

By the Committees on Health and Human Services Appropriations; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; Children and Families; and Senators Lynn, Fasano, Wilson, King and Smith

603-2229-05

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to suicide prevention; creating
3 s. 14.2019, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office
4 for Suicide Prevention in the Executive Office
5 of the Governor; providing the goals and
6 objectives of the office; creating the position
7 of statewide coordinator for the statewide
8 office, contingent upon a specific
9 appropriation; specifying the education and
10 experience requirements for the position of
11 coordinator; detailing the duties and
12 responsibilities of the coordinator;
13 authorizing the Statewide Office for Suicide
14 Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds
15 from any source to support its operation;
16 creating s. 14.20195, F.S.; creating the
17 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council within
18 the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention;
19 providing the scope of activities for the
20 coordinating council; creating an interagency
21 workgroup for state agencies within the
22 coordinating council in order to coordinate
23 state agency plans for suicide prevention;
24 authorizing the coordinating council to
25 assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the
26 coordinating council; providing for membership
27 on the coordinating council; providing an
28 effective date.

30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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1 Section 1. Section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 14.2019 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

4 (1) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is
5 created within the Executive Office of the Governor.

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

8 (a) Develop a network of community-based programs to
9 improve suicide prevention initiatives. The network shall
10 identify and work to eliminate barriers that impede providing
11 suicide prevention services to individuals who are at risk of
12 suicide. The network shall consist of stakeholders advocating
13 suicide prevention, including, but not limited to,
14 not-for-profit suicide prevention organizations, faith-based
15 suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement agencies,
16 first responders to emergency calls, suicide prevention
17 community coalitions, schools and universities, mental health
18 agencies, substance abuse agencies, health care providers, and
19 school personnel.

20 (b) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the
21 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.

22 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics
23 relating to suicide prevention.

24 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in
25 suicide prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel,
26 first responders to emergency calls, health care providers,
27 school employees, and other persons who may have contact with
28 persons at risk of suicide.

29 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, a
30 coordinator shall be employed for the Statewide Office for
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1 Suicide Prevention. In selecting the coordinator, it should be
2 considered whether a candidate has:

3 (a) The following education and employment experience:

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

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

12 (b) The following skills:

13 1. Significant professional experience in social
14 services, mental health, or a closely related field.

15 2. Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods
16 of facilitation, community development, behavioral health
17 treatment and prevention programs, and community-based
18 behavioral health problems.

19 3. Experience in working with individuals and groups
20 that are representative of the ethnic and racial diversity of
21 the state.

22 4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical
23 reports.

24 (4) The coordinator shall:

25 (a) Work with the state agencies that are members of
26 the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to integrate state
27 agency programs for suicide prevention into a unified
28 statewide plan. The unified statewide plan must include a
29 suicide prevention communication plan among state agencies.

30 (b) Review local, state, and national suicide
31 prevention programs for examples of innovative suicide

1 prevention models. If innovative models are discovered, the
2 coordinator shall prepare a report to describe the feasibility
3 of implementing some or all of the innovative models in this
4 state. The report must be submitted to the Suicide Prevention
5 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 1. Develop public awareness and media campaigns in
14 each county directed towards persons who are at risk of
15 suicide.

16 2. Develop education and training programs for suicide
17 prevention. The education and training programs must be
18 directed first to persons who have face-to-face contact with
19 individuals who may be at risk of suicide. The training must
20 assist persons to recognize when an individual is at risk of
21 suicide and how to properly refer those individuals to
22 treatment or support services.

23 (f) Provide technical assistance to educational
24 activities for residents of this state relating to suicide
25 prevention.

26 (g) Cooperate with school districts to develop
27 training and counseling programs for school-based suicide
28 prevention activities. The coordinator and school districts
29 must also develop a method by which to evaluate each
30 prevention training and counseling program.

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1 (h) Review current research data and findings to
2 identify at-risk populations, factors relating to suicide, and
3 suicide prevention activities and disseminate this research to
4 the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to develop
5 strategies for preventing suicide.

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

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

13 (6) Agencies under the control of the Governor or the
14 Governor and Cabinet are directed, and all others are
15 encouraged, to provide information and support to the
16 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention as requested.

17 Section 2. Section 14.20195, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 14.20195 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
20 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the
21 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention a Suicide Prevention
22 Coordinating Council. The council shall develop strategies for
23 preventing suicide.

24 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention
25 Coordinating Council is a council as defined in s. 20.03(9)
26 and shall:

27 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
28 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide
29 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a
30 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:
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1 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide
2 prevention initiatives.

3 2. Establish partnerships with state and private
4 agencies to promote public awareness of suicide prevention.

5 3. Address specific populations in this state who are
6 at risk for suicide.

7 4. Improve access to help individuals in acute
8 situations.

9 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of
10 the statewide plan.

11 (b) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee with
12 membership from outside the council when necessary in order
13 for the council to receive advice and assistance in carrying
14 out its responsibilities.

15 (c) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide
16 Prevention.

17 (d) Make findings and recommendations regarding
18 suicide prevention programs and activities. The council shall
19 prepare an annual report and present it to the Governor, the
20 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives by January 1, 2006, and each year thereafter.
22 The annual report must describe the status of existing and
23 planned initiatives identified in the statewide plan for
24 suicide prevention and any recommendations arising therefrom.
25 It shall also include information about any innovative models
26 identified in accordance with s. 14.2019(4)(b) for which
27 legislative action may be required for implementation.

28 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
29 Council shall consist of 26 members.

1 (a) Twelve members shall be appointed by the director
2 of the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the
3 following organizations:

4 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation,
5 Inc., described in s. 394.655.

6 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

7 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

8 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

9 5. The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention.

10 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.

11 7. The Alzheimer's Association.

12 8. The Florida School Board Association.

13 9. Volunteer Florida.

14 10. The state chapter of AARP.

15 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

16 12. The Florida Council for Community Mental Health.

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

19 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs.

20 2. The Secretary of Health.

21 3. The Commissioner of Education.

22 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.

23 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.

24 6. The Secretary of Corrections.

25 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
26 Enforcement.

27 8. The executive director of the Department of
28 Veterans' Affairs.

29 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.

30 10. The director of Workforce Innovation.

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1 (c) The Governor shall appoint three additional
2 members to the coordinating council. The appointees must have
3 expertise critical to the prevention of suicide or represent
4 an organization that is not already represented on the
5 coordinating council.

6 (d) For the members appointed by the director of the
7 Office of Drug Control, six members shall be appointed to
8 initial terms of 3 years and six members shall be appointed to
9 initial terms of 4 years. For the members appointed by the
10 Governor, two members shall be appointed to initial terms of 4
11 years and one member shall be appointed to an initial term of
12 3 years. Thereafter, such members shall serve for terms of 4
13 years. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be filled
14 in the same manner as the original appointment, and any member
15 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death,
16 resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only
17 for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member
18 is eligible for reappointment.

19 (e) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall
20 be a nonvoting member of the coordinating council and shall
21 act as chair.

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

26 (3) MEETINGS.--The coordinating council shall meet at
27 least quarterly or upon the call of the chair. The council
28 meetings may be held via teleconference or other electronic
29 means.

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

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
CS for CS for SB 210

- Places the Office of Suicide Prevention in the Office of the Governor rather than the Office of Drug Control;
- Streamlines the advisory structure by removing references to an interagency workgroup within the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, but maintains the agencies' responsibilities;
- Provides for certain appointees to have staggered terms in compliance with s. 20.052, F.S.;
- Requires state agencies to support the Office of Suicide Prevention in its efforts;
- Changes an unspecified Gubernatorial appointee to an appointee from a specific group;
- Streamlines the reports by providing for one annual report to the Governor and Legislature;
- Makes other changes for technical correctness.