

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.

~

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 suicide prevention training for family members of veterans, members of the military and other 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 veterans, members of the military and other persons at risk of suicide in the list of
7 persons to whom such training must be 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 provide suicide prevention training for family members of veterans,
12 members of the military and other persons at risk of suicide that includes
13 instruction in certain topics.

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



1 implement the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention, which
2 must, without limitation:

3 (a) Create public awareness for issues relating to suicide
4 prevention;

5 (b) Build community networks; and

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

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

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

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

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

21 (b) Should have as many of the following characteristics as
22 possible:

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

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

29 (3) Experience in working with diverse community groups
30 and constituents; and

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

32 3. The Coordinator shall:

33 (a) Provide educational activities to the general public relating to
34 suicide prevention;

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

40 (c) *To the extent that money is available for this purpose,*
41 *provide training to family members of veterans, members of the*
42 *military and other persons at risk of suicide, including, without*
43 *limitation, training in recognizing and productively interacting*
44 *with persons at risk of suicide and the manner in which to refer*



1 *those persons to persons professionally trained in suicide*
2 *intervention and prevention;*

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

6 ~~(d)~~ (e) Enhance crisis services relating to suicide prevention;

7 ~~(e)~~ (f) Link persons trained in the assessment of and
8 intervention in suicide with schools, public community centers,
9 nursing homes and other facilities serving persons most at risk of
10 suicide;

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

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

20 ~~(h)~~ (i) Develop and maintain an Internet or network site with
21 links to appropriate resource documents, suicide hotlines that are
22 nationally accredited or certified, licensed professional personnel,
23 state and local mental health agencies and appropriate national
24 organizations;

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

28 ~~(j)~~ (k) Develop and submit proposals for funding from
29 agencies of the Federal Government and nongovernmental
30 organizations; and

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

34 4. As used in this section:

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

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

38 (2) A site that is identifiable through a Uniform Resource
39 Locator; and

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

42 (b) "Systems of surveillance" means systems pursuant to which
43 the health conditions of the general public are regularly monitored
44 through systematic collection, evaluation and reporting of



1 measurable information to identify and understand trends relating to
2 suicide.

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

