

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1061

Suicide Prevention Education

**SPONSOR(S):** Heller

**TIED BILLS:**

**IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 434

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	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ANALYST</b>	<b>STAFF DIRECTOR</b>
1)	<u>PreK-12 Policy Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u>Duncan</u>	<u>Ahearn</u>
2)	<u>PreK-12 Appropriations Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
3)	<u>Education Policy Council</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4)	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5)	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

HB 1061 amends the district school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety to require each board to provide access to educational resources regarding suicide prevention to all instructional and administrative personnel, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. District school boards must use resources approved by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention. School personnel who choose to participate in suicide prevention training must receive inservice credit hours, the amount of which must be determined by each district school board.

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local government revenues or expenditures.

## HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Current Law**

##### *Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy*

In 2008, suicide was the third leading cause of death for Florida's youth ages 15-24.<sup>1</sup> One of the state's long-term goals is to decrease the incidence of teen suicide in Florida by one-third, from approximately 9.5 per 100,000 in 2001 to approximately 6.3 per 100,000 by the end of 2010.<sup>2</sup>

Florida's strategy for suicide prevention includes school interventions. Schools in partnership with families and communities are in a unique position to identify youth at risk of suicide. Prevention, education, intervention and follow-up are keys to reducing the number of young people who take their own lives.<sup>3</sup> Schools offer both the opportunity for recognition of suicide ideation<sup>4</sup> and a process for response. At school, students have the greatest exposure to potential responders such as teachers, counselors, coaches, staff and classmates who have the opportunity to help.<sup>5</sup>

##### *School Community Professional Development Act*

The School Community Professional Development Act (Act) directs the Department of Education (DOE), public postsecondary educational institutions, public school districts, public schools, and professional organizations to establish a coordinated system of professional development.<sup>6</sup> Each school district is required to develop a professional development system which must include inservice activities for instructional personnel focused on:<sup>7</sup>

- Analysis of student achievement data.
- Ongoing formal and informal assessments of student achievement.

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition. See [http://www.floridasuicideprevention.org/the\\_facts.htm](http://www.floridasuicideprevention.org/the_facts.htm).

<sup>2</sup> *Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2005-2010*, Office of Drug Control, Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, Executive Office of the Governor, January 2005 at p. I. See <http://www.flgov.com/pdfs/SP-FlaSuicidePreventionStrategy.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at p. 4-11.

<sup>4</sup> Suicide ideation is the process of fantasizing, planning, practicing, and motivating oneself to commit suicide. *Id.* at pp. 2-3 and 2-16.

<sup>5</sup> *Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2005-2010*, Office of Drug Control, Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, Executive Office of the Governor, January 2005 at p. 4-11. See <http://www.flgov.com/pdfs/SP-FlaSuicidePreventionStrategy.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> s. 1012.98(1), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> s. 1012.98(4)(b)3., F.S., and Rule 6A-5.071, F.A.C.

- Identification and use of instructional strategies that emphasize rigor, relevance, and reading in the content areas.
- Enhancement of subject content expertise.
- Integrated use of classroom technology that enhances teaching and learning.
- Classroom management, parent involvement, and school safety.

The school district's professional development system must include a master plan for inservice activities for all district employees pursuant to the rules of the State Board of Education. The district school board must update and approve the plan annually to be in compliance with the Act. The district school board must submit the verification of its approval to the Commissioner of Education annually.<sup>8</sup> The DOE is required to approve a school district's development system, but does not approve or recommend specific inservice programs or courses to satisfy local inservice needs. Each school district and developmental research school has staff development directors who supervise and direct district inservice activities for instructional and non-instructional personnel.<sup>9</sup>

### *Teacher Recertification and Inservice Points*

Classroom teachers and other public school employees serving in an instructional capacity must be certified.<sup>10</sup> A professional certificate is valid for 5 years and is renewable.<sup>11</sup> To renew a professional certificate, an educator must earn a minimum of 6 college credits or 120 inservice points or earn a combination of college credits and inservice points.<sup>12</sup> One inservice point awarded for successful completion of a component is equivalent to one clock hour of participation. Points awarded for completion of college credit equate to inservice points as follows: one semester hour equals 20 inservice points and one-quarter hour equals 13 and one-third inservice points.<sup>13</sup>

### *School Safety*

District school boards are required to provide for the proper accounting of students, the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students.<sup>14</sup> District school boards are required to adopt rules for the control and discipline of students; adopt codes of student conduct for elementary, middle and high schools; implement a student crime watch program; formulate and prescribe policies and procedures for emergency drills and actual emergencies; provide educational services in detention facilities; and use safety and security best practices.<sup>15</sup>

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill amends the district school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety to require each board to provide access to educational resources regarding suicide prevention to all instructional and administrative personnel, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. District school boards must use resources approved by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention.<sup>16</sup> School personnel who choose to participate in suicide prevention training must receive inservice credit hours, the amount of which must be determined by each district school board.

#### **B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

**Section 1:** amends s. 1006.07, F.S., district school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.

<sup>8</sup> s. 1012.98(4)(b)4., F.S., and Rule 6A-5.071, F.A.C.

<sup>9</sup> s. 1012.98(4)(b)1., F.S. See <http://www.fl DOE.org/profdev/inse rv.asp>.

<sup>10</sup> s. 1012.55(1), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> s. 1012.56, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> s. 1012.585(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Rule 6A-5.071(6), F.A.C.

<sup>14</sup> s. 1006.07, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> s. 1006.07(1) - (6), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention is located in the Executive Office of the Governor.

**Section 2:** provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government expenditures.

### **B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

### **C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

None.

### **D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

None.

## **III. COMMENTS**

### **A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. The bill does not appear to require a county or municipality to spend funds or take an action requiring expenditures; reduce the authority that counties and municipalities had as of February 1, 1989, to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared in the aggregate with counties and municipalities as of February 1, 1989.

2. Other:

None.

### **B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:**

None.

### **C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:**

None.

## **IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

N/A.