

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

SENATE BILL 36
(BDR 34-644)

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
MAY 14, 2003

Summary

Senate Bill 36 authorizes Regional Training Programs for the Professional Development of Teachers and Administrators to provide teachers and administrators with access to information concerning issues related to suicide among pupils.

Background Information

During the 2001-2002 interim, the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Suicide Prevention studied suicide prevention in Nevada. As part of its study, the Subcommittee reviewed the U.S. Surgeon General's 2001 report on suicide—*National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action*. In that report, the Surgeon General has identified the key gatekeepers in suicide prevention as those people who regularly come into contact with individuals or families in distress. Some examples of key gatekeepers are clergy, police officers, emergency medical personnel, primary health care providers, mental health professionals, and school personnel. Goal 6 in the Surgeon General's national strategy is to "Implement Training for Recognition of At-Risk Behavior and Delivery of Effective Treatment."

Although the Surgeon General has identified teachers and other educational staff as key gatekeepers in suicide prevention, the Subcommittee learned that teachers and other school personnel in Nevada currently are not receiving training to recognize pupils at risk of suicide and are not being trained in the appropriate interventions for suicidal persons. To address this situation, the Subcommittee voted to:

Draft and send a letter to the Legislative Committee on Education recommending that it consider requesting legislation requiring all public school teachers, including elementary education teachers, to complete certain courses in suicide prevention prior to license renewal. Such legislation could require that Nevada's Regional Training Programs for the Professional Development of Teachers and Administrators provide teachers and administrators with information and training specific to suicide issues, including identifying and intervening with pupils at high risk of suicide.

D 1/2

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION
DATE: 5/14/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT D
SUBMITTED BY: DON WILLIAMS

In response to the Subcommittee's request, the Legislative Committee on Education discussed this matter in work session, heard testimony relating to the issue, and then voted to submit a bill draft request (BDR). The BDR (BDR 34-644) was drafted and introduced in the 2003 Legislative Session as S.B. 36. Senate Bill 36 was heard by the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities on March 7, and the committee unanimously recommended "Do Pass." On March 12, the Senate unanimously passed S.B. 36, and this measure was referred to the Assembly Committee on Education on March 13.

Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1.

This section adds a new section to Chapter 391 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS), "Personnel" in Title 34 of NRS, "Education." The new section authorizes a Regional Training Program for the Professional Development of Teachers and Administrators to facilitate and coordinate access to information, for educational purposes only, by teachers and administrators concerning issues related to suicide among pupils. Furthermore, this section provides that a teacher or administrator receiving, or having access to such information, does not have any additional duty otherwise required in their course of employment.

Section 2.

Section 2 adds the provisions of Section 1 of this bill to NRS 391.500, "Definitions," under the statutes governing Regional Training Programs for the Professional Development of Teachers and Administrators.

Section 3.

Section 3 makes the bill effective on July 1, 2003.

DOW/k:W32455-2

Prepared by Donald O. Williams, Chief Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau