

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 57

Short Title: Youth Suicide Prevention Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hunt of Moore; Allran, Ballance, Barker, Barnes, Basnight, Block, Bryan, Cochrane, Conder, Daniel, Guy, Harris, Hunt of Durham, Johnson of Wake, Kaplan, Martin of Pitt, Martin of Guilford, Marvin, Odom, Parnell, Rauch, Richardson, Royall, Sherron, Simpson, Soles, Speed, Staton, Swain, Taft, Tally, Walker, and Ward.

Referred to: Children and Youth.

January 25, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CREATE THE YOUTH SUICIDE ADVISORY BOARD AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 143B, Article 3 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part 4A to read as follows:

“PART 4A. YOUTH SUICIDE ADVISORY BOARD.

“§ 143B-150.1. Purpose.

It is the expressed intent of this Part to make the prevention of youth suicide a priority of this State and to establish the Youth Suicide Advisory Board as a means to that end.

“§ 143B-150.2. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - creation, powers and duties.

There is hereby created the Youth Suicide Advisory Board to be located in the Department of Human Resources. The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To evaluate the existing system of delivery of State services in the prevention of youth suicide and to recommend an improved system of delivery to meet present and future needs.

(b) To seek the cooperation, advice, and assistance of both private and governmental agencies, commissions, and organizations and work cooperatively with other such groups to attain common goals.

1 (c) To encourage private organizations and local governments to organize and
2 participate in activities to increase public awareness of the problem of youth suicide.

3 (d) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of
4 information about youth suicide prevention plans and coordinate, generally, activities
5 throughout all of the State.

6 (e) To solicit proposals for suicide prevention programs, and administer planning
7 grants for the development of proposals which will best meet the objectives of a
8 statewide program.

9 **"§ 143B-150.3. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - members; selection; meetings;**
10 **quorum; compensation; services.**

11 (a) The Youth Suicide Advisory Board shall consist of 15 voting members, as
12 follows:

13 (1) Three members from State government: the Secretary of Human
14 Resources or his designate, the Superintendent of Public Instruction or
15 his designate, the Director of the Administrative Office of the Court or
16 his designate.

17 (2) Four members appointed by the Governor from the following
18 categories: one shall be a local school board member, one shall be an
19 area mental health administrator, one shall be an expert in the field of
20 youth suicide, and one shall be a person under the age of 21 at the time
21 of the appointment.

22 (3) Four members appointed by the President of the Senate from the
23 following categories: one shall be a classroom teacher, one shall be a
24 school administrator, one shall be a mental health clinician with
25 expertise in the area of youth suicide, and one shall be a member of a
26 parent-based organization.

27 (4) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives from the following categories: one shall be a student
29 services professional (school counselor, school psychologist, school
30 social worker, or school nurse), one shall be an expert in the field of
31 youth suicide, one shall be a member of the clergy, and one shall be a
32 representative of the news media.

33 (b) For continuity during the first term of the Board, each appointing authority
34 shall select one member of the Youth Suicide Study Commission to serve on the Board.

35 (c) All members shall serve for two-year terms. All initial terms shall begin July
36 1, 1989. A vacancy in membership shall be filled by the appointing authority who made
37 the initial appointment. When the members' terms expire, their successors shall serve
38 for the same length of time their predecessors served. A member whose term expires
39 may be reappointed for an additional two-year term. If, when a term expires, the
40 appointing authority has not filled the vacancy, the member whose term has expired
41 shall continue to serve until the appointment is made.

42 The chairman of the Board shall be elected by the membership at its first meeting, to
43 be convened by the Secretary of Human Resources.

1 The Youth Suicide Advisory Board shall meet at least once each quarter and may
2 hold special meetings at any time at the call of its chairman.

3 A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

4 Members of the Board who are State employees shall receive travel expenses as set
5 forth in G.S. 138-6. The other Board members shall receive per diem and travel
6 expenses as set forth in G.S. 138-5.

7 Staff and support services required by the Board shall be provided by the Secretary
8 of Human Resources.

9 **"§ 143B-150.4. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - projects.**

10 In order to carry out the purposes of this Part the Board shall, with the assistance of
11 the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Public Instruction:

12 (a) Plan and host a statewide conference designed to emphasize the needs and
13 goals of a statewide action plan to address the problems and issues related to youth
14 suicide, which shall have as participants current and potential service providers,
15 including school administrators, student services professionals, teachers, mental health
16 professionals, and community organizations.

17 (b) Review applications and have final authority for the awarding of grants
18 pursuant to this Article.

19 (c) Analyze program plans developed by grant recipients and make
20 recommendations to the General Assembly for future funding of programs.

21 (d) Develop a State plan for the prevention of youth suicide for submission to the
22 Governor and the General Assembly no later than January 1, 1991.

23 **"§ 143B-150.5. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - planning grants.**

24 In order to ensure that the most effective prevention and crisis intervention programs
25 are developed and ultimately available statewide, the Board shall:

26 (a) Award eight planning grants in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)
27 per grant, two each in the Western, North Central, South Central and Eastern Regions of
28 the State, said Regions to be as designated by the Division of Mental Health, Mental
29 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

30 (1) The grants may be awarded to public or private nonprofit
31 organizations, agencies, schools, or hospitals to assess community
32 needs and to develop community-based educational and service
33 programs designed to prevent the occurrence of youth suicide.

34 (2) Grants awarded under this section are intended to encourage the
35 development of community-based programs for the prevention of
36 youth suicide. Youth suicide prevention programs are defined to be
37 those programs and services which impact on children and families
38 both before and after any substantiated incident of suicidal behavior
39 has occurred. Such programs shall include, but are not limited to:

40 _____ a. Instruction or materials designed to teach facts about youth
41 suicide and how to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies; to
42 publicize available community services aimed at prevention of
43 suicide; and to increase awareness of the relationship between
44 youth suicide and drug and alcohol use.

1 b. Training programs in suicide prevention for school
2 administrators, student services professionals, classroom
3 teachers, and other teaching staff members.

4 c. Training programs in suicide prevention for members of the
5 clergy, law enforcement personnel, and other professionals who
6 provide services to youth.

7 d. Nonclassroom school or community-based programs such as
8 a 24-hour 'hotline' telephone service staffed by trained
9 professional counselors, crisis intervention and postvention
10 services, parent education programs and programs for the
11 families of suicide victims.

12 e. Community-based programs relating to crisis care, aid to
13 parents, and support groups for parents and their children
14 experiencing stress within the family unit.

15 (b) Develop, with the assistance of the Department of Human Resources and the
16 Department of Public Instruction, appropriate guidelines and criteria for awarding
17 grants pursuant to this Article. These criteria shall include, but not be limited to:

18 (1) Documentation of need within the proposed geographical impact area;

19 (2) Diversity of geographical areas to be covered under proposals funded
20 pursuant to this section;

21 (3) Projected effectiveness of the proposed strategy or program for
22 preventing youth suicide;

23 (4) Reasonableness of the implementation plan for achieving stated
24 objectives;

25 (5) Community support and utilization of community resources including
26 volunteers;

27 (6) Provision for an evaluation component that will provide outcome data;

28 (7) Reasonable plan for dissemination of the program for implementation
29 in other communities;

30 (8) Potential for future funding from private sources.

31 (c) Develop, with the assistance of the Department of Human Resources and the
32 Department of Public Instruction, guidelines for regular monitoring of grants awarded
33 pursuant to this section in order to maximize the investments and to establish
34 appropriate accountability measures for administration of grants.

35 **§ 143B-150.6. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - reports.**

36 The Youth Suicide Advisory Board shall, with the assistance of the Department
37 of Human Resources and the Department of Public Instruction, submit to the Governor
38 and the General Assembly a comprehensive report regarding the use of its funds and
39 incorporating specific recommendations of the Board for coordination of statewide
40 efforts in youth suicide prevention.

41 The report shall be made not later than January 1, 1991, and may include
42 recommendations for funding of projects and programs developed through planning
43 grants awarded by the Board and for publications, scholarly projects, conferences,
44 programs, films, libraries, and other projects.

1 After submitting the comprehensive report, the Board shall submit an annual
2 report to the Governor and the General Assembly."

3 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
4 Human Resources the sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) for
5 the 1989-91 fiscal biennium to fund the Youth Suicide Advisory Board, and to
6 implement the activities mandated by this act.

7 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.