

SENATE, No. 1026

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires NJ Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council to prepare report regarding suicide prevention instruction in public schools.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** requiring New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
2 Council to prepare a report regarding suicide prevention
3 instruction in public schools.

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

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8 1. a. The New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
9 Council established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2003, c.214
10 (C.30:9A-25), shall prepare a report regarding suicide prevention
11 instruction in public schools.

12 b. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

13 (1) identifying the suicide prevention instruction currently
14 provided to public school teaching staff members and students
15 pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of P.L.2005, c.310, s.2 (C.18A:6-112
16 and C.18A:6-113);

17 (2) reviewing the effectiveness and sufficiency of instruction in
18 suicide prevention currently provided to public school teaching staff
19 members and students;

20 (3) identifying any methods public schools may use to identify
21 students who may be at risk for suicide or self-injury;

22 (4) identifying evidence-based and best practice programs in
23 public schools for the prevention of youth suicide and self-injury,
24 including a survey of programs being implemented in surrounding
25 states;

26 (5) identifying opportunities to enhance access to mental health
27 treatment in public schools; and

28 (6) findings and recommendations, including legislative and
29 regulatory proposals.

30 c. The report prepared pursuant to this section shall be
31 transmitted to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
32 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12
33 months after the effective date of this act.

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill requires the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention
41 Advisory Council to prepare a report regarding suicide prevention
42 instruction in public schools. The report is required to include the
43 following: (1) identifying the suicide prevention instruction already
44 provided to public school teaching staff members and students; (2)
45 reviewing the effectiveness and sufficiency of instruction in suicide
46 prevention currently provided to public school teaching staff
47 members and students; (3) identifying any methods public schools
48 may use to identify students who may be at risk for suicide or self-

1 injury; (4) identifying evidence-based and best practice programs in
2 public schools for the prevention of youth suicide and self-injury,
3 including a survey of programs being implemented in surrounding
4 states; (5) identifying opportunities to enhance access to mental
5 health treatment in public schools; and (6) findings and
6 recommendations, including legislative and regulatory proposals, to
7 improve suicide prevention instruction. The council is required to
8 submit the report to the Governor and Legislature no later than 12
9 months after the effective date of the act.

10 Schools can be a key setting for youth suicide prevention.
11 Teachers, mental health providers, and all other school personnel
12 who interact with students can play an important role in keeping
13 them safe. Currently, the State Board of Education, in consultation
14 with the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council is
15 required to provide instruction in suicide prevention to public
16 school teaching staff. The report required by this bill will inform
17 the Governor and Legislature of the effectiveness of the instruction
18 in suicide prevention and whether the instruction is being provided
19 uniformly and consistently in all public schools.