ASSEMBLY, No. 2293 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

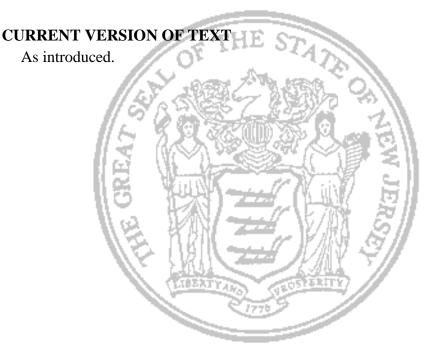
INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

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.



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

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AN ACT concerning suicide prevention programs at institutions of 1 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: 6 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 reducing student suicides and attempted suicides available on 11 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 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 <u>thus</u> is new matter.

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1	laboratories; and access to drugs, alcohol, controlled dangerous			
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5	2. This act shall take effect immediately.			
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8	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	1 screenings and to provide annual training on all of these topics.			
22	2 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.			