

By Senator Webster

9-928A-06

See HB

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to suicide prevention;
3 providing legislative intent; providing for a
4 pilot program to be conducted by the Signs of
5 Suicide Prevention Program for secondary
6 schools in specified counties; requiring the
7 submission of proposals to the Department of
8 Education; providing for student participation
9 in the pilot program and for the provision of
10 certain information to parents; requiring a
11 report to the Legislature; providing an
12 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

16 Section 1. Signs of Suicide Prevention Program for
17 secondary schools; pilot program; legislative intent.--

18 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide
19 support and funding for a pilot program conducted by the Signs
20 of Suicide Prevention Program for secondary schools,
21 hereinafter referred to as "SOS." SOS is a nationally
22 recognized, evidence-based suicide prevention and depression
23 screening program for secondary schools. SOS teaches students
24 how to identify symptoms of depression and suicidal tendencies
25 in themselves and friends while educating students about the
26 relationship between depression and suicide and encouraging
27 them to seek help. The pilot program shall encourage
28 collaboration with local mental health facilities and
29 individual professionals in order to facilitate increased
30 access to treatment.

1 (2) During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, an SOS pilot
2 program shall be conducted in Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and
3 Seminole Counties. In order to receive funding under this act,
4 an SOS entity for a county authorized to participate in the
5 pilot program must submit to the Department of Education by
6 September 1, 2006, a proposal for suicide prevention and
7 depression screening for secondary school students who attend
8 school in that county. The pilot program shall provide local
9 school personnel in each participating county with the
10 materials necessary for implementation. The entire student
11 body, or a select portion of the student body, of a
12 participating school shall be screened, depending on the
13 school's resources. A student is not required to present
14 identification in order to be screened. Prior to the
15 screening, the parent of each student in a participating
16 school shall be provided with a copy of the screening form and
17 additional information to assist the parent in the
18 identification of depression and suicidal tendencies and to
19 help initiate family discussions. A parent may refuse to allow
20 his or her child to participate in the pilot program.

21 (3) By January 1, 2007, the SOS pilot program shall
22 provide to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives a report that includes an itemized
24 list of program costs, an evaluation of participating schools,
25 an assessment of the quality of the program components, an
26 assessment of the safety of program implementation, an
27 assessment of the burden on school support staff after
28 implementation of the program, an assessment of the efficacy
29 of the program, and recommendations for further legislation,
30 which may include an assessment of the feasibility of
31 extending the program to secondary schools throughout the

1 state. The information shall be reported for the pilot program
2 in the aggregate, for each participating county, and for each
3 participating school in each participating county.

4 Section 2. The sum of \$600,000 is appropriated from
5 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for
6 the 2006-2007 fiscal year to be distributed to the Michael
7 Buonauro Foundation to implement the Signs of Suicide
8 Prevention Program as a pilot program for secondary schools in
9 Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties in accordance
10 with this act.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.