

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s. 14.2019, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention as a unit of the Office of Drug Control in the Executive Office of the Governor; providing the goals and objectives of the office; creating the position of statewide coordinator for the statewide office, contingent upon a specific appropriation; authorizing the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds from any source to support its operation; creating s. 14.20195, F.S.; creating the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council within the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention; providing the scope of activities for the coordinating council; authorizing the coordinating council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the coordinating council; providing for membership on the coordinating council; providing an appropriation and authorizing additional positions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

14.2019 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

(1) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is created as a unit of the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor.

29 (2) The statewide office shall, within available
30 resources:

31 (a) Develop a network of community-based programs to
32 improve suicide prevention initiatives. The network shall
33 identify and work to eliminate barriers to providing suicide
34 prevention services to individuals who are at risk of suicide.
35 The network shall consist of stakeholders advocating suicide
36 prevention, including, but not limited to, not-for-profit
37 suicide prevention organizations, faith-based suicide prevention
38 organizations, law enforcement agencies, first responders to
39 emergency calls, suicide prevention community coalitions,
40 schools and universities, mental health agencies, substance
41 abuse treatment agencies, health care providers, and school
42 personnel.

43 (b) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the Suicide
44 Prevention Coordinating Council.

45 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating
46 to suicide prevention.

47 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide
48 prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first
49 responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school
50 employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons
51 at risk of suicide.

52 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director
53 of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the
54 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention who shall work under the
55 direction of the director to achieve the goals and objectives
56 set forth in this section.

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57 (4) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention may seek
58 and accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local
59 source to support the operation and defray the authorized
60 expenses of the office and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating
61 Council.

62 (5) Agencies under the control of the Governor or the
63 Governor and Cabinet are directed, and all others are
64 encouraged, to provide information and support to the Statewide
65 Office for Suicide Prevention as requested.

66 Section 2. Section 14.20195, Florida Statutes, is created
67 to read:

68 14.20195 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
69 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the
70 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention a Suicide Prevention
71 Coordinating Council. The council shall develop strategies for
72 preventing suicide.

73 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention
74 Coordinating Council is a coordinating council as defined in s.
75 20.03 and shall:

76 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
77 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide
78 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a
79 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

80 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide
81 prevention initiatives.

82 2. Establish partnerships with state and private agencies
83 for the purpose of promoting public awareness of suicide
84 prevention.

85 3. Address specific populations in this state who are at
86 risk for suicide.

87 4. Identify ways to improve access to help individuals in
88 acute situations.

89 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the
90 statewide plan.

91 (b) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee comprised of
92 members from outside the council, if necessary, in order for the
93 council to receive advice and assistance in carrying out its
94 responsibilities.

95 (c) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide
96 prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an
97 annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of
98 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
99 January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter. The annual report
100 must describe the status of existing and planned initiatives
101 identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any
102 recommendations arising therefrom.

103 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
104 Council shall consist of 28 voting members.

105 (a) Fourteen members shall be appointed by the director of
106 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following
107 organizations:

108 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation
109 described in s. 394.655.

110 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

111 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

112 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

- 113 5. The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention.
- 114 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.
- 115 7. The Alzheimer's Association.
- 116 8. The Florida School Board Association.
- 117 9. Volunteer Florida.
- 118 10. The state chapter of AARP.
- 119 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.
- 120 12. The Florida Council for Community Mental Health.
- 121 13. The Florida Counseling Association.
- 122 14. NAMI Florida.
- 123 (b) The following state officials or their designees shall
- 124 serve on the coordinating council:
- 125 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs.
- 126 2. The Secretary of Health.
- 127 3. The Commissioner of Education.
- 128 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 129 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.
- 130 6. The Secretary of Corrections.
- 131 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
- 132 Enforcement.
- 133 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
- 134 Affairs.
- 135 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.
- 136 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- 137 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to
- 138 the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise
- 139 that is critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an
- 140 organization that is not already represented on the coordinating

141 council.

142 (d) For the members appointed by the director of the
 143 Office of Drug Control, seven members shall be appointed to
 144 initial terms of 3 years, and seven members shall be appointed
 145 to initial terms of 4 years. For the members appointed by the
 146 Governor, two members shall be appointed to initial terms of 4
 147 years, and two members shall be appointed to initial terms of 3
 148 years. Thereafter, such members shall be appointed to terms of 4
 149 years. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be filled
 150 in the same manner as the original appointment, and any member
 151 who is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death,
 152 resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only
 153 for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member is
 154 eligible for reappointment.

155 (e) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a
 156 nonvoting member of the coordinating council and shall act as
 157 chair.

158 (f) Members of the coordinating council shall serve
 159 without compensation. Any member of the coordinating council who
 160 is a public employee is entitled to reimbursement for per diem
 161 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

162 (3) MEETINGS.--The coordinating council shall meet at
 163 least quarterly or upon the call of the chair. The council
 164 meetings may be held via teleconference or other electronic
 165 means.

166 Section 3. Two full-time equivalent positions are
 167 authorized and the sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the
 168 General Revenue Fund to the Office of Drug Control for the

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169 purpose of implementing this act during the 2007-2008 fiscal
170 year.

171 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.