

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Governmental Operations Committee recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s.
7 397.3335, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide
8 Prevention in the Office of Drug Control; providing the
9 goals and objectives of the office; creating the position
10 of statewide coordinator for the statewide office,
11 contingent upon a specific appropriation; specifying the
12 education and experience requirements for the position of
13 coordinator; detailing the duties and responsibilities of
14 the coordinator; authorizing the Statewide Office for
15 Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds from
16 any source to support its operation; creating s. 397.3336,
17 F.S.; creating the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council
18 within the Office of Drug Control; providing the scope of
19 activities for the coordinating council; creating an
20 interagency workgroup for state agencies within the
21 coordinating council in order to coordinate state agency
22 plans for suicide prevention; authorizing the coordinating
23 council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the

24 | coordinating council; requiring a report to the Governor
 25 | and Legislature; providing for membership on and meetings
 26 | of the coordinating council; providing per diem and travel
 27 | expenses for coordinating council members; providing an
 28 | appropriation and authorizing a position; providing an
 29 | effective date.

30 |

31 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

32 |

33 | Section 1. Section 397.3335, Florida Statutes, is created
 34 | to read:

35 | 397.3335 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

36 | (1) (a) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is
 37 | created in the Office of Drug Control within the Executive
 38 | Office of the Governor.

39 | (b) The statewide office shall develop a network of
 40 | community-based programs to improve suicide prevention
 41 | initiatives. The network shall identify and work to eliminate
 42 | barriers that impede providing suicide prevention services to
 43 | individuals who are at risk of suicide.

44 | (c) The network of community-based programs shall consist
 45 | of stakeholders advocating suicide prevention, including, but
 46 | not limited to, not-for-profit suicide prevention organizations,
 47 | faith-based suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement
 48 | agencies, first responders to emergency calls, suicide
 49 | prevention community coalitions, schools and universities,
 50 | mental health agencies, substance abuse agencies, health care
 51 | providers, and school personnel.

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52 (2) The statewide office shall, within available
53 resources:

54 (a) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the Suicide
55 Prevention Coordinating Council.

56 (b) Build a network of community-based programs to
57 integrate suicide prevention initiatives into program
58 activities.

59 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating
60 to suicide prevention.

61 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide
62 prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first
63 responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school
64 employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons
65 at risk of suicide.

66 (e) Direct an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
67 Prevention Coordinating Council to prepare a suicide prevention
68 communication plan among state agencies. The communication plan
69 must be incorporated into the council's statewide plan.

70 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director
71 of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the
72 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention. In selecting the
73 coordinator, the director of the Office of Drug Control should
74 consider whether a candidate has:

75 (a) The following education and employment experience:

76 1. A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology,
77 sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely related field
78 and 5 or more years of work experience in behavioral health care
79 or a closely related field.

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80 2. A master's or a doctoral degree in social work,
81 psychology, sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely
82 related field and 2 or more years of work experience in
83 behavioral health or a closely related field.

84 (b) The following skills:

85 1. Significant professional experience in social services,
86 mental health, or a closely related field.

87 2. Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods of
88 facilitation, community development, behavioral health treatment
89 and prevention programs, and community-based behavioral health
90 problems.

91 3. Experience in working with community groups and
92 constituents that are diverse and representative of the gender,
93 ethnic, and racial populations in this state.

94 4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical
95 reports.

96 (4) The coordinator shall work under the direction of the
97 director of the Office of Drug Control to achieve the goals and
98 objectives set forth in this section. The coordinator shall:

99 (a) Facilitate an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
100 Prevention Coordinating Council to integrate state agency
101 programs for suicide prevention into a unified statewide plan.

102 (b) Review local, state, and national suicide prevention
103 programs for examples of innovative suicide prevention models.
104 If innovative models are discovered, the coordinator shall
105 prepare a report to describe the feasibility of implementing
106 some or all of the innovative models in this state. The report
107 must be filed with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of

108 the House of Representatives, and the Suicide Prevention
109 Coordinating Council after review and approval of the report by
110 the director of the Office of Drug Control. The innovative
111 models, and the feasibility of their implementation in this
112 state, shall be evaluated by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating
113 Council, which shall file a report with the President of the
114 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
115 Governor if the council determines that legislation is necessary
116 to implement an innovative model.

117 (c) Develop and maintain an Internet website with links to
118 appropriate suicide prevention resource documents, suicide
119 hotlines, state and community mental health agencies, and
120 appropriate national suicide prevention organizations.

121 (d) Identify and disseminate information regarding crisis
122 services for suicide prevention.

123 (e) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to
124 develop public awareness and media campaigns in each county
125 directed towards persons who are at risk of suicide.

126 (f) Provide technical assistance to educational activities
127 for residents of this state relating to suicide prevention.

128 (g) Cooperate with school districts to develop training
129 and counseling programs for school-based suicide prevention
130 activities. The coordinator and school districts must also
131 develop a method by which to evaluate each prevention training
132 and counseling program.

133 (h) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to
134 develop education and training programs for suicide prevention.
135 The education and training programs must be directed first to

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136 persons who have face-to-face contact with individuals who may
137 be at risk of suicide. The training must assist persons to
138 recognize when an individual is at risk of suicide and how to
139 properly refer those individuals to treatment or support
140 services.

141 (i) Review current research data and findings to identify
142 at-risk populations, factors relating to suicide, and suicide
143 prevention activities and disseminate this research to the
144 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to develop strategies
145 for preventing suicide.

146 (j) Develop and submit proposals to agencies of the state,
147 the Federal Government, and nongovernmental organizations for
148 funding suicide prevention activities.

149 (5) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention may seek
150 and accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local
151 source to support its operation and defray the expenses incurred
152 in its operation and implementation.

153 Section 2. Section 397.3336, Florida Statutes, is created
154 to read:

155 397.3336 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
156 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the
157 Office of Drug Control a Suicide Prevention Coordinating
158 Council. The council shall develop strategies for preventing
159 suicide.

160 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention
161 Coordinating Council is a coordinating council as defined in s.
162 20.03(9) and shall:

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163 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
164 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide
165 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a
166 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

167 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide
168 prevention initiatives.

169 2. Establish partnerships with state and private agencies
170 to promote public awareness of suicide prevention.

171 3. Address specific populations in this state who are at
172 risk for suicide.

173 4. Improve access to help individuals in acute situations.

174 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the
175 statewide plan.

176 (b) Create an interagency workgroup within the council in
177 order to incorporate state agency plans for suicide prevention
178 into the statewide plan. The interagency workgroup must include,
179 but need not be limited to:

180 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
181 designee.

182 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.

183 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

184 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
185 her designee.

186 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
187 designee.

188 6. The executive director of the Department of Law
189 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

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190 7. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
191 or her designee.

192 8. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.

193 9. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
194 Affairs, or his or her designee.

195 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
196 or his or her designee.

197 (c) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee with membership
198 from outside the council when necessary in order for the council
199 to receive advice and assistance in carrying out its
200 responsibilities.

201 (d) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.

202 (e) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide
203 prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an
204 annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of
205 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
206 January 1, 2007, and each year thereafter. The annual report
207 must describe the status of existing and planned initiatives
208 identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any
209 recommendations arising therefrom.

210 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
211 Council shall consist of 27 members.

212 (a) Thirteen members shall be appointed by the director of
213 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following
214 organizations:

215 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation,
216 Inc., described in s. 394.655.

217 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

- 218 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.
- 219 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.
- 220 5. The Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention.
- 221 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.
- 222 7. The Alzheimer's Association.
- 223 8. The Florida School Board Association.
- 224 9. Volunteer Florida, Inc.
- 225 10. Florida AARP.
- 226 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.
- 227 12. The Florida Counseling Association.
- 228 13. The Florida Council for Community Mental Health.
- 229 (b) The following state officials shall be appointed to
 230 the coordinating council:
- 231 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
 232 designee.
- 233 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.
- 234 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.
- 235 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
 236 her designee.
- 237 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
 238 designee.
- 239 6. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.
- 240 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
 241 Enforcement, or his or her designee.
- 242 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
 243 Affairs, or his or her designee.
- 244 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
 245 or her designee.

246 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
247 or his or her designee.

248 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to
249 the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise
250 critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an
251 organization that is not already represented on the coordinating
252 council.

253 (d) Council members shall be appointed to staggered terms
254 of 4 years each, in accordance with s. 20.052. Any vacancy on
255 the coordinating council shall be filled in the same manner as
256 the original appointment, and any member appointed to fill a
257 vacancy occurring because of death, resignation, or
258 ineligibility for membership shall serve only for the unexpired
259 term of the member's predecessor. A member is eligible for
260 reappointment.

261 (e) Members of the coordinating council shall serve
262 without compensation. Any member of the coordinating council who
263 is a public employee is entitled to reimbursement for per diem
264 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

265 (3) MEETINGS.--

266 (a) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a
267 nonvoting, ex officio member of the coordinating council and
268 shall act as chair.

269 (b) The coordinating council shall meet at least quarterly
270 or upon the call of the chair. The council meetings may be held
271 via teleconference or other electronic means.

272 (c) Public organizations shall participate and cooperate
273 with the coordinating council.

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274 Section 3. One full-time equivalent position is authorized
275 and the sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue
276 Fund to the Office of Drug Control for the purpose of
277 implementing this act during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

278 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.