

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to suicide prevention; amending s.  
 3           14.2019, F.S.; requiring the Statewide Office for Suicide  
 4           Prevention to establish a Veterans' Suicide Prevention and  
 5           Services Program; creating s. 14.20193, F.S.; establishing  
 6           the Veterans' Suicide Prevention and Services Program;  
 7           specifying the tasks for the office in implementing the  
 8           program; providing minimum standards for community-based  
 9           providers of services to veterans at risk for suicide;  
 10          providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 14           Section 1. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of  
 15           section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, to read:

16           14.2019 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

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

19           (e) Establish a Veterans' Suicide Prevention and Services  
 20           Program as provided in s. 14.20193.

21           Section 2. Section 14.20193, Florida Statutes, is created  
 22           to read:

23           14.20193 Veterans' Suicide Prevention and Services  
 24           Program.--

25           (1) The statewide office shall establish the Veterans'  
 26           Suicide Prevention and Services Program and, in cooperation  
 27           with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of

28 Military Affairs, and the United States Department of Veterans  
29 Affairs, shall:

30 (a) Coordinate suicide prevention and related services and  
31 resources for veterans that are currently provided by or  
32 available through state agencies and community behavioral health  
33 service providers.

34 (b) Develop a network of community-based programs to  
35 address suicide prevention for veterans and suicide prevention  
36 services available to veterans.

37 (c) Generate guidelines and standards for behavioral  
38 service providers serving veterans at risk for suicide and  
39 develop a list of community behavioral health service providers  
40 who meet those standards.

41 (d) Increase public awareness about the risk of suicide  
42 among veterans.

43 (e) Coordinate education and training for a variety of  
44 professionals who may have contact with veterans at risk for  
45 suicide.

46 (2) Guidelines and standards for community behavioral  
47 health services providers shall, at a minimum, address:

48 (a) A requirement that the provider be a nonprofit  
49 organization under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, be  
50 community-based, and have at least 5 years of experience  
51 providing behavioral health treatment services in the community.

52 (b) The provider's capability and experience as a  
53 community-based organization providing suicide-related services  
54 to the community and to the veteran population.

55        (c) The provider's linkages to the veteran population,  
56 community-based veterans services organizations, the United  
57 States Department of Veterans Affairs, and other entities that  
58 serve and are familiar with the culture and needs of veterans.  
59 At a minimum, the provider must have four cooperative agreements  
60 with such organizations.

61        (d) The provider's accreditation by a state-recognized  
62 accrediting organization, such as the Commission on  
63 Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the Joint Commission  
64 on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, or the Council on  
65 Accreditation, particularly with respect to the service  
66 components that serve veterans at risk for suicide.

67        (e) The adequacy and professional qualifications of the  
68 provider's staff to meet the needs of veterans at risk for  
69 suicide.

70        (f) The provider's resources, including facilities,  
71 equipment, and capacity, to ensure that services are adequate  
72 and provided in a location that ensures maximum access by the  
73 veteran population, including veterans with disabilities.

74        (g) The privacy and confidentiality of client records,  
75 data collected, interview information, and transcripts of group  
76 discussions, including the manner in which confidential  
77 information will be stored and safeguarded and who will have  
78 access to the information.

79        (h) The provider's ability to collect, document, and  
80 report data on performance measures and the ways in which the  
81 data will be used to manage the program and ensure continuous  
82 quality improvement.

HB 1339

2008

83           Section 3. The sum of \$1.3 million in nonrecurring funds  
84 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Statewide  
85 Office for Suicide Prevention for the 2008-2009 fiscal year for  
86 the purpose of funding the Veterans' Suicide Prevention and  
87 Services Program created by this act.

88           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.