

[First Reprint]

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)

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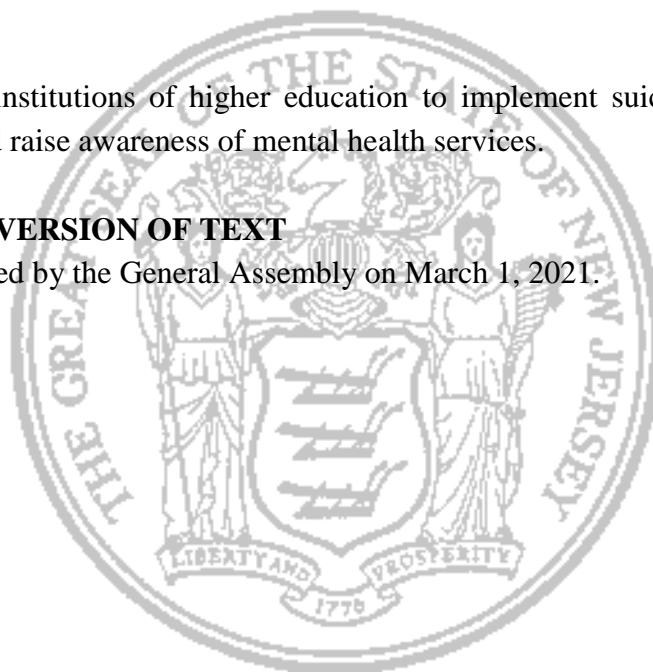
**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttie, Timberlake, Speight, McKnight, Carter,
Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblyman Freiman,
Assemblywomen Lopez, Downey, Assemblyman Houghtaling,
Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblymen Stanley, Armato,
Assemblywomen Swain, DiMaso and Tucker**

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on March 1, 2021.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

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:*

6
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 ¹**[governing board]** president¹ of an institution of higher
37 education¹, or a designee,¹ shall establish a mental health crisis
38 assessment and response plan. The purpose of the plan shall be to act
39 as the official protocol to be used by campus staff, faculty, and
40 resident assistants in the case of four-year institutions, to identify,
41 assess, and respond to a student who is experiencing a mental health
42 crisis. The plan shall include an assessment, every five years, of
43 elements of the campus environment that might be used in a suicide
44 attempt including, but not limited to: access to building rooftops,
45 balconies, windows, and bridges; access to toxic substances including

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted March 1, 2021.

1 chemicals in campus laboratories; and access to drugs, alcohol,
2 controlled dangerous substances, and firearms.

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

4

5

6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.