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CS/HB 139

2007 Legislature

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s.  
3           14.2019, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide  
4           Prevention as a unit of the Office of Drug Control in the  
5           Executive Office of the Governor; providing the goals and  
6           objectives of the office; creating the position of  
7           statewide coordinator for the statewide office, contingent  
8           upon a specific appropriation; authorizing the Statewide  
9           Office for Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or  
10          funds from any source to support its operation; requiring  
11          that revenues from grants be deposited into the Grants and  
12          Donations Trust Fund within the Executive Office of the  
13          Governor; creating s. 14.20195, F.S.; creating the Suicide  
14          Prevention Coordinating Council within the Statewide  
15          Office for Suicide Prevention; providing the scope of  
16          activities for the coordinating council; authorizing the  
17          coordinating council to assemble an ad hoc committee to  
18          advise the coordinating council; providing for membership  
19          on the coordinating council; providing an appropriation  
20          and authorizing additional positions; providing an  
21          effective date.

22  
23   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
25           Section 1.   Section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, is created  
26   to read:

27           14.2019   Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--  
28           (1)   The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is created

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29 as a unit of the Office of Drug Control within the Executive  
30 Office of the Governor.

31 (2) The statewide office shall, within available  
32 resources:

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

45 (b) Prepare and implement the statewide plan with the  
46 advice of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.

47 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating  
48 to suicide prevention.

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

54 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director  
55 of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the  
56 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention who shall work under the

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57 direction of the director to achieve the goals and objectives  
58 set forth in this section.

59 (4) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention may seek  
60 and accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local  
61 source to support the operation and defray the authorized  
62 expenses of the office and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating  
63 Council. Revenues from grants shall be deposited in the Grants  
64 and Donations Trust Fund within the Executive Office of the  
65 Governor. In accordance with s. 216.181(11), the Executive  
66 Office of the Governor may request changes to the approved  
67 operating budget to allow the expenditure of any additional  
68 grant funds collected pursuant to this subsection.

69 (5) Agencies under the control of the Governor or the  
70 Governor and Cabinet are directed, and all others are  
71 encouraged, to provide information and support to the Statewide  
72 Office for Suicide Prevention as requested.

73 Section 2. Section 14.20195, Florida Statutes, is created  
74 to read:

75 14.20195 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;  
76 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the  
77 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention a Suicide Prevention  
78 Coordinating Council. The council shall develop strategies for  
79 preventing suicide.

80 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention  
81 Coordinating Council is a coordinating council as defined in s.  
82 20.03 and shall:

83 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention  
84 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide

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85 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a  
86 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

87 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide  
88 prevention initiatives.

89 2. Establish partnerships with state and private agencies  
90 for the purpose of promoting public awareness of suicide  
91 prevention.

92 3. Address specific populations in this state who are at  
93 risk for suicide.

94 4. Identify ways to improve access to crisis services for  
95 individuals in acute situations.

96 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the  
97 statewide plan.

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

102 (c) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide  
103 prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an  
104 annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of  
105 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
106 January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter. The annual report  
107 must describe the status of existing and planned initiatives  
108 identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any  
109 recommendations arising therefrom.

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

112 (a) Fourteen members shall be appointed by the director of

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113 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following  
114 organizations:

115 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation  
116 described in s. 394.655.

117 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

118 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

119 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

120 5. The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention.

121 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.

122 7. The Alzheimer's Association.

123 8. The Florida School Board Association.

124 9. Volunteer Florida.

125 10. The state chapter of AARP.

126 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

127 12. The Florida Council for Community Mental Health.

128 13. The Florida Counseling Association.

129 14. NAMI Florida.

130 (b) The following state officials or their designees shall  
131 serve on the coordinating council:

132 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs.

133 2. The Secretary of Health.

134 3. The Commissioner of Education.

135 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.

136 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.

137 6. The Secretary of Corrections.

138 7. The executive director of the Department of Law

139 Enforcement.

140 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'

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141 Affairs.

142 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.

143 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

144 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to  
 145 the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise  
 146 that is critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an  
 147 organization that is not already represented on the coordinating  
 148 council.

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

162 (e) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a  
 163 nonvoting member of the coordinating council and shall act as  
 164 chair.

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

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169           (3) MEETINGS.--The coordinating council shall meet at  
170 least quarterly or upon the call of the chair. The council  
171 meetings may be held via teleconference or other electronic  
172 means.

173           Section 3. Two full-time equivalent positions are  
174 authorized, and the sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the  
175 General Revenue Fund to the Office of Drug Control for the  
176 purpose of implementing this act during the 2007-2008 fiscal  
177 year.

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