

of students, providing suicide prevention and awareness training and resources to students and staff, consulting with other school personnel regarding social-emotional concerns, and providing direct intervention support for students with mental health needs, including those students who are at risk for suicide.² These staff members, although equipped professionally to address adolescent mental health issues, often do not interact with most students on a daily basis.

Based on information provided by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention,³ nine out of ten adolescents who die by suicide give clues to someone before they attempt. School personnel interact with students on a daily basis and may notice changes in student behavior or attitude. According to the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, many suicidal students will likely go to a teacher or coach before they go to a school counselor, yet teachers and coaches lack the training necessary to deal with these issues.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill would require that, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, each school district shall provide access to suicide prevention education for all instructional and administrative personnel using resources approved by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention.⁴ Appropriate training of school staff who work most closely with students may increase their awareness of student behaviors associated with thoughts of harming themselves and may reduce the number of youth suicides.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

² Department of Education, bill analysis, November 10, 2009, on file with the committee.

³ The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention is located in the Office of the Governor. See http://www.flgov.com/suicide_prevention_toolkit.

⁴ The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention makes available on its website links to numerous free, online training opportunities for teachers and administrators. The office especially recommends two training opportunities: *Making Educators Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention* and *Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention*. The training opportunities are available at: <http://www.helppromotehope.com/resources/schools.php>.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Depending on which educational resources are selected by the school district, there may be an indeterminate fiscal impact to school districts. However, the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention offers many educational training opportunities or resources for free.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS by the Pre-K – 12 Education Committee on March 17, 2010.**

The Committee Substitute clarifies that the suicide prevention educational resources, as approved by the Office of Suicide Prevention, will be provided to all instructional and administrative personnel as part of the school district's professional development system.

B. Amendments:

None.