

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s.
3 397.3335, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide
4 Prevention in the Office of Drug Control; providing the
5 goals and objectives of the office; creating the position
6 of statewide coordinator for the statewide office,
7 contingent upon a specific appropriation; specifying the
8 education and experience requirements for the position of
9 coordinator; detailing the duties and responsibilities of
10 the coordinator; authorizing the Statewide Office for
11 Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds from
12 any source to support its operation; creating s. 397.3336,
13 F.S.; creating the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council
14 within the Office of Drug Control; providing the scope of
15 activities for the coordinating council; creating an
16 interagency workgroup for state agencies within the
17 coordinating council in order to coordinate state agency
18 plans for suicide prevention; authorizing the coordinating
19 council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the
20 coordinating council; requiring a report to the Governor
21 and Legislature; providing for membership on and meetings
22 of the coordinating council; providing per diem and travel
23 expenses for coordinating council members; providing an
24 effective date.

25
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27
28 Section 1. Section 397.3335, Florida Statutes, is created
29 to read:

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30 397.3335 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

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

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

39 (c) The network of community-based programs shall consist
40 of stakeholders advocating suicide prevention, including, but not
41 limited to, not-for-profit suicide prevention organizations,
42 faith-based suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement
43 agencies, first responders to emergency calls, suicide prevention
44 community coalitions, schools and universities, mental health
45 agencies, substance abuse agencies, health care providers, and
46 school personnel.

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

48 (a) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the Suicide
49 Prevention Coordinating Council.

50 (b) Build a network of community-based programs to
51 integrate suicide prevention initiatives into program activities.

52 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating to
53 suicide prevention.

54 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide
55 prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first
56 responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school
57 employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons at
58 risk of suicide.

59 (e) Direct an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
60 Prevention Coordinating Council to prepare a suicide prevention
61 communication plan among state agencies. The communication plan
62 must be incorporated into the council's statewide plan.

63 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director
64 of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the
65 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention. In selecting the
66 coordinator, the director of the Office of Drug Control should
67 consider whether a candidate has:

68 (a) The following education and employment experience:

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

73 2. A master's or a doctoral degree in social work,
74 psychology, sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely
75 related field and 2 or more years of work experience in
76 behavioral health or a closely related field.

77 (b) The following skills:

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

80 2. Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods of
81 facilitation, community development, behavioral health treatment
82 and prevention programs, and community-based behavioral health
83 problems.

84 3. Experience in working with community groups and
85 constituents that are diverse and representative of the gender,
86 ethnic, and racial populations in this state.

87 4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical

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88 reports.

89 (4) The coordinator shall work under the direction of the
90 director of the Office of Drug Control to achieve the goals and
91 objectives set forth in this section. The coordinator shall:

92 (a) Facilitate an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
93 Prevention Coordinating Council to integrate state agency
94 programs for suicide prevention into a unified statewide plan.

95 (b) Review local, state, and national suicide prevention
96 programs for examples of innovative suicide prevention models. If
97 innovative models are discovered, the coordinator shall prepare a
98 report to describe the feasibility of implementing some or all of
99 the innovative models in this state. The report must be filed
100 with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
101 Representatives, and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council
102 after review and approval of the report by the director of the
103 Office of Drug Control. The innovative models, and the
104 feasibility of their implementation in this state, shall be
105 evaluated by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, which
106 shall file a report with the President of the Senate, the Speaker
107 of the House of Representatives, and the Governor if the council
108 determines that legislation is necessary to implement an
109 innovative model.

110 (c) Develop and maintain an Internet website with links to
111 appropriate suicide prevention resource documents, suicide
112 hotlines, state and community mental health agencies, and
113 appropriate national suicide prevention organizations.

114 (d) Identify and disseminate information regarding crisis
115 services for suicide prevention.

116 (e) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to develop

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117 public awareness and media campaigns in each county directed
118 towards persons who are at risk of suicide.

119 (f) Provide technical assistance to educational activities
120 for residents of this state relating to suicide prevention.

121 (g) Cooperate with school districts to develop training and
122 counseling programs for school-based suicide prevention
123 activities. The coordinator and school districts must also
124 develop a method by which to evaluate each prevention training
125 and counseling program.

126 (h) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to develop
127 education and training programs for suicide prevention. The
128 education and training programs must be directed first to persons
129 who have face-to-face contact with individuals who may be at risk
130 of suicide. The training must assist persons to recognize when an
131 individual is at risk of suicide and how to properly refer those
132 individuals to treatment or support services.

133 (i) Review current research data and findings to identify
134 at-risk populations, factors relating to suicide, and suicide
135 prevention activities and disseminate this research to the
136 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to develop strategies for
137 preventing suicide.

138 (j) Develop and submit proposals to agencies of the state,
139 the Federal Government, and nongovernmental organizations for
140 funding suicide prevention activities.

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

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145 Section 2. Section 397.3336, Florida Statutes, is created
146 to read:

147 397.3336 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council; creation;
148 membership; duties.--There is created within the Office of Drug
149 Control a Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. The council
150 shall develop strategies for preventing suicide.

151 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
152 Council is a coordinating council as defined in s. 20.03(9) and
153 shall:

154 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
155 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide
156 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a
157 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

158 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide
159 prevention initiatives.

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

162 3. Address specific populations in this state who are at
163 risk for suicide.

164 4. Improve access to help individuals in acute situations.

165 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the
166 statewide plan.

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

171 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
172 designee.

173 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.

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174 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

175 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
176 her designee.

177 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
178 designee.

179 6. The executive director of the Department of Law
180 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

181 7. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his or
182 her designee.

183 8. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.

184 9. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
185 Affairs, or his or her designee.

186 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or
187 his or her designee.

188 (c) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee with membership
189 from outside the council when necessary in order for the council
190 to receive advice and assistance in carrying out its
191 responsibilities.

192 (d) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.

193 (e) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide
194 prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an
195 annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of
196 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
197 January 1, 2007, and each year thereafter. The annual report must
198 describe the status of existing and planned initiatives
199 identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any
200 recommendations arising therefrom.

201 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
202 Council shall consist of 25 members.

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203 (a) Eleven members shall be appointed by the director of
 204 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following
 205 organizations:

- 206 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation, Inc.,
 207 described in s. 394.655.
- 208 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.
- 209 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.
- 210 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.
- 211 5. The Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention.
- 212 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.
- 213 7. The Alzheimer's Association.
- 214 8. The Florida School Board Association.
- 215 9. Volunteer Florida, Inc.
- 216 10. Florida AARP.
- 217 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

218 (b) The following state officials shall be appointed to the
 219 coordinating council:

- 220 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
 221 designee.
- 222 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.
- 223 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.
- 224 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
 225 her designee.
- 226 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
 227 designee.
- 228 6. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.
- 229 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
 230 Enforcement, or his or her designee.
- 231 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'

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232 Affairs, or his or her designee.

233 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his or
234 her designee.

235 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or
236 his or her designee.

237 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to
238 the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise
239 critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an
240 organization that is not already represented on the coordinating
241 council.

242 (d) Council members shall be appointed to terms of 4 years
243 each. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be filled in
244 the same manner as the original appointment, and any member
245 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death,
246 resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only for
247 the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member is
248 eligible for reappointment.

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

253 (3) MEETINGS.--

254 (a) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a
255 nonvoting, ex officio member of the coordinating council and
256 shall act as chair.

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

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260 | (c) Public organizations shall participate and cooperate
261 | with the coordinating council.

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