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No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

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REPORTS:

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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

No

Adolescent suicide report: a data overview and prevention activities report on youth suicide in New Jersey by Blake, Allison
Trenton, N.J.: New Jersey Dept. of Children and Families, 2012
[974.90 C536, 2012](#)

Updated adolescent suicide report: a data overview and prevention activities report on youth suicide in New Jersey by Blake, Allison
Trenton, N.J.: New Jersey Dept. of Children and Families, 2012
[974.90 C536, 2012a](#)

LAW/RWH

P.L.2011, CHAPTER 166, *approved January 5, 2012*
Assembly, No. 3659 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning youth suicide prevention and supplementing
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

6
7 1. a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in
8 consultation with the Department of Human Services, and the New
9 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established
10 pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-25), shall
11 develop and adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no
12 later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

13 b. The plan shall address, but not be limited to, the:

14 (1) identification of existing State and local sources of data
15 concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-
16 inflicted injuries by youth;

17 (2) coordination and sharing of such data among identified State
18 and local sources;

19 (3) promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide
20 prevention services and resources;

21 (4) identification of barriers to accessing mental health and
22 substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and

23 (5) promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs,
24 listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices
25 Registry, for the prevention and treatment of youth suicide and self-
26 injury.

27
28 2. The ¹**【commissioner】** Commissioners of Human Services
29 and Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner
30 of Health and Senior Services,¹ shall ¹**【review】** prepare a report
31 reviewing¹ the effectiveness ¹and sufficiency¹ of services provided
32 by the ¹**【three New Jersey-based crisis centers that participate in the**
33 **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and implement**
34 **measures to ensure that:**

35 a. staffing levels are adequate to meet the volume of New
36 Jersey telephone calls routed to the three crisis centers;

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:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted March 14, 2011.

1 b. telephone calls to the three crisis centers are answered in a
2 timely manner; and

3 c. crisis center personnel are knowledgeable about State and
4 local services and resources that may be available to State residents
5 who contact the centers] New Jersey-based suicide prevention
6 hotlines. The report prepared pursuant to this section shall be
7 transmitted to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
8 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12
9 months after the effective date of this act¹.

10

11 3. a. The ¹~~['~~commissioner] Commissioner of Children and
12 Families¹ shall review the Department of Children and Families
13 grant application procedures to ensure that grant applications
14 submitted by the department for youth suicide prevention initiatives
15 are completed accurately and in a timely manner.

16 b. The commissioner shall ¹~~'~~give thorough consideration to and,
17 where appropriate,¹ apply for¹~~['~~, and accept,]¹ any grants from the
18 federal government, and contributions and donations from other
19 public or private sources as may be used for the purposes of this act.

20

21 4. The commissioner, within 18 months after the effective date
22 of this act, shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
23 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the
24 implementation of the provisions of this act, and shall include the
25 youth suicide prevention plan developed pursuant to this act, and
26 the commissioner's findings and actions taken to implement the
27 provisions of ¹~~['~~sections 2 and] section¹ 3 of this act.

28

29 5. The commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of the
30 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
31 seq.), shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary
32 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

33

34 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

37

38

39 Requires DCF to develop and adopt Statewide youth suicide
40 prevention plan.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 6, 2011

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DAVID P. RIBLE

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

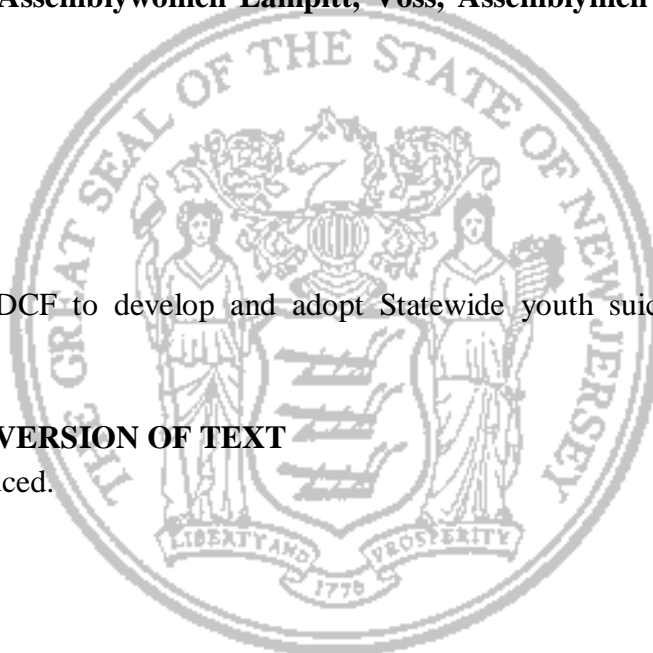
Assemblyman Schaer, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Coutinho, Assemblywoman N.Munoz, Assemblyman Albano, Assemblywoman Vandervalk, Assemblymen Prieto, Johnson, Assemblywomen Coyle, Wagner, Handlin, Gove, Spencer, Assemblymen Diegnan, DeAngelo, Benson, Ramos, DeCroce, Green, Giblin, Schroeder, Caputo, Assemblywoman Pou, Assemblymen A.M.Bucco, Fuentes, Connors, Burzichelli, Assemblywomen Lampitt, Voss, Assemblymen Coughlin and Biondi

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCF to develop and adopt Statewide youth suicide prevention plan.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2011)

1 AN ACT concerning youth suicide prevention and supplementing
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in
8 consultation with the Department of Human Services, and the New
9 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established
10 pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-25), shall
11 develop and adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no
12 later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

13 b. The plan shall address, but not be limited to, the:

14 (1) identification of existing State and local sources of data
15 concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-
16 inflicted injuries by youth;

17 (2) coordination and sharing of such data among identified State
18 and local sources;

19 (3) promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide
20 prevention services and resources;

21 (4) identification of barriers to accessing mental health and
22 substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and

23 (5) promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs,
24 listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices
25 Registry, for the prevention and treatment of youth suicide and self-
26 injury.

27

28 2. The commissioner shall review the effectiveness of services
29 provided by the three New Jersey-based crisis centers that
30 participate in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and
31 implement measures to ensure that:

32 a. staffing levels are adequate to meet the volume of New Jersey
33 telephone calls routed to the three crisis centers;

34 b. telephone calls to the three crisis centers are answered in a
35 timely manner; and

36 c. crisis center personnel are knowledgeable about State and
37 local services and resources that may be available to State residents
38 who contact the centers.

39

40 3. a. The commissioner shall review the Department of
41 Children and Families grant application procedures to ensure that
42 grant applications submitted by the department for youth suicide
43 prevention initiatives are completed accurately and in a timely
44 manner.

45 b. The commissioner shall apply for, and accept, any grants
46 from the federal government, and contributions and donations from
47 other public or private sources as may be used for the purposes of
48 this act.

1 4. The commissioner, within 18 months after the effective date
2 of this act, shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
3 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the
4 implementation of the provisions of this act, and shall include the
5 youth suicide prevention plan developed pursuant to this act, and
6 the commissioner's findings and actions taken to implement the
7 provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this act.

8
9 5. The commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of the
10 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
11 seq.), shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary
12 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

13

14 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

STATEMENT

18

19 This bill requires the Commissioner of Children and Families, in
20 consultation with the Department of Human Services, and the New
21 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, to develop and
22 adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no later than 180
23 days after the effective date of this bill. Specifically, the plan must
24 address the:

- 25 • identification of existing State and local sources of data
26 concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-
27 inflicted injuries by youth;
- 28 • coordination and sharing of such data among identified State and
29 local sources;
- 30 • promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide
31 prevention services and resources;
- 32 • identification of barriers to accessing mental health and
33 substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and
- 34 • promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs, listed
35 on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices
36 Registry, for the prevention and treatment of youth suicide and self-
37 injury.

38 This bill also requires the commissioner to review the
39 effectiveness of services provided by the three New Jersey-based
40 crisis centers that participate in the National Suicide Prevention
41 Lifeline network and implement measures to ensure that:

- 42 • staffing levels are adequate to meet the volume of New Jersey
43 telephone calls routed to the three crisis centers;
- 44 • telephone calls to the three crisis centers are answered in a
45 timely manner; and
- 46 • crisis center personnel are knowledgeable about State and local
47 services and resources that may be available to State residents who
48 contact the centers.

1 Additionally, the bill requires the commissioner to review the
2 Department of Children and Families grant application procedures
3 to ensure that grant applications submitted by the department for
4 youth suicide prevention initiatives are completed accurately and in
5 a timely manner. Further, the bill requires the commissioner to
6 apply for, and accept, any grants from the federal government, and
7 contributions and donations from other public or private sources as
8 may be used for the purposes of the bill.

9 This bill takes effect immediately, and requires the commissioner
10 to report to the Governor and the Legislature within 18 months after
11 the effective date of the bill on the youth suicide prevention plan
12 developed pursuant to the bill, and the commissioner's findings and
13 actions taken to implement the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of the
14 bill.

15 According to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, there are
16 more than 140 crisis centers that currently participate in the
17 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Each center receives
18 calls from designated areas of the country, and calls are routed to
19 the closest available crisis center. New Jersey operates three crisis
20 centers in the Lifeline network: CONTACT We Care in Westfield,
21 CONTACT of Mercer County in Ewing, and CONTACT of
22 Burlington County in Moorestown. However, an August 2010
23 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline report stated that from August
24 2009 through July 2010, 60% of New Jersey's crisis calls were
25 answered by Lifeline crisis counselors in other states, primarily
26 New York and Nebraska, who likely do not have access to specific
27 information regarding New Jersey's youth suicide prevention
28 services and resources.

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 10, 2011

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3659.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Human Services and the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, to develop and adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no later than 180 days after the effective date of this bill. Specifically, the plan must address the:

- identification of existing State and local sources of data concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-inflicted injuries by youth;
- coordination and sharing of such data among identified State and local sources;
- promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide prevention services and resources;
- identification of barriers to accessing mental health and substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and
- promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs, listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices Registry, for the prevention and treatment of youth suicide and self-injury.

This bill also requires the commissioner to review the effectiveness of services provided by the three New Jersey-based crisis centers that participate in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and implement measures to ensure that:

- staffing levels are adequate to meet the volume of New Jersey telephone calls routed to the three crisis centers;
- telephone calls to the three crisis centers are answered in a timely manner; and
- crisis center personnel are knowledgeable about State and local services and resources that may be available to State residents who contact the centers.

Additionally, the bill requires the commissioner to review the Department of Children and Families grant application procedures to ensure that grant applications submitted by the department for youth suicide prevention initiatives are completed accurately and in a timely manner.

Further, the bill requires the commissioner to apply for, and accept, any grants from the federal government, and contributions and donations from other public or private sources as may be used for the purposes of the bill.

Finally, the bill requires the commissioner to report to the Governor and the Legislature within 18 months after the effective date of the bill on the youth suicide prevention plan developed pursuant to the bill, and the commissioner's findings and actions taken to implement the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of the bill.

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 3659

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblywoman ANGELINI)

ADOPTED: MARCH 14, 2011

These amendments stipulate that the Commissioners of Human Services and Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, shall prepare a report reviewing the effectiveness and sufficiency of services provided by the New Jersey-based suicide prevention hotlines, and transmit the report to the Governor and the Legislature, no later than 12 months after the effective date of the bill.

The amendments remove the provisions that require the Commissioner of Children and Families to review the effectiveness of services provide by the three crisis centers participating in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, and to implement measures affecting staffing levels, telephone calls, and personnel.

The amendments also clarify that the Commissioner of Children and Families shall give thorough consideration to and, where appropriate, apply for any federal grants, and contributions and donations from other public or private sources. The amendments remove the provision that require the commissioner to accept such grants, contributions, and donations.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3659 (1R).

This bill requires the Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, to develop and adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no later than 180 days after the effective date of the bill.

The plan must address, but not be limited to:

- identification of existing State and local sources of data concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-inflicted injuries by youth;
- coordination and sharing of such data among State and local data sources;
- promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide prevention services and resources;
- identification of barriers to accessing mental health and substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and
- promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs addressing youth suicide and self-injury, listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices Registry.

The bill also requires the Commissioners of Human Services and Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, to prepare a report that reviews the effectiveness and sufficiency of services provided by New Jersey-based suicide prevention hotlines, and transmit it to the Governor and the Legislature no later than 12 months after the effective date of the bill.

The bill further requires the Commissioner of Children and Families to review the Department of Children and Families grant application procedures to ensure that grant applications submitted by the department for youth suicide prevention initiatives are completed accurately and in a timely manner. Further, the bill requires the commissioner to give thorough consideration to, and, where appropriate, apply for any grants from the federal government, and

contributions and donations from other public or private sources as may be used for the purposes of the bill.

The bill takes effect immediately, and requires the commissioner to transmit its report to the Governor and the Legislature within 18 months after the effective date of the bill.

According to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, more than 140 crisis centers participate in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Each center receives calls from designated areas of the country, and calls are routed to the closest available crisis center. New Jersey operates three crisis centers in the Lifeline network: CONTACT We Care in Westfield, CONTACT of Mercer County in Ewing, and CONTACT of Burlington County in Moorestown.

An August 2010 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline report stated that from August 2009 through July 2010, 60% of New Jersey's crisis calls were answered by Lifeline crisis counselors in other states (primarily New York and Nebraska), and that these counselors likely lacked access to specific information regarding New Jersey's youth suicide prevention services and resources.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2719 SCA (S. Kean/Beach), which the committee also reported on this date.

SENATE, No. 2719

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2011

Sponsored by:

Senator SEAN T. KEAN

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator A.R.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCF to develop and adopt Statewide youth suicide prevention plan.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2011)

1 AN ACT concerning youth suicide prevention and supplementing
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in
8 consultation with the Department of Human Services, and the New
9 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established
10 pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-25), shall
11 develop and adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no
12 later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

13 b. The plan shall address, but not be limited to, the:

14 (1) identification of existing State and local sources of data
15 concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-
16 inflicted injuries by youth;

17 (2) coordination and sharing of such data among identified State
18 and local sources;

19 (3) promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide
20 prevention services and resources;

21 (4) identification of barriers to accessing mental health and
22 substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and

23 (5) promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs,
24 listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices
25 Registry, for the prevention and treatment of youth suicide and self-
26 injury.

27

28 2. The commissioner shall review the effectiveness of services
29 provided by the three New Jersey-based crisis centers that
30 participate in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and
31 implement measures to ensure that:

32 a. staffing levels are adequate to meet the volume of New Jersey
33 telephone calls routed to the three crisis centers;

34 b. telephone calls to the three crisis centers are answered in a
35 timely manner; and

36 c. crisis center personnel are knowledgeable about State and
37 local services and resources that may be available to State residents
38 who contact the centers.

39

40 3. a. The commissioner shall review the Department of
41 Children and Families grant application procedures to ensure that
42 grant applications submitted by the department for youth suicide
43 prevention initiatives are completed accurately and in a timely
44 manner.

45 b. The commissioner shall apply for, and accept, any grants
46 from the federal government, and contributions and donations from
47 other public or private sources as may be used for the purposes of
48 this act.

1 4. The commissioner, within 18 months after the effective date
2 of this act, shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
3 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the
4 implementation of the provisions of this act, and shall include the
5 youth suicide prevention plan developed pursuant to this act, and
6 the commissioner's findings and actions taken to implement the
7 provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this act.

8
9 5. The commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of the
10 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
11 seq.), shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary
12 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

13
14 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

STATEMENT

18

19 This bill requires the Commissioner of Children and Families, in
20 consultation with the Department of Human Services, and the New
21 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, to develop and
22 adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no later than 180
23 days after the effective date of this bill.

24 Specifically, the plan must address the:

- 25 • identification of existing State and local sources of data
26 concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and
27 self-inflicted injuries by youth;
- 28 • coordination and sharing of such data among identified State
29 and local sources;
- 30 • promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide
31 prevention services and resources;
- 32 • identification of barriers to accessing mental health and
33 substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access;
- 34 and
- 35 • promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs,
36 listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best
37 Practices Registry, for the prevention and treatment of youth
38 suicide and self-injury.

39 The bill also requires the commissioner to review the
40 effectiveness of services provided by the three New Jersey-based
41 crisis centers that participate in the National Suicide Prevention
42 Lifeline network and implement measures to ensure that:

- 43 • staffing levels are adequate to meet the volume of New Jersey
44 telephone calls routed to the three crisis centers;
- 45 • telephone calls to the three crisis centers are answered in a
46 timely manner; and

1 • crisis center personnel are knowledgeable about State and local
2 services and resources that may be available to State residents
3 who contact the centers.

4 Additionally, the bill requires the commissioner to review the
5 Department of Children and Families grant application procedures
6 to ensure that grant applications submitted by the department for
7 youth suicide prevention initiatives are completed accurately and in
8 a timely manner. Further, the bill requires the commissioner to
9 apply for and accept any grants from the federal government, and
10 contributions and donations from other public or private sources as
11 may be used for the purposes of the bill.

12 The bill takes effect immediately, and requires the commissioner
13 to report to the Governor and the Legislature within 18 months after
14 the effective date of the bill on the youth suicide prevention plan
15 developed pursuant to the bill, and the commissioner's findings and
16 actions taken to implement the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of the
17 bill.

18 According to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, there are
19 more than 140 crisis centers that currently participate in the
20 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Each center receives
21 calls from designated areas of the country, and calls are routed to
22 the closest available crisis center. New Jersey operates three crisis
23 centers in the Lifeline network: CONTACT We Care in Westfield,
24 CONTACT of Mercer County in Ewing, and CONTACT of
25 Burlington County in Moorestown. However, an August 2010
26 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline report stated that from August
27 2009 through July 2010, 60% of New Jersey's crisis calls were
28 answered by Lifeline crisis counselors in other states, primarily
29 New York and Nebraska, who likely do not have access to specific
30 information regarding New Jersey's youth suicide prevention
31 services and resources.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2719

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with amendments Senate Bill No. 2719.

As amended by the committee, this bill requires the Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, to develop and adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no later than 180 days after the effective date of the bill.

The plan must address, but not be limited to:

- identification of existing State and local sources of data concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-inflicted injuries by youth;
- coordination and sharing of such data among State and local data sources;
- promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide prevention services and resources;
- identification of barriers to accessing mental health and substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and
- promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs addressing youth suicide and self-injury, listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices Registry.

The bill also requires the Commissioners of Human Services and Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, to prepare a report that reviews the effectiveness and sufficiency of services provided by New Jersey-based suicide prevention hotlines, and transmit it to the Governor and the Legislature no later than 12 months after the effective date of the bill.

The bill further requires the Commissioner of Children and Families to review the Department of Children and Families grant application procedures to ensure that grant applications submitted by the department for youth suicide prevention initiatives are completed

accurately and in a timely manner. Further, the bill requires the commissioner to give thorough consideration to, and, where appropriate, apply for any grants from the federal government, and contributions and donations from other public or private sources as may be used for the purposes of the bill.

The bill takes effect immediately, and requires the commissioner to transmit its report to the Governor and the Legislature within 18 months after the effective date of the bill.

According to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, more than 140 crisis centers participate in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Each center receives calls from designated areas of the country, and calls are routed to the closest available crisis center. New Jersey operates three crisis centers in the Lifeline network: CONTACT We Care in Westfield, CONTACT of Mercer County in Ewing, and CONTACT of Burlington County in Moorestown.

An August 2010 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline report stated that from August 2009 through July 2010, 60% of New Jersey's crisis calls were answered by Lifeline crisis counselors in other states (primarily New York and Nebraska), and that these counselors likely lacked access to specific information regarding New Jersey's youth suicide prevention services and resources.

The committee amendments:

--stipulate that the Commissioners of Human Services and Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, shall prepare a report reviewing the effectiveness and sufficiency of services provided by the New Jersey-based suicide prevention hotlines, and transmit the report to the Governor and the Legislature, no later than 12 months after the effective date of the bill;

--remove the provision that required the Commissioner of Children and Families to review the effectiveness of services provide by the three crisis centers participating in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and to implement measures affecting staffing levels, telephone calls, and personnel, and replace it with a general directive to review the New Jersey-based suicide prevention hotlines; and

--clarify that the Commissioner of Children and Families shall give thorough consideration to and, where appropriate, apply for any federal grants, and contributions and donations from other public or private sources; the amendments remove the provision requiring that the commissioner accept such grants, contributions, and donations.

As amended, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3659(1R) (Angelini/Rible/Wolfe/Holzapfel/Vainieri Huttler), which the committee also reported on this date.