

Council Substitute for House Bill No. 139

An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s. 14.2019, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention as a unit of the Office of Drug Control in the Executive Office of the Governor; providing the goals and objectives of the office; creating the position of statewide coordinator for the statewide office, contingent upon a specific appropriation; authorizing the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds from any source to support its operation; requiring that revenues from grants be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Executive Office of the Governor; creating s. 14.20195, F.S.; creating the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council within the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention; providing the scope of activities for the coordinating council; authorizing the coordinating council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the coordinating council; providing for membership on the coordinating council; providing an appropriation and authorizing additional positions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

14.2019 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.—

(1) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is created as a unit of the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor.

(2) The statewide office shall, within available resources:

(a) Develop a network of community-based programs to improve suicide prevention initiatives. The network shall identify and work to eliminate barriers to providing suicide prevention services to individuals who are at risk of suicide. The network shall consist of stakeholders advocating suicide prevention, including, but not limited to, not-for-profit suicide prevention organizations, faith-based suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement agencies, first responders to emergency calls, suicide prevention community coalitions, schools and universities, mental health agencies, substance abuse treatment agencies, health care providers, and school personnel.

(b) Prepare and implement the statewide plan with the advice of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.

(c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating to suicide prevention.

(d) Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons at risk of suicide.

(3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention who shall work under the direction of the director to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this section.

(4) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention may seek and accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local source to support the operation and defray the authorized expenses of the office and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. Revenues from grants shall be deposited in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Executive Office of the Governor. In accordance with s. 216.181(11), the Executive Office of the Governor may request changes to the approved operating budget to allow the expenditure of any additional grant funds collected pursuant to this subsection.

(5) Agencies under the control of the Governor or the Governor and Cabinet are directed, and all others are encouraged, to provide information and support to the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention as requested.

Section 2. Section 14.20195, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

14.20195 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council; creation; membership; duties.—There is created within the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention a Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. The council shall develop strategies for preventing suicide.

(1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.—The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council is a coordinating council as defined in s. 20.03 and shall:

(a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide prevention initiatives.

2. Establish partnerships with state and private agencies for the purpose of promoting public awareness of suicide prevention.

3. Address specific populations in this state who are at risk for suicide.

4. Identify ways to improve access to crisis services for individuals in acute situations.

5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the statewide plan.

(b) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee comprised of members from outside the council, if necessary, in order for the council to receive advice and assistance in carrying out its responsibilities.

(c) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter.

The annual report must describe the status of existing and planned initiatives identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any recommendations arising therefrom.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council shall consist of 28 voting members.

(a) Fourteen members shall be appointed by the director of the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following organizations:

1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation described in s. 394.655.

2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

5. The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention.

6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.

7. The Alzheimer's Association.

8. The Florida School Board Association.

9. Volunteer Florida.

10. The state chapter of AARP.

11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

12. The Florida Council for Community Mental Health.

13. The Florida Counseling Association.

14. NAMI Florida.

(b) The following state officials or their designees shall serve on the coordinating council:

1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs.

2. The Secretary of Health.

3. The Commissioner of Education.

4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.

5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.

6. The Secretary of Corrections.

7. The executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement.

8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.
10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

(c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise that is critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an organization that is not already represented on the coordinating council.

(d) For the members appointed by the director of the Office of Drug Control, seven members shall be appointed to initial terms of 3 years, and seven members shall be appointed to initial terms of 4 years. For the members appointed by the Governor, two members shall be appointed to initial terms of 4 years, and two members shall be appointed to initial terms of 3 years. Thereafter, such members shall be appointed to terms of 4 years. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, and any member who is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death, resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member is eligible for reappointment.

(e) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a nonvoting member of the coordinating council and shall act as chair.

(f) Members of the coordinating council shall serve without compensation. Any member of the coordinating council who is a public employee is entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

(3) MEETINGS.—The coordinating council shall meet at least quarterly or upon the call of the chair. The council meetings may be held via teleconference or other electronic means.

Section 3. Two full-time equivalent positions are authorized, and the sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Office of Drug Control for the purpose of implementing this act during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 22, 2007.