

By Senator Garcia

36-00837-23

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to suicide prevention; amending s.  
3       394.9086, F.S.; revising the purposes of the  
4       Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse to  
5       include an assessment of the state's suicide  
6       prevention infrastructure; revising the duties of the  
7       commission to include duties relating to the state's  
8       suicide prevention infrastructure; providing an  
9       effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13       Section 1. Subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
14       (4) of section 394.9086, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15       394.9086 Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse.—

16       (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the commission are to examine  
17       the current methods of providing mental health and substance  
18       abuse services in the state and to improve the effectiveness of  
19       current practices, procedures, programs, and initiatives in  
20       providing such services; identify any barriers or deficiencies  
21       in the delivery of such services; assess the adequacy of the  
22       current infrastructure of Florida's National Suicide Prevention  
23       Lifeline (NSPL) system and other components of the state's  
24       behavioral health crisis system; and recommend changes to  
25       existing laws, rules, and policies necessary to implement the  
26       commission's recommendations.

27       (4) DUTIES.—

28       (a) The duties of the Commission on Mental Health and  
29       Substance Abuse include the following:

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30           1. Conducting a review and evaluation of the management and  
31 functioning of the existing publicly supported mental health and  
32 substance abuse systems and services in the department, the  
33 Agency for Health Care Administration, and all other departments  
34 which administer mental health and substance abuse services.  
35 Such review shall include, at a minimum, a review of current  
36 goals and objectives, current planning, services strategies,  
37 coordination management, purchasing, contracting, financing,  
38 local government funding responsibility, and accountability  
39 mechanisms.

40           2. Considering the unique needs of persons who are dually  
41 diagnosed.

42           3. Addressing access to, financing of, and scope of  
43 responsibility in the delivery of emergency behavioral health  
44 care services.

45           4. Addressing the quality and effectiveness of current  
46 mental health and substance abuse services delivery systems, and  
47 professional staffing and clinical structure of services, roles,  
48 and responsibilities of public and private providers, such as  
49 community mental health centers; community substance abuse  
50 agencies; hospitals, including emergency services departments;  
51 law enforcement agencies; and the judicial system.

52           5. Addressing priority population groups for publicly  
53 funded mental health and substance abuse services, identifying  
54 the comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services  
55 delivery systems, mental health and substance abuse needs  
56 assessment and planning activities, and local government funding  
57 responsibilities for mental health and substance abuse services.

58           6. Reviewing the implementation of chapter 2020-107, Laws

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59 of Florida.

60 7. Identifying any gaps in the provision of mental health  
61 and substance use disorder services.

62 8. Providing recommendations on how behavioral health  
63 managing entities may fulfill their purpose of promoting service  
64 continuity and work with community stakeholders throughout this  
65 state in furtherance of supporting the NSPL system and other  
66 crisis response services.

67 9. Conducting an overview of the current infrastructure of  
68 the NSPL system.

69 10. Analyzing the current capacity of crisis response  
70 services available throughout this state, including services  
71 provided by mobile response teams and centralized receiving  
72 facilities. The analysis must include information on the  
73 geographic area and the total population served by each mobile  
74 response team along with the average response time to each call  
75 made to a mobile response team; the number of calls that a  
76 mobile response team was unable to respond to due to staff  
77 limitations, travel distance, or other factors; and the veteran  
78 status and age groups of individuals served by mobile response  
79 teams.

80 11. Evaluating and making recommendations to improve  
81 linkages between the NSPL infrastructure and crisis response  
82 services within this state.

83 12. Identifying available mental health block grant funds  
84 that can be used to support the NSPL and crisis response  
85 infrastructure within this state, including any available  
86 funding through opioid settlements or through the American  
87 Rescue Plan Act, Pub. L. No. 117-2; the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,

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88 and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136; or other  
89 federal legislation.

90 13. In consultation with the Agency for Health Care  
91 Administration, identifying sources of funding available through  
92 the Medicaid program specifically for crisis response services,  
93 including funding that may be available by seeking approval of a  
94 Section 1115 waiver submitted to the Centers for Medicare and  
95 Medicaid Services.

96 14. Making recommendations regarding the mission and  
97 objectives of state-supported mental health and substance abuse  
98 services and the planning, management, staffing, financing,  
99 contracting, coordination, and accountability mechanisms which  
100 will best foster the recommended mission and objectives.

101 ~~15.10.~~ Evaluating and making recommendations regarding the  
102 establishment of a permanent, agency-level entity to manage  
103 mental health, substance abuse, and related services statewide.  
104 At a minimum, the evaluation must consider and describe the:

105 a. Specific duties and organizational structure proposed  
106 for the entity;

107 b. Resource needs of the entity and possible sources of  
108 funding;

109 c. Estimated impact on access to and quality of services;

110 d. Impact on individuals with behavioral health needs and  
111 their families, both those currently served through the affected  
112 systems providing behavioral health services and those in need  
113 of services; and

114 e. Relation to, integration with, and impact on providers,  
115 managing entities, communities, state agencies, and systems  
116 which provide mental health and substance abuse services in this

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117 state. Such recommendations must ensure that the ability of such  
118 other agencies and systems to carry out their missions and  
119 responsibilities is not impaired.

120 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.