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REPORTS:

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IS 1/24/08

Title 18A.
Chapter 6.
Article 14. (New)
Instruction in Suicide
Prevention
§§1-3 - C.18A:6-111
to 18A:6-113 &
Note to 30:9A-24

P.L. 2005, CHAPTER 310, *approved January 11, 2006*
Assembly, No. 3931 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning instruction in suicide prevention for public school
2 ²pupils and² teaching staff members and supplementing chapter 6
3 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. Suicide is a leading cause of death for young people in this
10 State. According to the Center for Health Statistics in the New Jersey
11 Department of Health and Senior Services, between 1999 and 2001
12 more than 1,500 young people ages 13 to 18 made suicide attempts
13 which resulted in hospitalization. More than 50 of these attempts were
14 fatal. When young people up to 24 years of age are added to the
15 equation, the number of attempted suicides rises to 3,000 and the
16 number of fatalities rises to nearly 200.

17 b. A suicide can devastate a community. According to the
18 National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), suicide severely
19 impacts the families and friends left behind, who often wrongly live
20 with extreme shame and guilt over not having prevented the death of
21 their loved one. Moreover, many attempts which do not result in
22 death nonetheless end in serious injury to the victims and lifelong
23 trauma to their families and those who know them.

24 c. A person who is considering suicide may exhibit behavioral
25 warning signs. If someone notices the warning signs of suicide, it may
26 be possible to avert a tragedy. With the possible exception of a
27 parent, no one is better situated than a teacher to detect these signs
28 and to initiate appropriate steps to prevent a suicide attempt. Proper
29 training for teaching staff members can thus save pupils' lives and save
30 the families and friends of would-be victims the trauma of a suicide or
31 suicide attempt. Moreover, early identification of depression and
32 other problems may help to reduce the number of young people who
33 commit or attempt to commit suicide once they have left school and

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly floor amendments adopted June 23, 2005.

² Senate SHH committee amendments adopted December 12, 2005.

1 entered adulthood.

2 d. It is therefore appropriate for the Legislature to require²;² the
3 State Board of Education to require instruction in suicide prevention
4 as part of any continuing education which public school teaching staff
5 members must complete to maintain their certification ²; and inclusion
6 of suicide prevention awareness in the Core Curriculum Content
7 Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.²

8

9 2. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New
10 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established in the
11 Department of Human Services pursuant to P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-
12 22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional development requirement
13 established by the State board for public school teaching staff
14 members, require each public school teaching staff member to
15 complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention¹, to
16 be provided by a licensed health care professional with training and
17 experience in mental health issues.¹ in each professional development
18 period.

19

20 ²3. Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the State Board
21 of Education shall revise the Core Curriculum Content Standards in
22 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to provide for
23 instruction in suicide prevention in an appropriate place in the
24 curriculum of elementary school, middle school, and high school
25 pupils.²

26

27 ²[3.] 4.² This act shall take effect immediately.

28

29

30

31

32 _____
33 Requires State Board of Education to include two hours of instruction
34 in suicide prevention as part of professional development for public
35 school teaching staff members and to revise the Core Curriculum
36 Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to include
suicide prevention instruction.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3931

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 10, 2005

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT MORGAN

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblyman MICHAEL PANTER

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman CRAIG A. STANLEY

District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Voss, Pou, Assemblymen Johnson, Chivukula,

Assemblywoman Previte, Assemblyman Gusciora, Assemblywoman

Quigley, Assemblymen Stack, Conaway, Assemblywoman Cruz-Perez,

Assemblymen R.Smith and Steele

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to include two hours of instruction in suicide prevention as part of professional development for public school teaching staff members.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2005)

A3931 MORGAN, PANTER

2

1 AN ACT concerning instruction in suicide prevention for public school
2 teaching staff members and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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9 a. Suicide is a leading cause of death for young people in this
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11 Department of Health and Senior Services, between 1999 and 2001
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13 which resulted in hospitalization. More than 50 of these attempts were
14 fatal. When young people up to 24 years of age are added to the
15 equation, the number of attempted suicides rises to 3,000 and the
16 number of fatalities rises to nearly 200.

17 b. A suicide can devastate a community. According to the
18 National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), suicide severely
19 impacts the families and friends left behind, who often wrongly live
20 with extreme shame and guilt over not having prevented the death of
21 their loved one. Moreover, many attempts which do not result in
22 death nonetheless end in serious injury to the victims and lifelong
23 trauma to their families and those who know them.

24 c. A person who is considering suicide may exhibit behavioral
25 warning signs. If someone notices the warning signs of suicide, it may
26 be possible to avert a tragedy. With the possible exception of a
27 parent, no one is better situated than a teacher to detect these signs
28 and to initiate appropriate steps to prevent a suicide attempt. Proper
29 training for teaching staff members can thus save pupils' lives and save
30 the families and friends of would-be victims the trauma of a suicide or
31 suicide attempt. Moreover, early identification of depression and
32 other problems may help to reduce the number of young people who
33 commit or attempt to commit suicide once they have left school and
34 entered adulthood.

35 d. It is therefore appropriate for the Legislature to require the
36 State Board of Education to require instruction in suicide prevention
37 as part of any continuing education which public school teaching staff
38 members must complete to maintain their certification.

39

40 2. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New
41 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established in the
42 Department of Human Services pursuant to P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-
43 22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional development requirement
44 established by the State board for public school teaching staff
45 members, require each public school teaching staff member to

1 complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention in each
2 professional development period.

3

4 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 This bill requires all public school teaching staff members to
10 complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention in each
11 professional development period as part of the professional
12 development required by the State Board of Education. For example,
13 two of the 100 clock hours of professional development which an
14 active teacher is required to complete every five years would be in
15 suicide prevention.

16 Suicide is a leading cause of death for young people in this State.
17 According to the Center for Health Statistics in the New Jersey
18 Department of Health and Senior Services, between 1999 and 2001
19 more than 1,500 young people ages 13 to 18 made suicide attempts
20 which resulted in hospitalization. More than 50 of these attempts were
21 fatal. When young people up to 24 years of age are added to the
22 equation, the number of attempted suicides rises to 3,000 and the
23 number of fatalities rises to nearly 200. Moreover, these numbers may
24 not include many suicides completed by means less apparent, such as
25 drug overdoses and intentional automobile wrecks.

26 A suicide can devastate a community. According to the National
27 Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), suicide severely impacts the
28 families and friends left behind, who often wrongly live with extreme
29 shame and guilt over not having prevented the death of their loved
30 one. Moreover, many attempts which do not result in death
31 nonetheless end in serious injury to the victims and lifelong trauma to
32 their families and those who know them. Fortunately, suicide and
33 suicide attempts can be prevented with proper intervention.

34 A person who is considering suicide may exhibit behavioral warning
35 signs. If someone notices the warning signs of suicide, it may be
36 possible to avert a tragedy. With the possible exception of a parent,
37 no one is better situated than a teacher to detect these signs and to
38 initiate appropriate steps to prevent a suicide attempt. Proper training
39 for teaching staff members may thus help to save pupils' lives and save
40 the families and friends of potential victims the trauma of a suicide or
41 attempted suicide. Moreover, early identification of depression and
42 other problems may help to reduce the number of young people who
43 commit or attempt to commit suicide once they have left school and
44 entered adulthood.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3931

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2005

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3931.

This bill directs the State Board of Education to require that public school teaching staff members complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention as part of the State board's professional development requirements. In establishing this instructional requirement the State board is to consult with the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council in the Department of Human Services. Under current State Board of Education regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.2, teaching staff members are required to complete 100 clock hours of professional development every five years. Under this bill, a minimum of two of those hours would incorporate instruction in suicide prevention.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3931

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2005

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3931 (1R).

As amended by committee, this bill directs the State Board of Education to require that public school teaching staff members complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention provided by a licensed health care professional with training and experience with mental health issues as part of the State board's professional development requirements. In establishing this instructional requirement, the State board is to consult with the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council in the Department of Human Services. Under current State Board of Education regulations, teaching staff members are required to complete 100 clock hours of professional development every five years. This bill would require that at least two of those hours incorporate suicide prevention instruction.

The bill also requires that within 180 days of the effective date of this bill, the State Board of Education revise the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to provide for instruction in suicide prevention in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary school, middle school, and high school pupils.

The committee amended the bill to require that the State Board of Education revise the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to provide for instruction in suicide prevention in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary school, middle school, and high school pupils.

As amended, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2622 (Sca) (Karcher), which the committee also reported on this date.

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 3931

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Assemblyman PANTER)

ADOPTED: JUNE 23, 2005

This amendment requires the instruction in suicide prevention required under the bill to be provided by a licensed health care professional with training and experience in mental health issues.

SENATE, No. 2622

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2005

Sponsored by:

Senator ELLEN KARCHER

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to include two hours of instruction in suicide prevention as part of professional development for public school teaching staff members.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S2622 KARCHER

2

1 AN ACT concerning instruction in suicide prevention for public school
2 teaching staff members and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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30 the families and friends of would-be victims the trauma of a suicide or
31 suicide attempt. Moreover, early identification of depression and
32 other problems may help to reduce the number of young people who
33 commit or attempt to commit suicide once they have left school and
34 entered adulthood.

35 d. It is therefore appropriate for the Legislature to require the
36 State Board of Education to require instruction in suicide prevention
37 as part of any continuing education which public school teaching staff
38 members must complete to maintain their certification.

39

40 2. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New
41 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established in the
42 Department of Human Services pursuant to P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-
43 22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional development requirement
44 established by the State board for public school teaching staff
45 members, require each public school teaching staff member to

1 complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention in each
2 professional development period.

3

4 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

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9 This bill requires all public school teaching staff members to
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16 Suicide is a leading cause of death for young people in this State.
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40 the families and friends of potential victims the trauma of a suicide or
41 attempted suicide. Moreover, early identification of depression and
42 other problems may help to reduce the number of young people who
43 commit or attempt to commit suicide once they have left school and
44 entered adulthood.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2622

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2005

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2622.

As amended by committee, this bill directs the State Board of Education to require that public school teaching staff members complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention provided by a licensed health care professional with training and experience with mental health issues as part of the State board's professional development requirements. In establishing this instructional requirement, the State board is to consult with the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council in the Department of Human Services. Under current State Board of Education regulations, teaching staff members are required to complete 100 clock hours of professional development every five years. This bill would require that at least two of those hours incorporate suicide prevention instruction.

The bill also requires that within 180 days of the effective date of this bill, the State Board of Education revise the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to provide for instruction in suicide prevention in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary school, middle school, and high school pupils.

The committee amended the bill to require that the training of teaching staff members be conducted by a licensed health care professional with training and experience in mental health issues, and that the State Board of Education revise the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to provide for instruction in suicide prevention in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary school, middle school, and high school pupils.

As amended, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3931 (1R) (Sca) (Morgan/Panter/Vas/Stanley), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.