

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 907 Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention

SPONSOR(S): Eagle and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 884

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-12 Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N	Fudge	Fudge
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee		Seifert	Heflin
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

In 2014, suicide was the third leading cause of death for ages 5-24 in Florida. For ages 5-14 the suicide rate per 100,000 was .9, while the rate was 10.3 per 100,000 for ages 15-24.

Each person serving in an instructional capacity in a public school must hold a certificate. 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. Applicants for renewal of a professional certificate must earn a minimum of 6 college credits, three of which must be in the applicant's specialization area. Beginning July 1, 2014, an applicant for renewal must also earn a minimum of one college credit in the area of instruction for teaching students with disabilities. All K-12 teachers must participate in continuing education training provided by the Department of Children and Families on identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

The bill requires instructional personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools to receive 2 hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The Department of Education must consult with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts to develop a list of approved materials. This requirement must be included within existing requirements, may not add to the total hours currently required, and may be satisfied through self-review of the training materials.

The Department of Education must consult with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts to develop a list of approved materials. DOE currently provides mental health awareness and support services, including suicide prevention and intervention training and resources through a discretionary project called the Support Services project. The development of the list would be completed using these existing resources and would not result in a fiscal impact to the state.

The bill also provides that the training received by individuals does not create any new duty of care or basis of liability. In addition, there is no cause of action for any loss or damage caused by an act or omission as a result of those who provide the training as well as those who have received the training, unless it was caused by willful and wanton misconduct.

School districts may incur costs for instructional personnel to attend the training, as well as the costs for substitutes and trainers. These costs are indeterminate.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

In Florida, suicide was the third leading cause of death for ages 5-24 in Florida. For ages 5-14 the suicide rate per 100,000 was .9, while the rate was 10.3 per 100,000 for ages 15-24.¹

Required Inservice Training

Each person employed or occupying a position as school supervisor, school principal, teacher, library media specialist, school counselor, athletic coach, or other position in which the employee serves in an instructional capacity, in any public school of any district must hold a certificate.²

District school boards renew state-issued professional certificates for individuals who hold a state-issued professional certificate and are employed by the district.³

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.⁴

For the renewal of a professional certificate, an applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof.⁵ For each area of specialization on the certificate, the applicant must earn at least 3 of the required credits in the specialization area.⁶ However, the specialization requirement may be satisfied by receiving training in a variety of topics unrelated to the specialization area.⁷ Also, beginning July 1, 2014, an applicant for renewal must earn a minimum of one college credit in the area of instruction for teaching students with disabilities. All K-12 teachers must participate in continuing education training provided by the Department of Children and Families on identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.⁸

Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention

The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention is housed within the Department of Children and Families.⁹ Among other things, the office must 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 persons who may have contact with persons at risk of suicide.¹⁰

¹ Florida Department of Children and Families, *2015 Annual Report of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council* (Jan. 1, 2016), available at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/publications/2015%20Annual%20Report%20of%20the%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Coordinating%20Council.pdf>.

² Section 1012.55(1)(b), F.S.

³ Section 1012.585(1), F.S.

⁴ Section 1012.585(2) and (3), F.S.

⁵ Section 1012.585(3)(a), F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ The specialization requirement may be met through “clinical educator” training and training in the area of reading, exceptional student education, normal child development, drug abuse, child abuse and neglect, strategies in teach students having limited proficiency in English, strategies in dropout prevention, and training in priority areas identified in the educational goals and performance standards of Florida’s K-20 education system. Section 1012.585(3)(a), F.S.

⁸ Section 1012.98(12), F.S.

⁹ Ch. 2011-51, L.O.F.; Section 14.2019, F.S.

¹⁰ Section 14.2019, F.S.

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.¹¹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires instructional personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools to receive 2 hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The Department of Education must consult with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts to develop a list of approved materials. The materials must include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services and how to refer youth and their families to those services. The training requirement must be included within existing requirements, may not add to the total hours currently required, and may be satisfied through self-review of the training materials.

The bill also provides that the training received by individuals does not create any new duty of care or basis of liability. In addition, there is no cause of action for any loss or damage caused by an act or omission as a result of those who provide the training as well as those who have received the training, unless it was caused by willful and wanton misconduct.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 1012.583, F.S., requiring training in suicide prevention for certain individuals.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

School districts may incur costs for instructional personnel to attend the training, as well as the costs for substitutes and trainers. These costs are indeterminate.¹²

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Florida Department of Education, *2016 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 884* (on file with staff of the K-12 Subcommittee).

The Department of Education must consult with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts to develop a list of approved materials. DOE currently provides mental health awareness and support services, including suicide prevention and intervention training and resources through a discretionary project called the Support Services project. The development of the list would be completed using these existing resources and would not result in a fiscal impact to the state.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.