

By Senator Lynn

7-155-06

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; authorizing the  
28 council to accept grants and other funding;  
29 providing an appropriation and authorizing an  
30 additional position; providing an effective  
31 date.

1 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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3 Section 1. Section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 14.2019 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

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

8 (2) The statewide office shall, within available  
9 resources:

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

22 (b) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the  
23 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.

24 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics  
25 relating to suicide prevention.

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

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

5           (a) The following education and employment experience:

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

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

14           (b) The following skills:

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

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

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

24           4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical  
25 reports.

26           (4) The coordinator shall:

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

1           (b) Review local, state, and national  
2 suicide-prevention programs for examples of innovative  
3 suicide-prevention models. If innovative models are  
4 discovered, the coordinator shall prepare a report to describe  
5 the feasibility of implementing some or all of the innovative  
6 models in this state. The report must be submitted to the  
7 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.

8           (c) Develop and maintain an Internet website that has  
9 links to appropriate suicide-prevention resource documents,  
10 suicide hotlines, state and community mental health agencies,  
11 and appropriate national suicide-prevention organizations.

12           (d) Identify and disseminate information regarding  
13 crisis services for suicide prevention.

14           (e) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention in  
15 order to:

16           1. Develop public awareness and media campaigns in  
17 each county directed towards persons who are at risk of  
18 suicide.

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

26           (f) Provide technical assistance to educational  
27 activities for residents of this state relating to suicide  
28 prevention.

29           (g) Cooperate with school districts to develop  
30 training and counseling programs for school-based  
31 suicide-prevention activities. The coordinator and school

1 districts must also develop a method by which to evaluate each  
2 prevention training and counseling program.

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

8 (i) Develop and submit proposals to agencies of the  
9 state and federal governments and to nongovernmental  
10 organizations for funding suicide-prevention activities.

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

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

19 Section 2. Section 14.20195, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

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

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

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

3 1. Align and provide direction for statewide  
4 suicide-prevention initiatives.

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

7 3. Address specific populations in this state who are  
8 at risk for suicide.

9 4. Improve access to help individuals in acute  
10 situations.

11 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of  
12 the statewide plan.

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

17 (c) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide  
18 Prevention.

19 (d) Make findings and recommendations regarding  
20 suicide-prevention programs and activities. The council shall  
21 prepare an annual report and present it to the Governor, the  
22 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
23 Representatives by January 1, 2007, and each year thereafter.  
24 The annual report must describe the status of existing and  
25 planned initiatives identified in the statewide plan for  
26 suicide prevention and any recommendations arising therefrom.  
27 It shall also include information about any innovative models  
28 identified in accordance with s. 14.2019(4)(b) for which  
29 legislative action may be required for implementation.

30 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating  
31 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           (4) FUNDING.--The coordinating council may seek and  
31 accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local



1 source to support its operation and defray the expenses  
2 incurred in its operation and implementation of this section.

3           Section 3. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from  
4 the General Revenue Fund, and one additional full-time  
5 equivalent position is authorized, to the Office of Drug  
6 Control for the purpose of implementing this act during the  
7 2006-2007 fiscal year.

8           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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