

**By** the Committees on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs;  
Military Affairs and Domestic Security; and Military Affairs and  
Domestic Security

586-03221-10

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to veterans' suicide prevention;  
3           directing the Department of Veterans' Affairs, in  
4           partnership with the Statewide Office for Suicide  
5           Prevention and the Department of Children and Family  
6           Services, to seek federal funding for a grants program  
7           that addresses veterans' outreach and suicide  
8           prevention; amending s. 14.20195, F.S.; revising the  
9           membership of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating  
10          Council to include a representative of the Florida  
11          Psychological Association and veterans appointed by  
12          the Governor; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16           Section 1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs, in  
17 collaboration with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention  
18 and the Department of Children and Families Services, shall seek  
19 federal funding for veterans' outreach and suicide prevention  
20 programs and initiatives. Subject to the receipt of such  
21 funding, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall implement and  
22 administer a veterans' outreach and suicide prevention grants  
23 program. The department may focus grant awards to those areas of  
24 the state which are considered underserved by United States  
25 Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities and to  
26 veterans who are otherwise ineligible for health care services  
27 under the federal veterans' benefits system. Programs and  
28 initiatives awarded grants by the department must include both  
29 veterans and their families in outreach and suicide prevention

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30 efforts and coordinate their efforts with the United States  
31 Department of Veterans Affairs.

32 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 14.20195, Florida  
33 Statutes, is amended to read:

34 14.20195 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council; creation;  
35 membership; duties.—There is created within the Statewide Office  
36 for Suicide Prevention a Suicide Prevention Coordinating  
37 Council. The council shall develop strategies for preventing  
38 suicide.

39 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council  
40 shall consist of 31 ~~28~~ voting members.

41 (a) Fifteen ~~Fourteen~~ members shall be appointed by the  
42 director of the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the  
43 following organizations:

44 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation  
45 described in s. 394.655.

46 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

47 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

48 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

49 5. The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention.

50 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.

51 7. The Alzheimer's Association.

52 8. The Florida School Board Association.

53 9. Volunteer Florida.

54 10. The state chapter of AARP.

55 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

56 12. The Florida Council for Community Mental Health.

57 13. The Florida Counseling Association.

58 14. NAMI Florida.

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59           15. The Florida Psychological Association.

60           (b) The following state officials or their designees shall  
61 serve on the coordinating council:

- 62           1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs.
- 63           2. The State Surgeon General.
- 64           3. The Commissioner of Education.
- 65           4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 66           5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.
- 67           6. The Secretary of Corrections.
- 68           7. The executive director of the Department of Law  
69 Enforcement.

70           8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'  
71 Affairs.

- 72           9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.
- 73           10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

74           (c) The Governor shall appoint six ~~four~~ additional members  
75 to the coordinating council. At least four of the appointees  
76 must have expertise that is critical to the prevention of  
77 suicide or represent an organization that is not already  
78 represented on the coordinating council. At least two of the  
79 appointees must be veterans, of whom one must be currently  
80 enrolled as a student.

81           (d) For the members appointed by the director of the Office  
82 of Drug Control, seven members shall be appointed to initial  
83 terms of 3 years, and seven members shall be appointed to  
84 initial terms of 4 years. For the members appointed by the  
85 Governor, two members shall be appointed to initial terms of 4  
86 years, and two members shall be appointed to initial terms of 3  
87 years. Thereafter, such members shall be appointed to terms of 4

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88 years. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be filled  
89 in the same manner as the original appointment, and any member  
90 who is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death,  
91 resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only  
92 for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member is  
93 eligible for reappointment.

94 (e) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a  
95 nonvoting member of the coordinating council and shall act as  
96 chair.

97 (f) Members of the coordinating council shall serve without  
98 compensation. Any member of the coordinating council who is a  
99 public employee is entitled to reimbursement for per diem and  
100 travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

101 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.