

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1176**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**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 Timberlake, Speight, McKnight, Carter, Lampitt,**  
**Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywomen Lopez, Murphy, Assemblyman**  
**Stanley, Assemblywomen Swain, Tucker and Reynolds-Jackson**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/3/2022)**

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

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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 read  
8 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 campus  
12 or remotely by telephone or other means for students 24 hours a day,  
13 seven days a week. The individuals shall also work with, and annually  
14 train, faculty and staff on ways to recognize the signs of depression  
15 and the warning signs and risk factors associated with student suicide,  
16 and on the referral of students to crisis hotlines and mental health  
17 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 individuals  
21 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 on  
24 the signs of depression, the warning signs and risk factors associated  
25 with college student suicide, the referral of students to campus mental  
26 health resources, and responding to students in crisis. The training  
27 shall be developed by a licensed mental health professional with  
28 experience in treating depression in college students.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 This bill also requires institutions to annually conduct a mental  
29 health public awareness campaign on campus designed to: provide  
30 students with information on depression and suicide; raise  
31 awareness about the mental health services available on and off  
32 campus; and reduce the stigma associated with seeking mental  
33 health services.

34 The bill directs the president of an institution of higher  
35 education, or a designee, to establish a mental health crisis  
36 assessment and response plan. The plan will be the official protocol  
37 to be used by campus staff, faculty, and in the case of four-year  
38 institutions, resident assistants, to identify, assess, and respond to a  
39 student who is experiencing a mental health crisis.