today 84-8. Among those who voted against the bill include Lynchburg Delegate Kathy Byron (R) and Buena Vista Delegate Ben Cline (R).

The General Assembly took more steps to help those with a mental illness and their families Monday.

A Senate Appropriations sub-committee recommended millions of dollars in new funding to create more intensive treatment programs and crisis centers.