

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2293

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Timberlake, Speight, McKnight, Carter,  
Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblyman Freiman,  
Assemblywomen Lopez, Downey and Assemblyman Houghtaling**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires institutions of higher education to implement suicide prevention programs and raise awareness of mental health services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning suicide prevention programs at institutions of  
2 higher education and amending P.L.2016, c.18.

3

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

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2016, c.18 (C.18A:3B-73) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. An institution of higher education shall have individuals  
10 with training and experience in mental health issues who focus on  
11 reducing student suicides and attempted suicides available on  
12 campus or remotely by telephone or other means for students 24  
13 hours a day, seven days a week. The individuals shall also work  
14 with, and annually train, faculty and staff on ways to recognize the  
15 signs of depression and the warning signs and risk factors  
16 associated with student suicide, and on the referral of students to  
17 crisis hotlines and mental health screenings.

18 b. No later than 15 days following the beginning of each  
19 semester, an institution of higher education shall transmit to each  
20 student via electronic mail the contact information of the  
21 individuals required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

22 c. A four-year institution of higher education shall require all  
23 students who serve as resident assistants to receive annual training  
24 on the signs of depression, the warning signs and risk factors  
25 associated with college student suicide, the referral of students to  
26 campus mental health resources, and responding to students in  
27 crisis. The training shall be developed by a licensed mental health  
28 professional with experience in treating depression in college  
29 students.

30 d. An institution of higher education shall annually conduct a  
31 mental health public awareness campaign on campus designed to:

32 (1) provide students with information on depression and suicide;

33 (2) raise awareness about the mental health services available on  
34 and off campus; and

35 (3) reduce the stigma associated with seeking mental health  
36 services.

37 e. The governing board of an institution of higher education  
38 shall establish a mental health crisis assessment and response plan.  
39 The purpose of the plan shall be to act as the official protocol to be  
40 used by campus staff, faculty, and resident assistants in the case of  
41 four-year institutions, to identify, assess, and respond to a student  
42 who is experiencing a mental health crisis. The plan shall include an  
43 assessment, every five years, of elements of the campus  
44 environment that might be used in a suicide attempt including, but  
45 not limited to: access to building rooftops, balconies, windows, and  
46 bridges; access to toxic substances including chemicals in campus

**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 laboratories; and access to drugs, alcohol, controlled dangerous  
2 substances, and firearms.

3 (cf: P.L.2016, c.18, s.2)

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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10 Under the “Madison Holleran Suicide Prevention Act,”  
11 P.L.2016, c.18 (C.18A:3B-72 et seq.), institutions of higher  
12 education are required to have individuals with training and  
13 experience in mental health issues who focus on reducing student  
14 suicides and attempted suicides available on campus or remotely by  
15 telephone or other means for students 24 hours a day, seven days a  
16 week. The individuals also work with faculty and staff on ways to  
17 recognize the warning signs and risk factors associated with student  
18 suicide. This bill amends that law to also require the individuals to  
19 work with faculty and staff on recognizing the signs of depression  
20 and on the referral of students to crisis hotlines and mental health  
21 screenings and to provide annual training on all of these topics.

22 The bill also provides that a four-year institution of higher  
23 education will require all students who serve as resident assistants  
24 to receive annual training on the signs of depression, the warning  
25 signs and risk factors associated with college student suicide, the  
26 referral of students to campus mental health resources, and  
27 responding to students in crisis.

28 This bill also requires institutions to:

- 29 • annually conduct a mental health public awareness campaign  
30 on campus designed to: provide students with information on  
31 depression and suicide; raise awareness about the mental  
32 health services available on and off campus; and reduce the  
33 stigma associated with seeking mental health services; and
- 34 • establish a mental health crisis assessment and response plan  
35 to act as the official protocol to be used by campus staff,  
36 faculty, and in the case of four-year institutions, resident  
37 assistants, to identify, assess, and respond to a student who is  
38 experiencing a mental health crisis.