
SENATE BILL NO. 483—SENATORS SPEARMAN AND D. HARRIS

MARCH 25, 2019

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention. (BDR 40-1163)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to mental health; requiring the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention to include the provision of free suicide prevention training for family members of persons who are at risk of suicide; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 Existing law creates within the Department of Health and Human Services a
2 Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention. Existing law requires the Program to
3 carry out training programs for suicide prevention for law enforcement personnel,
4 providers of health care, school employees and other persons who have contact
5 with persons at risk of suicide. (NRS 439.511) This bill includes family members of
6 persons at risk of suicide in the list of persons to whom such training must be
7 provided.
8 Existing law requires the Coordinator of the Program to provide training to
9 persons who, as part of their usual routine, have face-to-face contact with persons
10 who may be at risk of suicide. (NRS 439.511) This bill additionally requires the
11 Coordinator to establish a program of free suicide prevention training for family
12 members of persons at risk of suicide that includes instruction in certain topics.
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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 439.511 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 439.511 1. There is hereby created within the Department a
3 Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention. The Department shall
4 implement the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention, which
5 must, without limitation:



1 (a) Create public awareness for issues relating to suicide
2 prevention;

3 (b) Build community networks; and

4 (c) Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for law
5 enforcement personnel, providers of health care, school employees ,
6 *family members of persons at risk of suicide* and other persons who
7 have contact with persons at risk of suicide.

8 2. The Director shall employ a Coordinator of the Statewide
9 Program for Suicide Prevention. The Coordinator:

10 (a) Must have at least the following education and experience:

11 (1) A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology,
12 sociology, counseling or a closely related field and 5 years or more
13 of work experience in behavioral health or a closely related field; or

14 (2) A master's degree or a doctoral degree in social work,
15 psychology, sociology, counseling, public health or a closely related
16 field and 2 years or more of work experience in behavioral health or
17 a closely related field.

18 (b) Should have as many of the following characteristics as
19 possible:

20 (1) Significant professional experience in social services,
21 mental health or a closely related field;

22 (2) Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods of
23 facilitation, community development, behavioral health treatment
24 and prevention programs, and community-based behavioral health
25 problems;

26 (3) Experience in working with diverse community groups
27 and constituents; and

28 (4) Experience in writing grants and technical reports.

29 3. The Coordinator shall:

30 (a) Provide educational activities to the general public relating to
31 suicide prevention;

32 (b) Provide training to persons who, as part of their usual
33 routine, have face-to-face contact with persons who may be at risk
34 of suicide, including, without limitation, training to recognize
35 persons at risk of suicide and providing information on how to refer
36 those persons for treatment or supporting services, as appropriate;

37 (c) *Establish a program to provide training to family members*
38 *of persons at risk of suicide at no charge, including, without*
39 *limitation, training in recognizing and productively interacting*
40 *with persons at risk of suicide and the manner in which to refer*
41 *those persons to persons professionally trained in suicide*
42 *intervention and prevention;*

43 (d) Develop and carry out public awareness and media
44 campaigns in each county targeting groups of persons who are at
45 risk of suicide;



1 ~~(d)~~ (e) Enhance crisis services relating to suicide prevention;
2 ~~(e)~~ (f) Link persons trained in the assessment of and
3 intervention in suicide with schools, public community centers,
4 nursing homes and other facilities serving persons most at risk of
5 suicide;

6 ~~(f)~~ (g) Coordinate the establishment of local advisory groups
7 in each county to support the efforts of the Statewide Program;

8 ~~(g)~~ (h) Work with groups advocating suicide prevention,
9 community coalitions, managers of existing crisis hotlines that are
10 nationally accredited or certified, and staff members of mental
11 health agencies in this State to identify and address the barriers that
12 interfere with providing services to groups of persons who are at
13 risk of suicide, including, without limitation, elderly persons, Native
14 Americans, youths and residents of rural communities;

15 ~~(h)~~ (i) Develop and maintain an Internet or network site with
16 links to appropriate resource documents, suicide hotlines that are
17 nationally accredited or certified, licensed professional personnel,
18 state and local mental health agencies and appropriate national
19 organizations;

20 ~~(i)~~ (j) Review current research on data collection for factors
21 related to suicide and develop recommendations for improved
22 systems of surveillance and uniform collection of data;

23 ~~(j)~~ (k) Develop and submit proposals for funding from
24 agencies of the Federal Government and nongovernmental
25 organizations; and

26 ~~(k)~~ (l) Oversee and provide technical assistance to each person
27 employed to act as a trainer for suicide prevention pursuant to
28 NRS 439.513.

29 4. As used in this section:

30 (a) "Internet or network site" means any identifiable site on the
31 Internet or on a network and includes, without limitation:

32 (1) A website or other similar site on the World Wide Web;

33 (2) A site that is identifiable through a Uniform Resource
34 Locator; and

35 (3) A site on a network that is owned, operated, administered
36 or controlled by a provider of Internet service.

37 (b) "Systems of surveillance" means systems pursuant to which
38 the health conditions of the general public are regularly monitored
39 through systematic collection, evaluation and reporting of
40 measurable information to identify and understand trends relating to
41 suicide.

42 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

