
SENATE BILL NO. 49—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO
STUDY SUICIDE PREVENTION)

PREFILED JANUARY 30, 2003

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Creates Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention
within Department of Human Resources.
(BDR 40-288)

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 suicide prevention; creating a Statewide
Program for Suicide Prevention within the office of the
Director of the Department of Human Resources; creating
positions within the Statewide Program for Suicide
Prevention to coordinate the Statewide Program and to
provide training and facilitate networking relating to
suicide prevention in certain counties; and providing other
matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

3 **Sec. 2. 1.** *There is hereby created within the office of the*
4 *Director a Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention. The*
5 *Department shall implement the Statewide Program for Suicide*
6 *Prevention, which must, without limitation:*

7 *(a) Create public awareness for issues relating to suicide*
8 *prevention;*

9 *(b) Build community networks; and*



- 1 (c) Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for law
2 enforcement personnel, providers of health care, school employees
3 and other persons who have contact with persons at risk of
4 suicide.
- 5 2. The Director shall employ a Coordinator of the Statewide
6 Program for Suicide Prevention. The Coordinator:
- 7 (a) Must have at least the following education and experience:
8 (1) A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology,
9 sociology, counseling or a closely related field, and 5 years or
10 more of work experience in behavioral health or a closely related
11 field; or
- 12 (2) A master's degree or a doctoral degree in social work,
13 psychology, sociology, counseling, public health or a closely
14 related field, and 2 years or more of work experience in behavioral
15 health or a closely related field.
- 16 (b) Should have as many of the following characteristics as
17 possible:
- 18 (1) Significant professional experience in social services,
19 mental health or a closely related field;
- 20 (2) Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods of
21 facilitation, community development, behavioral health treatment
22 and prevention programs, and community-based behavioral health
23 problems;
- 24 (3) Experience in working with diverse community groups
25 and constituents; and
- 26 (4) Experience in writing grants and technical reports.
- 27 3. The Coordinator shall:
- 28 (a) Provide educational activities to the general public relating
29 to suicide prevention;
- 30 (b) Provide training to persons who, as part of their usual
31 routine, have face-to-face contact with persons who may be at risk
32 of suicide, including, without limitation, training to recognize
33 persons at risk of suicide and providing information on how to
34 refer those persons for treatment or supporting services, as
35 appropriate;
- 36 (c) Develop and carry out public awareness and media
37 campaigns in each county targeting groups of persons who are at
38 risk of suicide;
- 39 (d) Enhance crisis services relating to suicide prevention;
- 40 (e) Link persons trained in the assessment of and intervention
41 in suicide with schools, public community centers, nursing homes
42 and other facilities serving persons most at risk of suicide;
- 43 (f) Coordinate the establishment of local advisory groups in
44 each county to support the efforts of the Statewide Program;



1 (g) Work with groups advocating suicide prevention,
2 community coalitions, managers of existing crisis hotlines that are
3 nationally accredited or certified, and staff members of mental
4 health agencies in this state to identify and address the barriers
5 that interfere with providing services to groups of persons who are
6 at risk of suicide, including, without limitation, elderly persons,
7 Native Americans, youths and residents of rural communities;

8 (h) Develop and maintain an Internet or network site with
9 links to appropriate resource documents, suicide hotlines that are
10 nationally accredited or certified, licensed professional personnel,
11 state and local mental health agencies and appropriate national
12 organizations;

13 (i) Review current research on data collection for factors
14 related to suicide and develop recommendations for improved
15 systems of surveillance and uniform collection of data;

16 (j) Develop and submit proposals for funding from agencies of
17 the Federal Government and nongovernmental organizations; and

18 (k) Oversee and provide technical assistance to the person
19 employed to act as a trainer for suicide prevention pursuant to
20 section 3 of this act.

21 4. As used in this section:

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

24 (1) A website or other similar site on the World Wide Web;
25 (2) A site that is identifiable through a Uniform Resource
26 Locator; and

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

29 (b) "Systems of surveillance" means systems pursuant to
30 which the health conditions of the general public are regularly
31 monitored through systematic collection, evaluation and reporting
32 of measurable information to identify and understand trends
33 relating to suicide.

34 **Sec. 3. 1. The Coordinator of the Statewide Program for**
35 **Suicide Prevention shall employ a person to act as a trainer for**
36 **suicide prevention and facilitator for networking for Southern**
37 **Nevada.**

38 2. The trainer for suicide prevention:

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

40 (1) Three years or more of experience in providing
41 education and training relating to suicide prevention to diverse
42 community groups; or

43 (2) A bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral degree
44 in social work, public health, psychology, sociology, counseling or



1 *a closely related field, and 2 years or more of experience in*
2 *providing education and training relating to suicide prevention.*
3 *(b) Should have as many of the following characteristics as*
4 *possible:*
5 *(1) Significant knowledge and experience relating to*
6 *suicide and suicide prevention;*
7 *(2) Knowledge of methods of facilitation, networking and*
8 *community-based suicide prevention programs;*
9 *(3) Experience in working with diverse community groups*
10 *and constituents; and*
11 *(4) Experience in providing suicide awareness information*
12 *and suicide prevention training.*
13 *3. The trainer for suicide prevention must be based in a*
14 *county whose population is 400,000 or more.*
15 *4. The trainer for suicide prevention shall:*
16 *(a) Assist the Coordinator of the Statewide Program for*
17 *Suicide Prevention in disseminating and carrying out the*
18 *Statewide Program in the county in which the trainer for suicide*
19 *prevention is based;*
20 *(b) Provide information and training relating to suicide*
21 *prevention to emergency medical personnel, providers of health*
22 *care, mental health agencies, social service agencies, churches,*
23 *public health clinics, school districts, law enforcement agencies*
24 *and other similar community organizations in the county in which*
25 *the trainer for suicide prevention is based;*
26 *(c) Assist the Coordinator of the Statewide Program for*
27 *Suicide Prevention in developing and carrying out public*
28 *awareness and media campaigns targeting groups of persons who*
29 *are at risk of suicide in the county in which the trainer for suicide*
30 *prevention is based;*
31 *(d) Assist in developing a network of community-based*
32 *programs for suicide prevention in the county in which the trainer*
33 *for suicide prevention is based, including, without limitation,*
34 *establishing one or more local advisory groups for suicide*
35 *prevention; and*
36 *(e) Facilitate the sharing of information and the building of*
37 *consensuses among multiple constituent groups in the county in*
38 *which the trainer for suicide prevention is based, including,*
39 *without limitation, public agencies, community organizations,*
40 *advocacy groups for suicide prevention, mental health providers*
41 *and representatives of the various groups that are at risk for*
42 *suicide.*
43 **Sec. 4.** The Coordinator of the Statewide Program for Suicide
44 Prevention created by section 2 of this act shall initiate the public
45 awareness and media campaigns for suicide prevention required



1 pursuant to that program in a county whose population is 400,000 or
2 more.

3 **Sec. 5.** On or before January 3, 2005, the Director of the
4 Department of Human Resources shall submit a copy of the
5 Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention and a report concerning
6 the status of the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention to the
7 Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for
8 transmittal to the Legislature.

9 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.

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