

SENATE, No. 3303

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 21, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to conduct study on causes of youth suicide.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/7/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning youth suicide.

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

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6 1. a. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the
7 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human
8 Services, and the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
9 Council shall study the causes of and risk factors associated with
10 youth suicide in this State, including, but not limited to:
11 aggression, agitation, anxiety, emotional and physical trauma,
12 family history, impulsivity, physical and mental illness, social
13 withdrawal, and substance use, including alcohol, illicit drug, and
14 prescription medication use. The Commissioner of Health shall at a
15 minimum: review suicide data, available health records in a manner
16 that is consistent with federal and State privacy laws, medical and
17 other scientific literature, scholarly articles, public and private
18 research, and any other resources deemed appropriate by the
19 Commissioner of Health to carry out the purposes of this act.

20 b. Within 180 days following the effective date of this act, the
21 Commissioner of Health shall issue a report to the Governor, and,
22 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
23 Legislature containing the commissioner's findings made pursuant
24 to subsection a. of this section. The report shall include any
25 recommendations for legislation or regulatory changes that would
26 address and aim to eliminate causes of youth suicide.

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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
29 the submission of the findings of the Commissioner of Health
30 pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of this act.

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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct a
36 study on the causes of youth suicide.

37 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health (commissioner), in
38 consultation with the Department of Children and Families, the
39 Department of Human Services, and the New Jersey Youth Suicide
40 Prevention Advisory Council is to study the causes of and risk
41 factors associated with youth suicide in this State, including, but not
42 limited to: aggression, agitation, anxiety, emotional and physical
43 trauma, family history, impulsivity, physical and mental illness,
44 social withdrawal, and substance use, including alcohol, illicit drug,
45 and prescription medication use. The commissioner is to at a
46 minimum: review suicide data, available health records in a manner
47 that is consistent with federal and State privacy laws, medical and
48 other scientific literature, scholarly articles, public and private

1 research, and any other resources deemed appropriate by the
2 commissioner to carry out the purposes of this bill.

3 The bill provides that the commissioner is to issue a report to the
4 Governor and Legislature containing the commissioner's findings
5 made pursuant to the bill's provisions. The report is to include any
6 recommendations for legislation or regulatory changes that would
7 further the study of the causes of youth suicide.