

Bill No. SB 210

Barcode 422868

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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The Committee on Children and Families (Lynn) recommended the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause

and insert:

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

397.3335 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

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

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

(c) The network of community-based programs shall consist of stakeholders advocating suicide prevention, including, but not limited to, not-for-profit suicide

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1 prevention organizations, faith-based suicide prevention  
 2 organizations, law enforcement agencies, first responders to  
 3 emergency calls, suicide prevention community coalitions,  
 4 schools and universities, mental health agencies, health care  
 5 providers, and school personnel.

6 (2) The statewide office shall, within available  
 7 resources:

8 (a) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the  
 9 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;

10 (b) Build a network of community-based programs to  
 11 integrate suicide prevention initiatives into the programs'  
 12 activities;

13 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics  
 14 relating to suicide prevention;

15 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in  
 16 suicide prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel,  
 17 first responders to emergency calls, health care providers,  
 18 school employees, and other persons who may have contact with  
 19 persons at risk of suicide; and

20 (e) Direct an interagency workgroup within the Suicide  
 21 Prevention Coordinating Council to prepare a suicide  
 22 prevention communication plan among state agencies. The  
 23 communication plan must be incorporated into the council's  
 24 statewide plan.

25 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the  
 26 director of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a  
 27 coordinator for the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.  
 28 Unless waived by the director of the Office of Drug Control,  
 29 the coordinator must:

30 (a) Have the following education and employment  
 31 experience:

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1           1. A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology,  
2 sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely related  
3 field and 5 or more years of work experience in behavioral  
4 health care or a closely related field; or

5           2. A master's or a doctoral degree in social work,  
6 psychology, sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely  
7 related field and 2 or more years of work experience in  
8 behavioral health or a closely related field.

9           (b) Possess the following skills:

10           1. Significant professional experience in social  
11 services, mental health, or a closely related field;

12           2. Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods  
13 of facilitation, community development, behavioral health  
14 treatment and prevention programs, and community-based  
15 behavioral health problems;

16           3. Experience in working with community groups and  
17 constituents that are diverse and representative of the  
18 gender, ethnic, and racial populations in this state; and

19           4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical  
20 reports.

21           (4) The coordinator shall work under the direction of  
22 the director of the Office of Drug Control to achieve the  
23 goals and objectives set forth in this section. The  
24 coordinator shall:

25           (a) Facilitate an interagency workgroup within the  
26 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to integrate state  
27 agency programs for suicide prevention into a unified  
28 statewide plan;

29           (b) Review local, state, and national suicide  
30 prevention programs for examples of innovative suicide  
31 prevention models. If innovative models are discovered, the

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1 coordinator shall prepare a presentation to describe the  
2 feasibility of implementing some or all of the innovation  
3 models in this state. The innovative models, and the  
4 feasibility of their implementation in this state, shall be  
5 evaluated by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;

6 (c) Develop and maintain an Internet website with  
7 links to appropriate suicide prevention resource documents,  
8 suicide hotlines, state and community mental health agencies,  
9 and appropriate national suicide prevention organizations;

10 (d) Identify and disseminate information regarding  
11 crisis services for suicide prevention;

12 (e) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to  
13 develop public awareness and media campaigns in each county  
14 directed towards persons who are at risk of suicide;

15 (f) Provide technical assistance to educational  
16 activities for residents of this state relating to suicide  
17 prevention;

18 (g) Cooperate with school districts to develop  
19 training and counseling programs for school-based suicide  
20 prevention activities. The coordinator and school districts  
21 must also develop a method by which to evaluate each  
22 prevention training and counseling program;

23 (h) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to  
24 develop education and training programs for suicide  
25 prevention. The education and training programs must be  
26 directed first to persons who have face-to-face contact with  
27 individuals who may be at risk of suicide. The training must  
28 assist persons to recognize when an individual is at risk of  
29 suicide and on how to properly refer those individuals to  
30 treatment or support services;

31 (i) Review current research data and findings to

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1 identify at-risk populations, factors relating to suicide, and  
 2 suicide prevention activities and disseminate this research to  
 3 the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to develop  
 4 strategies for preventing suicide; and

5 (j) Develop and submit proposals to agencies of the  
 6 state and Federal Government and to nongovernmental  
 7 organizations for funding suicide prevention activities.

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

12 Section 2. Section 397.3336, Florida Statutes, is  
 13 created to read:

14 397.3336 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;  
 15 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the  
 16 Office of Drug Control a Suicide Prevention Coordinating  
 17 Council. The council shall develop strategies for preventing  
 18 suicide.

19 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention  
 20 Coordinating Council shall:

21 (a) Develop a statewide plan for suicide prevention,  
 22 with the guiding principle being that suicide is a preventable  
 23 problem. The statewide plan must:

24 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide  
 25 prevention initiatives;

26 2. Establish partnerships with state and private  
 27 agencies to promote public awareness of suicide prevention;

28 3. Address specific populations in this state who are  
 29 at risk for suicide;

30 4. Improve access to help individuals in acute  
 31 situations; and

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1           5. Identify resources to support the implementation of  
2 the statewide plan.

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

7           1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her  
8 designee;

9           2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee;

10           3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her  
11 designee;

12           4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his  
13 or her designee;

14           5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her  
15 designee;

16           6. The executive director of the Department of Law  
17 Enforcement, or his or her designee;

18           7. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or  
19 his or her designee;

20           8. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her  
21 designee;

22           9. The executive director of the Department of  
23 Veterans' Affairs, or his or her designee; and

24           10. The director of Workforce Innovation, or his or  
25 her designee.

26           (c) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee with  
27 membership from outside the council when necessary in order  
28 for the council to receive advice and assistance in carrying  
29 out its responsibilities.

30           (d) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide  
31 Prevention.

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1       (e) Make findings and recommendations regarding  
2 suicide prevention programs and activities. The council shall  
3 prepare an annual report and present it to the Governor, the  
4 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives by January 1, 2006, and each year thereafter.  
6 The annual report must describe the status of existing and  
7 planned initiatives identified in the statewide plan for  
8 suicide prevention and any recommendations arising therefrom.

9       (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating  
10 Council shall consist of 23 members.

11       (a) Nine members shall be appointed by the director of  
12 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following  
13 organizations:

- 14           1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation,  
15 Inc., described in s. 394.655;
- 16           2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists;
- 17           3. The Florida Sheriffs Association;
- 18           4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA;
- 19           5. The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention;
- 20           6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition;
- 21           7. The Alzheimer's Association;
- 22           8. The Florida School Board Association; and
- 23           9. A representative from Volunteer Florida.

24       (b) The following state officials shall be appointed  
25 to the coordinating council:

- 26           1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her  
27 designee;
- 28           2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee;
- 29           3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her  
30 designee;
- 31           4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his

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1 or her designee;

2 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her  
3 designee;

4 6. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her  
5 designee;

6 7. The executive director of the Department of Law  
7 Enforcement, or his or her designee;

8 8. The executive director of Veterans' Affairs, or his  
9 or her designee;

10 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or  
11 his or her designee; and

12 10. The director of Workforce Innovation, or his or  
13 her designee.

14 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members  
15 to the coordinating council. The appointees must have  
16 expertise critical to the prevention of suicide or represent  
17 an organization that is not already represented on the  
18 coordinating council.

19 (d) Council members shall be appointed to terms of 4  
20 years each. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be  
21 filled in the same manner as the original appointment, and any  
22 member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death,  
23 resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only  
24 for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member  
25 is eligible for reappointment.

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

30 (3) MEETINGS.--

31 (a) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall



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1 be a nonvoting, ex officio member of the coordinating council  
2 and shall act as chair.

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

6 (c) Public organizations shall participate and  
7 cooperate with the coordinating council.

8 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

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11 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

12 And the title is amended as follows:

13 Delete everything before the enacting clause

14

15 and insert:

16 A bill to be entitled  
17 An act relating to suicide prevention; creating  
18 s. 397.3335, F.S.; creating the Statewide  
19 Office for Suicide Prevention in the Office of  
20 Drug Control; providing the goals and  
21 objectives of the office; creating the position  
22 of statewide coordinator for the statewide  
23 office, contingent upon a specific  
24 appropriation; specifying the education and  
25 experience requirements for the position of  
26 coordinator; detailing the duties and  
27 responsibilities of the coordinator;  
28 authorizing the Statewide Office for Suicide  
29 Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds  
30 from any source to support its operation;  
31 creating s. 397.3336, F.S.; creating the

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1 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council within  
2 the Office of Drug Control; providing the scope  
3 of activities for the coordinating council;  
4 creating an interagency workgroup for state  
5 agencies within the coordinating council in  
6 order to coordinate state agency plans for  
7 suicide prevention; authorizing the  
8 coordinating council to assemble an ad hoc  
9 committee to advise the coordinating council;  
10 providing for membership on the coordinating  
11 council; providing an effective date.

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