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CL/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 111, *approved July 20, 2023*
Senate, No. 528 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning annual suicide prevention instruction for public
2 school teaching staff members and amending P.L.2005, c.310.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-112) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9
10 C.18A:6-112 Instruction in suicide prevention for public school
11 teaching staff.

12 2. a. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New
13 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established in
14 the Department of Children and Families pursuant to P.L.2003,
15 c.214 (C.30:9A-22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional
16 development requirement established by the State board for public
17 school teaching staff members, require each public school teaching
18 staff member to complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide
19 prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional
20 with training and experience in mental health issues, in each
21 professional development period. The instruction in suicide
22 prevention shall include information on the relationship between the
23 risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and
24 bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students
25 who are members of communities identified as having members at
26 high risk of suicide.

27 b. Not including teaching staff members subject to the
28 requirements of subsection a. of this section¹and not including
29 licensed mental health care professionals¹, a school employee or an
30 employee of a contracted service provider who has regular and
31 direct contact with students, as determined by the board of
32 education, shall complete a one-time training program in suicide
33 prevention, awareness, and response² [developed or]² identified by
34 the Department of Education pursuant to subsection c. of this
35 section. A person subject to the requirements of this subsection
36 shall complete the required training program not less than 12
37 months from the date of the¹ [development or]¹ identification by
38 the department of training programs¹ [and the development of the
39 fact sheet]¹ or 12 months from the person's date of hire, whichever
40 occurs later.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted May 26, 2022.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 16, 2023.

1 c. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
2 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human
3 Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
4 Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in
5 the education community, shall¹:

6 (1) develop or¹ identify training programs on suicide
7 prevention, awareness, and response that persons subject to the
8 requirements of subsection b. of this section may access and
9 complete, free of charge, to fulfill the requirements. The
10 department may enter into an agreement with one or more private
11 entities to make a training program available, free of charge, to
12 persons subject to the requirements of subsection b. of this
13 section¹; and

14 (2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention,
15 awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet shall include,
16 but not be limited to, model guidance, best practices, and
17 educational resources that will assist school districts in developing
18 their own suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols.
19 Among the best practices that districts are encouraged to consider in
20 staff training and in the development of school district protocols is
21 the use of table-top exercises where appropriate staff rehearse
22 scenarios in the event of a suicide impacting the school district.

23 The educational fact sheet shall be made available on the
24 department's website and shall be distributed, at no charge, to all
25 school districts. The department shall update the educational fact
26 sheet on an annual basis in accordance with trends in the field of
27 youth suicide prevention¹.

28 d. ¹Beginning in the first full school year ¹Not less than 12
29 months¹ following the date of the ¹development or¹
30 identification by the department of the training programs ¹and the
31 development of the educational fact sheet, ¹ or not less than 12
32 months from the person's date of hire,¹ and annually thereafter,
33 each school district and contracted service provider shall provide to
34 their employees who are subject to the requirements of subsection a.
35 or b. of this section, in a hard copy paper form or in an electronic
36 form ¹:

37 (1) the educational fact sheet developed pursuant to paragraph
38 (2) of subsection c. of this section; and

39 (2) ¹guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide
40 prevention, awareness, and response protocols including, but not
41 limited to, contact information for each school's designated staff
42 who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student
43 may be at risk for suicide.

44 e. A school district shall provide information concerning its
45 compliance with the requirements of this section in the New Jersey
46 Quality Single Accountability Continuum Statement of Assurance
47 submitted by the district to the executive county superintendent of

1 schools. A contracted service provider shall annually provide a
2 statement of assurance to the school district concerning its
3 compliance with the provisions of subsections b. and d. of this
4 section.

5 f. ¹[(1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
6 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
7 implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from
8 any training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

9 (2) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of
10 this section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of
11 care.] Each person who is required pursuant to subsection a. or
12 subsection b. of this section to complete a suicide prevention
13 training program shall have a duty to warn and protect when the
14 following conditions exist:

15 (1) a student has communicated to that person a clearly
16 identifiable threat of imminent, serious physical violence against
17 oneself and the circumstances are such that a reasonable person
18 would believe the student intended to carry out the threat; or

19 (2) the circumstances are such that a reasonable person would
20 believe the student intended to carry out an act of imminent, serious
21 physical violence against oneself.

22 A person acting in good faith and who takes reasonable steps to
23 discharge a duty to warn and protect shall be immune from civil and
24 criminal liability in regard to that disclosure.¹

25 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.4)

26
27 2. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
28 inoperative until the Department of Education has ¹【developed or】¹
29 identified and made available to school districts the training
30 programs ¹【and developed the educational fact sheet】¹ required
31 pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-
32 112).

33

34

35

36

37 Requires certain additional school district personnel to complete
38 training program on suicide prevention.

SENATE, No. 528

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Codey

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain additional school district personnel to complete training program on suicide prevention.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning annual suicide prevention instruction for public
2 school teaching staff members and amending P.L.2005, c.310.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-112) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New
10 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established in the
11 Department of Children and Families pursuant to P.L.2003, c.214
12 (C.30:9A-22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional development
13 requirement established by the State board for public school teaching
14 staff members, require each public school teaching staff member to
15 complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention, to be
16 provided by a licensed health care professional with training and
17 experience in mental health issues, in each professional development
18 period. The instruction in suicide prevention shall include
19 information on the relationship between the risk of suicide and
20 incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying and information
21 on reducing the risk of suicide in students who are members of
22 communities identified as having members at high risk of suicide.

23 b. Not including teaching staff members subject to the
24 requirements of subsection a. of this section, a school employee or
25 an employee of a contracted service provider who has regular and
26 direct contact with students, as determined by the board of education,
27 shall complete a one-time training program in suicide prevention,
28 awareness, and response developed or identified by the Department
29 of Education pursuant to subsection c. of this section. A person
30 subject to the requirements of this subsection shall complete the
31 required training program not less than 12 months from the date of
32 the development or identification by the department of training
33 programs and the development of the fact sheet or 12 months from
34 the person's date of hire, whichever occurs later.

35 c. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
36 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human
37 Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
38 Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in
39 the education community, shall:

40 (1) develop or identify training programs on suicide prevention,
41 awareness, and response that persons subject to the requirements of
42 subsection b. of this section may access and complete, free of charge,
43 to fulfill the requirements. The department may enter into an
44 agreement with one or more private entities to make a training
45 program available, free of charge, to persons subject to the
46 requirements of subsection b. of this section; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention,
2 awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet shall include,
3 but not be limited to, model guidance, best practices, and educational
4 resources that will assist school districts in developing their own
5 suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols. Among the
6 best practices that districts are encouraged to consider in staff
7 training and in the development of school district protocols is the use
8 of table-top exercises where appropriate staff rehearse scenarios in
9 the event of a suicide impacting the school district.

10 The educational fact sheet shall be made available on the
11 department's website and shall be distributed, at no charge, to all
12 school districts. The department shall update the educational fact
13 sheet on an annual basis in accordance with trends in the field of
14 youth suicide prevention.

15 d. Beginning in the first full school year following the date of
16 the development or identification by the department of the training
17 programs and the development of the educational fact sheet, and
18 annually thereafter, each school district and contracted service
19 provider shall provide to their employees who are subject to the
20 requirements of subsection a. or b. of this section, in a hard copy
21 paper form or in an electronic form:

22 (1) the educational fact sheet developed pursuant to paragraph (2)
23 of subsection c. of this section; and

24 (2) guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide
25 prevention, awareness, and response protocols including, but not
26 limited to, contact information for each school's designated staff who
27 should be notified whenever an employee believes a student may be
28 at risk for suicide.

29 e. A school district shall provide information concerning its
30 compliance with the requirements of this section in the New Jersey
31 Quality Single Accountability Continuum Statement of Assurance
32 submitted by the district to the executive county superintendent of
33 schools. A contracted service provider shall annually provide a
34 statement of assurance to the school district concerning its
35 compliance with the provisions of subsections b. and d. of this
36 section.

37 f. (1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
38 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
39 implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from any
40 training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

41 (2) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of this
42 section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

43 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.4)

44
45 2. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
46 inoperative until the Department of Education has developed or
47 identified and made available to school districts the training

1 programs and developed the educational fact sheet required pursuant
2 to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-112).

3

4

5

STATEMENT

6

7 Under current law, public school teaching staff members receive
8 instruction in suicide prevention as part of their professional
9 development requirements. This bill provides that a school district
10 employee who is not subject to the current professional development
11 requirement and an employee of a contracted service provider, who
12 have regular and direct contact with students as determined by the
13 board of education, will be required to complete a one-time training
14 program in suicide prevention, awareness, and response developed or
15 identified by the Department of Education.

16 The bill also directs the Department of Education, in consultation
17 with the Department of Children and Families, the Department of
18 Human Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
19 Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in
20 the education community to: 1) develop or identify training programs
21 on suicide prevention, awareness, and response that persons subject
22 to the bill's training requirements may access and complete free of
23 charge; and 2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide
24 prevention, awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet will
25 be made available on the department's website and distributed at no
26 charge to all school districts.

27 Under the bill's provisions, each school district and contracted
28 service provider is to annually provide to its employees the
29 educational fact sheet and guidelines on the school district's
30 reporting and suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols,
31 including contact information for each school's designated staff who
32 should be notified whenever an employee believes a student may be
33 at risk for suicide.

34 The bill specifies that a person will not have a cause of action for
35 any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
36 implementation of the bill's provisions.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 528

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 528.

Under current law, public school teaching staff members receive instruction in suicide prevention as part of their professional development requirements. This bill provides that a school district employee who is not subject to the current professional development requirement and an employee of a contracted service provider, who have regular and direct contact with students as determined by the board of education, will be required to complete a one-time training program in suicide prevention, awareness, and response developed or identified by the Department of Education.

The bill also directs the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in the education community to: 1) develop or identify training programs on suicide prevention, awareness, and response that persons subject to the bill's training requirements may access and complete free of charge; and 2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention, awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet will be made available on the department's website and distributed at no charge to all school districts.

Under the bill's provisions, each school district and contracted service provider is to annually provide to its employees the educational fact sheet and guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols, including contact information for each school's designated staff who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student may be at risk for suicide.

The bill specifies that a person will not have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the bill's provisions.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 528

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 16, 2023

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 528 (1R) with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires certain school employees to complete training in suicide prevention, awareness, and response.

Under current law, public school teaching staff members receive instruction in suicide prevention as part of their professional development requirements. As amended, this bill provides that other school district employees and employees of a contracted service provider, other than mental health care professionals, who have regular and direct contact with students, as determined by the board of education, will be required to complete a one-time training program in suicide prevention, awareness, and response developed or identified by the Department of Education.

The amended bill also directs the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in the education community to identify training programs on suicide prevention, awareness, and response that persons subject to the bill's training requirements may access and complete free of charge.

Under the amended bill's provisions, each school district and contracted service provider is to annually provide to its employees the guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols, including contact information for each school's designated staff who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student may be at risk for suicide.

The amended bill specifies that a person who is required to receive training pursuant to the provisions of the bill will have a duty to warn and protect under certain circumstances and that a person who acts in good faith and takes reasonable steps to discharge a duty to warn and protect will be immune from civil and criminal liability in regard to that disclosure.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2815, which was amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- remove a reference to the requirement that the department develop the suicide prevention training program.

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 528

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: MAY 26, 2022

These floor amendments:

- exclude licensed mental health care professionals from the list of school employees and contracted service providers required to receive training on suicide prevention;
- specify that the Department of Education, in consultation with various other agencies, is only responsible for identifying suicide prevention training programs. In its original form, the department was also required to develop such programs;
- eliminate the provisions of the bill requiring the department to develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention;
- require that the suicide prevention training be completed not less than 12 months following the date of the identification by the department of the training programs or not less than 12 months from the date that an employee is hired;
- specify that all personnel required to complete the suicide prevention training have a duty to warn and protect when: a student has communicated to that person a clearly identifiable threat of imminent, serious physical violence against oneself and the circumstances are such that a reasonable person would believe the student intended to carry out the threat; or the circumstances are such that a reasonable person would believe the student intended to carry out an act of imminent, serious physical violence against oneself; and
- specify that a person acting in good faith and who takes reasonable steps to discharge a duty to warn and protect is immune from civil and criminal liability.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2815

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Dunn and DeFuccio

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain additional school district personnel to complete training program on suicide prevention.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2023)

A2815 MURPHY, WIMBERLY

2

1 AN ACT concerning annual suicide prevention instruction for
2 certain public school personnel and amending P.L.2005, c.310.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-112) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
10 New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established
11 in the Department of Children and Families pursuant to
12 P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-22 et seq.), shall, as part of the
13 professional development requirement established by the State
14 board for public school teaching staff members, require each public
15 school teaching staff member to complete at least two hours of
16 instruction in suicide prevention, to be provided by a licensed
17 health care professional with training and experience in mental
18 health issues, in each professional development period. The
19 instruction in suicide prevention shall include information on the
20 relationship between the risk of suicide and incidents of harassment,
21 intimidation, and bullying and information on reducing the risk of
22 suicide in students who are members of communities identified as
23 having members at high risk of suicide.

24 b. Not including teaching staff members subject to the
25 requirements of subsection a. of this section, a school employee or
26 an employee of a contracted service provider who has regular and
27 direct contact with students, as determined by the board of
28 education, shall complete a one-time training program in suicide
29 prevention, awareness, and response developed or identified by the
30 Department of Education pursuant to subsection c. of this section.
31 A person subject to the requirements of this subsection shall
32 complete the required training program not less than 12 months
33 from the date of the development or identification by the
34 department of training programs and the development of the fact
35 sheet or 12 months from the person's date of hire, whichever occurs
36 later.

37 c. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
38 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human
39 Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
40 Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in
41 the education community, shall:

42 (1) develop or identify training programs on suicide prevention,
43 awareness, and response that persons subject to the requirements of
44 subsection b. of this section may access and complete, free of
45 charge, to fulfill the requirements. The department may enter into

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 an agreement with one or more private entities to make a training
2 program available, free of charge, to persons subject to the
3 requirements of subsection b. of this section; and

4 (2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention,
5 awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet shall include,
6 but not be limited to, model guidance, best practices, and
7 educational resources that will assist school districts in developing
8 their own suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols.
9 Among the best practices that districts are encouraged to consider in
10 staff training and in the development of school district protocols is
11 the use of table-top exercises where appropriate staff rehearse
12 scenarios in the event of a suicide impacting the school district.

13 The educational fact sheet shall be made available on the
14 department's website and shall be distributed, at no charge, to all
15 school districts. The department shall update the educational fact
16 sheet on an annual basis in accordance with trends in the field of
17 youth suicide prevention.

18 d. Beginning in the first full school year following the date of
19 the development or identification by the department of the training
20 programs and the development of the educational fact sheet, and
21 annually thereafter, each school district and contracted service
22 provider shall provide to their employees who are subject to the
23 requirements of subsection a. or b. of this section, in a hard copy
24 paper form or in an electronic form:

25 (1) the educational fact sheet developed pursuant to paragraph
26 (2) of subsection c. of this section; and

27 (2) guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide
28 prevention, awareness, and response protocols including, but not
29 limited to, contact information for each school's designated staff
30 who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student
31 may be at risk for suicide.

32 e. A school district shall provide information concerning its
33 compliance with the requirements of this section in the New Jersey
34 Quality Single Accountability Continuum Statement of Assurance
35 submitted by the district to the executive county superintendent of
36 schools. A contracted service provider shall annually provide a
37 statement of assurance to the school district concerning its
38 compliance with the provisions of subsections b. and d. of this
39 section.

40 f. (1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
41 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
42 implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from
43 any training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

44 (2) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of
45 this section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of
46 care.

47 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.4)

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
2 inoperative until the Department of Education has developed or
3 identified and made available to school districts the training
4 programs and developed the educational fact sheet required
5 pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-
6 112).

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11 Under current law, public school teaching staff members receive
12 instruction in suicide prevention as part of their professional
13 development requirements. This bill provides that other school
14 district employees and employees of a contracted service provider
15 who have regular and direct contact with students, as determined by
16 the board of education, will be required to complete a one-time
17 training program in suicide prevention, awareness, and response
18 developed or identified by the Department of Education.

19 The bill also directs the Department of Education, in consultation
20 with the Department of Children and Families, the Department of
21 Human Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention
22 Advisory Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested
23 stakeholders in the education community to: 1) develop or identify
24 training programs on suicide prevention, awareness, and response
25 that persons subject to the bill's training requirements may access
26 and complete free of charge; and 2) develop an educational fact
27 sheet on suicide prevention, awareness, and response. The
28 educational fact sheet will be made available on the department's
29 website and distributed at no charge to all school districts.

30 Under the bill's provisions, each school district and contracted
31 service provider is to annually provide to its employees the
32 educational fact sheet and guidelines on the school district's
33 reporting and suicide prevention, awareness, and response
34 protocols, including contact information for each school's
35 designated staff who should be notified whenever an employee
36 believes a student may be at risk for suicide.

37 The bill specifies that a person will not have a cause of action for
38 any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
39 implementation of the bill's provisions.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2815

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 16, 2023

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2815 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires certain school employees to complete training in suicide prevention, awareness, and response.

Under current law, public school teaching staff members receive instruction in suicide prevention as part of their professional development requirements. As amended, this bill specifically requires other school district employees and employees of a contracted service provider, other than mental health care professionals, who have regular and direct contact with students, as determined by the board of education, to complete a one-time training program in suicide prevention, awareness, and response developed or identified by the Department of Education.

The amended bill also directs the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in the education community, to identify training programs on suicide prevention, awareness, and response that persons subject to the bill's training requirements may access and complete free of charge.

Under the amended bill's provisions, each school district and contracted service provider is to annually provide to its employees the guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols, including contact information for each school's designated staff who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student may be at risk for suicide.

The amended bill specifies that a person who is required to receive training pursuant to the provisions of the bill has a duty to warn and protect under certain circumstances and that a person who acts in good faith and takes reasonable steps to discharge a duty to warn and protect is immune from civil and criminal liability in regard to that disclosure.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 528 (1R), which also was amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- exclude licensed mental health care professionals from the list of school employees and contracted service providers required to receive training on suicide prevention;
- the amendments specify that the Department of Education, in consultation with various other agencies, is only responsible for identifying suicide prevention training programs; as introduced, the department was also required to develop these programs;
- eliminate the provisions of the bill requiring the department to develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention and require that the suicide prevention training be completed not less than 12 months following the date of the identification by the department of the training programs or not less than 12 months from the date that an employee is hired;
- specify that all personnel required to complete the suicide prevention training have a duty to warn and protect when: a student has communicated to that person a clearly identifiable threat of imminent, serious physical violence against oneself and the circumstances are such that a reasonable person would believe the student intended to carry out the threat; or the circumstances are such that a reasonable person would believe the student intended to carry out an act of imminent, serious physical violence against oneself; and
- specify that a person acting in good faith who takes reasonable steps to discharge a duty to warn and protect is immune from civil and criminal liability.