

30:9A-12 to 30:9A-17

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 30:9A-12 to 30:9A-17

(Youth Suicide Prevention  
Program--establish)

LAWS OF: 1985

CHAPTER: 195

Bill No: S2005

Sponsor(s): Codey

Date Introduced: June 28, 1984

Committee: **Assembly:** Revenue, Finance and Appropriations; Corrections, Health  
and Human Services

**Senate:** Institutions Health and Welfare; Revenue, Finance  
and Appropriations

Amended during passage: Yes Substituted for A2286 (not attached  
since identical to S20005).  
Amendments during passage denoted  
by asterisks.

Date of Passage: **Assembly:** May 13, 1985

**Senate:** December 17, 1984

Date of Approval: June 26, 1985

Following statements are attached if available:

|                         |                 |     |                      |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----|----------------------|
| Sponsor statement:      |                 | Yes |                      |
| Committee statement:    | <b>Assembly</b> | Yes | 2-4-85 and 2-28-85   |
|                         | <b>Senate</b>   | Yes | 10-18-84 and 12-6-84 |
| Fiscal Note:            |                 | No  |                      |
| Veto Message:           |                 | No  |                      |
| Message on Signing:     |                 | Yes |                      |
| Following were printed: |                 |     |                      |
| Reports:                |                 | No  |                      |
| Hearings:               |                 | Yes |                      |

(OVER)

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Senate  
C536 Institutions, Health and Welfare.  
1984c Public hearing, held 9-6-84  
Trenton, 1984.

6-26-85

[SECOND OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]  
**SENATE, No. 2005**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED JUNE 28, 1984

By Senator CODEY

Referred to Committee on Institutions, Health and Welfare

AN ACT establishing a youth suicide prevention **\*[demonstration]\***  
 program and making an appropriation therefor.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the incidence of suicide  
 2 among adolescents has increased alarmingly and suicide presently  
 3 ranks as the second leading cause of death for adolescents between  
 4 the ages of 15 and 24 years; that the increase in the rate of  
 5 adolescent suicide is often associated with the significant changes  
 6 in lifestyles, values and family relationships that are occurring in  
 7 our society; that the occurrence of adolescent suicide is found  
 8 among youth of all racial, social and economic backgrounds and  
 9 even though suicide is underreported as a cause of death for ado-  
 10 lescents, in 1982 114 youth suicides were reported in New Jersey;  
 11 that mental health professionals believe that many suicides can  
 12 be prevented through suicide awareness education programs in the  
 13 schools and crisis intervention programs for adolescents and their  
 14 families in the community; and that in order to ensure that the  
 15 most effective prevention and crisis intervention programs are  
 16 available and **\*[ultimately]\*** developed Statewide, it is necessary  
 17 to establish a youth suicide prevention **\*[demonstration]\*** program  
 18 in the State Department of **\*[Education]\*** *\*Human Services\** which  
 19 will be administered by **\*[local boards of education in cooperation**  
 20 **with]\*** community mental health services providers *\*in cooperation*  
 21 *with local boards of education\**.

1 2. The Commissioner of the Department of **\*[Education]\***  
 2 *\*Human Services\** shall establish a program of youth suicide pre-

**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 printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

\*—Senate committee amendments adopted October 18, 1984.

\*\*—Senate committee amendments adopted December 6, 1984.

3 vention **[demonstration]** projects which shall be administered by  
 4 *\*community mental health services providers in consultation with\**  
 5 local boards of education. The objectives of the program shall in-  
 6 clude but are not limited to the following:

7 a. Classroom instruction *\*or materials\** designed to achieve the  
 8 following objectives: to teach students facts about adolescent  
 9 suicide and how to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies; to inform  
 10 students of available community services aimed at prevention of  
 11 suicide; and to increase students' awareness of the relationship  
 12 between adolescent suicide and drug and alcohol use.

13 *\*b. Training programs for classroom teachers and other teaching*  
 14 *staff members in suicide prevention.\**

15 **[b.]** *\*c.\** Nonclassroom school or community based programs  
 16 such as a 24-hour "hotline" telephone service staffed by trained  
 17 professional counselors, crisis intervention and postintervention  
 18 services **[and]** *\*,\* parent education programs and programs*  
 19 *for the families of suicide victims\*.*

20 **[c.]** Training programs for classroom teachers and guidance  
 21 counselors in suicide prevention.**]**

1 3. **[a.]** The Commissioner of **[Education]** *\*Human Services*  
 2 *in consultation with the Commissioner of Education\** shall prepare  
 3 guidelines for the youth suicide prevention **[demonstration]**  
 4 program. In addition to emphasizing the objectives provided in  
 5 section 2 of this act, the guidelines shall foster cooperation between  
 6 local boards of education and community mental health services  
 7 providers.

8 **[b.]** *\*4. a.\** The commissioner shall solicit proposals for  
 9 **[demonstration]** *\*suicide prevention\** projects from **[local**  
 10 **boards of education]** *\*community mental health services pro-*  
 11 *viders\** interested in participating in the program.

12 **[c.]** The commissioner shall review the project proposals and  
 13 approve and fund within the limits of monies appropriated for this  
 14 purpose, **[at least two]** *\*three\** proposals which best meet the  
 15 objectives of the **[demonstration]** program.

16 *\*b. In addition to meeting the program objectives provided in*  
 17 *section 2 of this act, a proposal shall include procedures for evaluat-*  
 18 *ing the project.*

19 *c. The commissioner shall fund one proposal from the northern,*  
 20 *central and southern regions of the State in order to ensure that*  
 21 *program services are available Statewide.\**

1 **[4.]** The Commissioner of Education shall report to the Governor  
 2 and Legislature no later than three months before the expiration  
 3 date of this act concerning:

4 a. The effects of the demonstration program on adolescents in  
5 the schools;

6 b. An assessment of the most efficient and effective methods for  
7 establishing youth suicide prevention programs in the schools and  
8 in conjunction with community services agencies;

9 c. The projected costs for establishing prevention programs  
10 throughout the State; and

11 d. Recommendations for establishing a Statewide youth suicide  
12 prevention program.】\*

1 \*5. *The community mental health services provider shall pre-  
2 pare its funding proposal in cooperation with two or more local  
3 boards of education which are interested in participating in the  
4 suicide prevention program. The provider also shall agree to pro-  
5 vide information and training within the limits of available funds,  
6 to other local boards of education that are interested in providing  
7 for suicide prevention programs, upon their request.*

1 6. a. *There is established in the Department of Human Services  
2 a Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. The council shall  
3 consist of 10 members as follows: the Commissioner of Human  
4 Services and the Commissioner of Education, or their designees,  
5 who shall serve as ex officio members, the project director of each  
6 of the three suicide prevention projects funded pursuant to this  
7 act, and five public members appointed by the Governor who are  
8 residents of this State, two of whom are generally knowledgeable  
9 about issues concerning youth suicide, one of whom is a member of  
10 a local school board, one of whom is a school administrator and one  
11 of whom is a secondary school classroom teacher. The members shall  
12 serve for a term of two years. Vacancies in the membership of the  
13 council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-  
14 ment. A member of the council is eligible for reappointment. The  
15 members of the council shall serve without compensation, but the  
16 council shall reimburse its members for the reasonable expenses in-  
17 curred in the performance of their duties.*

18 *The members of the council shall elect from among them a chair-  
19 man who shall be the chief executive officer of the council, and the  
20 members shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the  
21 council.*

22 *The council may call to its assistance and avail itself of the  
23 services and assistance of any officials and employees of the State  
24 and its political subdivisions and their departments, boards,  
25 bureaus, commissions and agencies as it may require and as may  
26 be available to it for this purpose and may expend any funds as*

27 *may be appropriated or otherwise made available to it pursuant to*  
 28 *this act.*

29 *The Governor shall appoint the public members of the council*  
 30 *within 90 days after the effective date of this act and the council*  
 31 *shall organize as soon as may be practicable after the prevention*  
 32 *projects have been approved and funded and the project directors*  
 33 *selected.*

34 *b. The council shall: compile information on youth suicide pre-*  
 35 *vention programs that are presently carried out in the State;*  
 36 *disseminate this information and relevant information about the*  
 37 *projects funded pursuant to this act to local school districts, com-*  
 38 *munity mental health services providers and the public; assess the*  
 39 *most efficient and effective methods for establishing youth suicide*  
 40 *prevention programs in other school districts and by other com-*  
 41 *munity mental health services providers; assess the cost for pro-*  
 42 *viding youth suicide prevention programs Statewide; and advise*  
 43 *and provide technical information to the Commissioners of Human*  
 44 *Services and Education on matters pertaining to youth suicide,*  
 45 *upon their request.*

46 *c. The council shall report to the Governor and the Legislature*  
 47 *18 months from the effective date of this act on the activities of the*  
 48 *council, the effects of the three suicide prevention projects funded*  
 49 *pursuant to this act, and the council's assessment of the most effi-*  
 50 *cient and effective methods for establishing a Statewide program*  
 51 *and the projected cost for doing so. The council shall include in its*  
 52 *report recommendations for legislative or administrative action*  
 53 *that may be necessary to ensure that youth suicide prevention*  
 54 *services are available Statewide.\**

1 *\*[5.]\* \*7.\* There is appropriated \*[\$75,000.00]\**  
 2 *\*\*[\$150,000.00]\*\* \*\*\$300,000.00\*\* from the General Fund to*  
 3 *the Department of \*[Education]\* \*Human Services\* to carry out*  
 4 *the purposes of this act. \*The commissioner shall expend at least*  
 5 *85% of the monies appropriated in this act for the purpose of fund-*  
 6 *ing the three suicide prevention projects pursuant to this act.\**

1 *\*[6.]\* \*8.\* This act shall take effect immediately \*[and shall*  
 2 *expire on September 30 following the third anniversary of the*  
 3 *effective date]\*.*

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## STATEMENT

The incidence of adolescent suicide has grown alarmingly over the last 20 years, from a rate of 5.2 per 100,000 youths in 1960 to a rate of 12.5 per 100,000 in 1980. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among adolescents aged 15 through 24. Professionals agree that no single theory can account for all suicides and no single measure can prevent them; however, the increase in suicides among adolescents is often attributed to the pressures that the changing values, lifestyles and family relationships in our society have placed on the adolescents. While suicides cannot be prevented in all cases, many experts agree that suicides among adolescents can be reduced through organized programs in the schools and in the community which teach adolescents, their parents and teachers about suicide and how suicide may be prevented.

In response to the need for organized programs dealing with adolescent suicide, this bill establishes a demonstration youth suicide prevention program in the Department of Education. The Commissioner of Education is directed to establish guidelines for prevention projects which will be administered by local boards of education in cooperation with community mental health services providers. The commissioner will solicit proposals for model projects from local boards of education and select and fund at least two projects for the demonstration program. The bill appropriates \$75,000.00 to carry out the program.

The demonstration program will operate for three years and at the end of the program the Commissioner of Education is required to report to the Legislature and Governor on the effects of the program and provide recommendations for establishing suicide prevention programs Statewide.

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ASSEMBLY CORRECTIONS, HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 2005**

[SECOND OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 1985

This bill establishes a youth suicide prevention program in the Department of Human Services. The bill also establishes a 10-member Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. The bill appropriates \$300,000.00 to carry out the purposes of the prevention program and the council.

The Commissioner of Human Services is directed to establish the prevention program which shall be administered on a project grant basis by community mental health services providers in consultation with local boards of education. The objectives of the program include: classroom instruction and materials to teach students about suicide, to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies, and to inform students about available community services; training programs for classroom teachers and other school staff; and community based programs for families, including a 24-hour hotline telephone service.

The mental health services providers shall submit suicide prevention project proposals to the commissioner who shall select and fund three proposals, one each from the northern, central and southern regions of the State. As part of their proposal, the providers are responsible for obtaining the cooperation of at least two local boards of education with which the prevention projects will be carried out. The providers will also provide information and training to other boards of education upon their request and within the limits of available funds. The participation in the program of local boards of education is voluntary.

The membership of the advisory council in the bill includes the Commissioners of Human Services and Education, the project directors of the three funded prevention projects and five public members, including two persons who are generally knowledgeable about issues concerning suicide, a local school board member, a school administrator and a secondary classroom teacher.

The council is directed to compile information about suicide prevention programs in the State; disseminate this information to local boards of education, mental health providers and the public; assess the most



effective **and efficient means for providing prevention services State-wide**; and advise the commissioners on matters pertaining to youth suicide. The council shall report to the Legislature and Governor 18 months from the effective date of the bill.

This bill, which passed the Senate 35 to 0 on December 17, 1984, is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2286 Aca (Otlowski) which the committee reported at the same time. The committee reported this bill favorably without amendments.

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ASSEMBLY REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 2005**

[2ND OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: FEBRUARY 28, 1985

**PROVISIONS:**

Senate Bill No. 2005 (2nd OCR) establishes, in the Department of Human Services, a youth suicide prevention program and a ten member Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. There is an appropriation of \$300,000.00.

**BACKGROUND:**

Three regional suicide prevention projects are to be established, each based on a proposal submitted by a community mental health services provider in cooperation with at least two interested school districts. The projects would provide for staff training, classroom instruction and materials, parent education, non-school crisis intervention programs and other school and community outreach services. The council is to report to the Governor and the Legislature, in 18 months, an assessment of the effects of the projects and the need and costs for a Statewide program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is a \$300,000.00 appropriation from the General Fund, of which at least \$255,000.00 must be used to fund the three projects selected by the Commissioner of Human Services.

**OTHER LEGISLATION:**

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2286 (OCR).

The committee favorably reports this bill.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 2005**

with Senate committee amendments

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: OCTOBER 18, 1984

As amended by committee, this bill establishes a youth suicide prevention program in the Department of Human Services. The bill also establishes a 10 member Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. The bill appropriates \$150,000.00 to carry out the purposes of the prevention program and the council.

The Commissioner of Human Services is directed to establish the prevention program which shall be administered on a project grant basis by community mental health services providers in consultation with local boards of education. The objectives of the program include: classroom instruction and materials to teach students about suicide, to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies and to inform students about available community services; training programs for classroom teachers and other school staff; and community based programs for families including a 24-hour hotline telephone service.

The mental health services providers shall submit suicide prevention project proposals to the commissioner who shall select and fund three proposals, one each from the northern, central and southern regions of the State. As part of their proposal, the providers are responsible for obtaining the cooperation of at least two local boards of education with which the prevention projects will be carried out. The providers will also provide information and training to other boards of education upon their request and within the limits of available funds. The participation in the program of local boards of education is voluntary.

The membership of the advisory council established in the bill includes the Commissioners of Human Services and Education, the project directors of the three funded prevention projects and five public members including two persons who are generally knowledgeable about issues concerning suicide, a local school board member, a school administrator and a secondary classroom teacher.

The council is directed to compile information about suicide prevention programs in the State; disseminate this information to local

boards of education, mental health providers and the public; access the most effective and efficient means for providing prevention services Statewide; and advise the commissioners on matters pertaining to youth suicide. The council shall report to the Legislature and Governor 18 months from the effective date of the act.

The committee adopted several substantive amendments to the bill in response to comments made by representatives of the education and mental health communities. The amendments: move responsibility for the program to the Department of Human Services and authorize community mental health services providers in consultation with local boards of education to administer the program; specify that three instead of two projects shall be funded; delete references to a demonstration program; establish a 10 member advisory council; and increase the appropriation to \$150,000.00.

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SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 2005**

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

with committee amendments

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: DECEMBER 6, 1984

This bill establishes a youth suicide prevention program in the Department of Human Services and a 10-member Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. As amended, an appropriation of \$300,000.00 is included to fund the program and council activities.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to establish and fund three regional youth suicide prevention projects, each based on a proposal submitted by a community mental health services provider in cooperation with at least two interested school districts. The projects would provide for staff training, classroom instruction and materials, parent education, non-school crisis intervention programs and other school and community outreach services.

The Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council would comprise the Commissioners of Human Services and Education, the three project directors, one school board member, one school administrator, one teacher and two additional public members. The council is to report to the Governor and Legislature in 18 months, including in its report an assessment of the effects of the three regional projects and an assessment of the needs and costs for a Statewide youth suicide prevention program.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill appropriates \$300,000.00 from the General Fund, of which at least \$255,000.00 must be used to fund the three regional suicide prevention projects selected by the Commissioner of Human Services.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

At the request of the sponsor, the committee increased the appropriation for the youth suicide prevention program from \$150,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

474-961  
661



# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

Contact: CARL GOLDEN  
609-292-8956

NEW JERSEY STATE ARCHIVE

TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1985

JUN 1 1985  
185 W. State Street  
Trenton, N. J.

Legislation establishing three youth suicide prevention programs in New Jersey in a concerted effort to curb the rising incidence of youthful suicides was signed today by Governor Thomas H. Kean.

The Governor signed the legislation, which appropriates \$300,000 for the programs, at a public ceremony held at Rutherford High School.

The legislation, S-2005, was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Richard Codey, D-Essex, and in the Assembly, A-2286, by Assemblyman George Otlowski, D-Middlesex.

"This legislation is a response to what can only be seen as a cry for help --- a call to end the tragedy of self destructiveness by teenagers and young adults," Kean said. "The epidemic of teen suicides must be stemmed and prevented from recurring."

"It is difficult to understand and even more difficult to accept the death of a young person, particularly when the death is by his or her own hand," Kean said. "We must seek ways to recognize suicidal symptoms, to offer counseling and to ease the pressures placed on young people in today's society."

The Governor pointed out that suicide is now the second leading cause of death among the 15 to 24 year old age group.

- more -

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

PAGE TWO

JUNE 26, 1985

"The data is both startling and frightening," he said. "The rate of adolescent suicide is now 12.5 per 100,000 persons, more than double the rate of 20 years ago."

"While suicides cannot be prevented in every case, their incidence can be reduced significantly through organized programs in schools and in the community generally," Kean said.

The legislation signed by Kean provides for a suicide prevention program in the northern, central and southern parts of the State. Each program would receive a \$100,000 appropriation from the Department of Human Services and would be carried out by local mental health service providers.

As a part of the proposal, the local providers would be required to obtain the cooperation of at least two local boards of education with which the prevention projects would be carried out.

The legislation also creates a 10-member Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council which will be responsible for compiling information concerning prevention programs and disseminating the data to local boards of education, mental health service providers and the public at large.

- more -

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

PAGE THREE

JUNE 26, 1985

The Council is also directed to assess the most effective and efficient means of providing prevention services Statewide and to advise the Commissioners of Health and Education on matters involving youth suicide. The Council is directed to report to the Governor and the Legislature in 18 months on its findings.

The Council membership is to be comprised of the Commissioners of Human Services and Education, the project directors of the three programs to be funded by the State and five public members, including two persons knowledgeable in issues concerning suicide, a local school board member, a school administrator and a secondary school teacher.

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