

CS/CS/SB 434 — Suicide Prevention Education

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee, Education Pre-K – 12 Committee, and Senators Sobel, Fasano, Storms, Wilson, Dean, Rich, Bullard, and Lynn

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

The bill also amends the membership on the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council by replacing representatives from the Alzheimer's Association and Volunteer Florida with representatives from the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention and from the National Council for Suicide Prevention.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 110-0