

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

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BILL: SB 884

INTRODUCER: Senator Benacquisto and others

SUBJECT: Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention

DATE: March 2, 2016

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Bailey</u>	<u>Klebacha</u>	<u>ED</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Sikes</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	<b>Recommend: Favorable</b>
3.	<u>Sikes</u>	<u>Kynoch</u>	<u>AP</u>	<b>Pre-meeting</b>

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**I. Summary:**

SB 884 requires the Department of Education (DOE) to incorporate two hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training for all K-12 instructional personnel to receive as part of their continuing education or inservice training.

Specifically, the bill:

- Requires DOE, in consultation with the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and suicide experts, to develop a list of approved training materials;
- Requires the training to be included in existing continuing education requirements and not add to the total hours currently required by the department;
- Authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt implementation rules; and
- Specifies that the required training does not create any new duty of care or basis of liability.

School districts may incur costs for instructional personnel to attend the training required by the bill, as well as the costs for substitutes and trainers. However, because of the flexibility in how the training can be delivered and the requirement that the training not add to the total hours of inservice required by the DOE, these costs should be minimal and absorbed within existing resources.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

## II. Present Situation:

In 2013, there were a total of 2,928 deaths by suicide in Florida according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>1</sup> In 2013, suicide was the third leading cause of death for young Floridians between the ages of 15 and 24.<sup>2</sup>

### Professional Development Act

The School Community Professional Development Act directs the Department of Education, public postsecondary educational institutions, public school districts, public schools, state education foundations, consortia, and professional organizations in the state to work collaboratively to establish a coordinated system of professional development.<sup>3</sup>

Each school district is required to develop a professional development system which must include inservice activities for instructional personnel focused on:<sup>4</sup>

- Analysis of student achievement data;
- Ongoing formal and informal assessments of student achievement;
- Identification and use of enhanced and differentiated instructional strategies that identify rigor, relevance, and reading in the content areas;
- Enhancement of subject content expertise;
- Integrated use of classroom technology that enhances teaching and learning; and
- Classroom management, parent involvement, and school safety.

### Required Inservice Training

District school boards renew state-issued professional certificates for individuals who hold a state-issued professional certificate and are employed by the district.<sup>5</sup> All professional certificates, except a nonrenewable professional certificate, are renewable for successive periods not to exceed 5 years after the date of submission of documentation of completion of renewal requirements.<sup>6</sup>

For the renewal of a professional certificate, an applicant must earn a minimum of six college credits or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof.<sup>7</sup> For each area of specialization on the certificate, the applicant must earn at least three of the required credit hours or equivalent inservice points in the specialization area.<sup>8</sup> Inservice in the following areas may be applied toward any specialization area:<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Department of Children and Families, *About Suicide*, <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention/about-suicide> last visited January 15, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Florida Department of Children and Families, *About Suicide*, <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention/teens-young-adults> last visited January 15, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> Section 1012.98, F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1012.98(4)(b)3., F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 1012.585(1), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 1012.585(2) and (3), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 1012.585(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

- Education in “clinical education” training,<sup>10</sup>
- Training in the area of scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy and computational skills acquisition;
- Exceptional student education;
- Normal child development;
- Disorders of development;
- Training in the area of drug abuse;
- Training in the areas of child abuse and neglect;
- Strategies in teaching students having limited proficiency in English;
- Strategies in dropout prevention; or
- Training in priority areas identified in the Florida’s K-20 education system goals and performance standards or in the school improvement and education accountability system.<sup>11</sup>

Additionally, inservice points may be earned by:<sup>12</sup>

- Attending approved summer institutes;
- Participation in professional growth components approved by the State Board of Education and the district’s approved master plan for inservice educational training;
- Serving as a trainer in an approved teacher training activity; or
- Serving on an instructional materials committee, state board, or commission that deals with educational issues, or an advisory council.

### **Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention**

The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention is housed within the Department of Children and Families.<sup>13</sup> The office is required to:<sup>14</sup>

- Develop a network of community-based programs to improve suicide prevention initiatives;
- Prepare and implement the statewide plan with the advice of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
- Increase public awareness concerning topics relating to suicide prevention; and
- Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school employees, and other person who may have contact with persons at risk of suicide.

The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is required to operate within available resources but is allowed to seek and accept grants or funds from federal, state, or local sources to support the operation and defray the authorized expenses of the office and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Section 1004.04(5), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Section 1012.585(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Ch. 2011-51, L.O.F.; Section 14.2019, F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 14.2019, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to incorporate two hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training for all K-12 instructional personnel to receive as part of their continuing education or inservice training.

Specifically, the bill:

- Requires the DOE, in consultation with the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and suicide experts, to develop a list of approved training materials;
- Requires the training to be included in existing continuing education requirements and not add to the total hours currently required by the department;
- Authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt implementation rules; and
- Specifies that the training program does not create any new duty of care or basis of liability.

The bill reduces the costs incurred to school districts to implement the training by:

- Including materials on youth suicide awareness and prevention, that are currently used by school districts, on the DOE approved training materials list; and
- Allowing instructional personnel to complete a training program through the self-review of approved training materials.

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the training requirements.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

### V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

#### A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

#### B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

School districts may incur costs for instructional personnel to attend the training required by SB 884, as well as the costs for substitutes and trainers. However, because of the flexibility in how the training can be delivered and the requirement that the training not add to the total hours of inservice required by the DOE, these costs should be minimal and absorbed within existing resources.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 1012.583 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.