# First Regular Session Seventy-third General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

# **ENGROSSED**

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted on Second Reading in the House of Introduction

LLS NO. 21-0484.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 21-1119** 

### **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

Rich and Daugherty,

## SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan and Coram,

#### **House Committees**

#### **Senate Committees**

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

	A BILL FOR AN ACT
101	CONCERNING LOWERING THE SUICIDE RATE BY ENHANCING CARE FOR
102	PERSONS AFFECTED BY SUICIDE, AND, IN CONNECTION
103	THEREWITH, BROADENING COLORADO'S FOCUS TO INCLUDE
104	SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION.

## **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

The bill broadens the state's priorities and focus on suicide and suicide attempts and the after-effects of those actions on attempt survivors, family, friends, health care providers, first and last responders,

educators, and students in schools where a suicide or suicide attempt has occurred.

The following entities are renamed as follows to reflect the new state focus:

- The "office of suicide prevention" is renamed as the "office of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention";
- The "suicide prevention commission" is renamed as the "suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention commission" and its duties expanded to include training and education for health care providers, first and last responders, and educators, as well as developing a plan for follow-up care for suicide attempt survivors who were treated in an emergency department;
- The "Colorado suicide prevention plan" is renamed as the "Colorado suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention plan". The components of the plan are expanded to include training and education for health care providers, first and last responders, and educators, as well as developing a plan for follow-up care for suicide attempt survivors who were treated in an emergency department.
- The "crisis and suicide prevention training grant program" is renamed as the "crisis and suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention training grant program"; and
- The "suicide prevention coordination cash fund" is renamed as the "suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention coordination cash fund".

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

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SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

- (a) People who have known someone who died by suicide in the last year were 1.6 times more likely to have suicidal thoughts, 2.9 times more likely to have a plan for suicide themselves, and 3.7 times more likely to have attempted suicide themselves;
  - (b) More peace officers die of suicide than in the line of duty;
- (c) An estimated three hundred to four hundred doctors die of suicide annually, a rate of twenty-eight to forty per one hundred thousand,

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which is more than double that of the general population;

- (d) Suicide is a leading cause of death for school-aged children in Colorado. After learning about the suicide of a schoolmate, children are just as susceptible as adults to attempt suicide, which is why they need care to help them cope with the after-effects of suicide.
- (e) Children are at risk by just knowing about a friend's or schoolmate's attempt, and adolescents who know about a friend's suicide attempt are nearly twice as likely to attempt suicide themselves one year later;
- (f) Suicide risk is at its highest in the first week after discharge from an inpatient setting. This risk is one hundred and two times higher in men and two hundred and forty-six times higher in women than in their counterparts in the general population.
- (g) In addition to the tragedy of lost lives and disability due to suicide and suicide attempts, the fiscal costs of suicide and suicide attempts are enormous. Every suicide death results in an economic loss of approximately one million three hundred thousand dollars, and every suicide attempt results in an economic loss of approximately six hundred and fifty thousand dollars.
- (h) A survey by the suicide prevention commission found that behavioral health providers have gaps in knowledge about evidence-based practices and training related to comprehensive suicide prevention and that those providers generally reported that they would benefit from additional training; and
- (i) Comprehensive suicide-related training of primary care providers enhances the level of care that suicidal people receive and increases provider confidence and competence and the ability to provide

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1	effective and life-saving treatment.
2	(2) Therefore, the general assembly finds and declares it is
3	necessary for the state to spread its suicide focus and efforts beyond
4	prevention to include intervention and postvention services as part of a
5	comprehensive suicide prevention focus for persons affected by suicide
6	and suicide attempts, including:
7	(a) Making comprehensive suicide prevention education and
8	training available to providers to learn about aftercare for suicide loss and
9	suicide attempt survivors;
10	(b) Making comprehensive suicide prevention education and
11	training available for first and last responders to suicides and suicide
12	attempts;
13	(c) Advising on follow-up care for suicide attempt survivors,
14	including specialized counseling;
15	(d) Comprehensive suicide prevention training for primary care
16	and behavioral health providers in suicide assessment, treatment,
17	management, and postvention to help decrease the suicide rate in
18	Colorado; and
19	(e) Comprehensive suicide prevention training for K-12 educators
20	on the importance of postvention efforts and communication with the
21	students to address loss and the potential of suicidal contagion after a
22	suicide or suicide attempt.
23	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-127.9, amend
24	(1) as follows:
25	22-2-127.9. Mental health education literacy - resource bank
26	- technical assistance. (1) The department, with assistance from the
27	office of suicide prevention created pursuant to section 25-1.5-101

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1	(1)(w)(I), the Colorado youth advisory council created pursuant to section
2	2-2-1302, and the suicide prevention commission created pursuant to
3	section 25-1.5-111, shall create and maintain a resource bank of
4	evidence-based, research-based, and promising program materials and
5	curricula pertaining to mental health which AND COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE
6	PREVENTION, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-1.5-112. THESE
7	materials and curricula may be used in elementary and secondary schools
8	in the state. The resource bank and curricula must be youth-friendly,
9	culturally sensitive, and available in both English and Spanish. In creating
10	the resource bank and curricula, the department may provide internet
11	links to resources and materials pertaining to mental health available from
12	other entities that the department finds reliable. Additionally, the
13	department shall solicit input from persons, including youth, within and
14	outside of the mental health profession, including both community and
15	school mental health professionals. Subject to available appropriations,
16	the department shall solicit requests for information and may contract for:
17	(a) The organization and enhancement of the resource bank,
18	including materials on the prevention of suicide, THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF
19	SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AND SUICIDE DEATHS, AND POSTVENTION TRAINING,
20	and education on mental AND BEHAVIORAL health;
21	(b) The development of mental AND BEHAVIORAL health AND
22	SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION curricula for
23	schools and providing such curricula to schools; and
24	(c) Training for educators and school staff concerning mental AND
25	BEHAVIORAL health AND SUICIDE PREVENTION.
26	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1803,
27	amend (3)(n)(I) as follows:

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1	24-33.5-1803. School safety resource center - created - duties.
2	(3) The center has the following duties:
3	(n) (I) To act as a resource for school districts, public schools,
4	charter schools, and institute charter schools concerning TRAINING FOR
5	crisis and suicide prevention, training AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN
6	SECTION 25-1.5-112; and
7	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-101, amend
8	(1)(w)(I) and $(1)(w)(IV)$ ; and <b>add</b> $(1)(w)(V)$ as follows:
9	25-1.5-101. Powers and duties of department - laboratory cash
10	<b>fund - report - definitions - repeal.</b> (1) The department has, in addition
11	to all other powers and duties imposed upon it by law, the powers and
12	duties provided in this section as follows:
13	(w) (I) To operate the office of suicide prevention, which is
14	hereby established in the division of prevention services in the
15	department. that THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION serves as the
16	coordinator for crisis and suicide prevention programs throughout the
17	state, including the Colorado suicide prevention plan established in
18	section 25-1.5-112 and the crisis and suicide prevention training grant
19	program established in section 25-1.5-113. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
20	SUBSECTION (1)(w), THE TERM "COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION"
21	OR "SUICIDE PREVENTION" INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:
22	(A) STRATEGIES OR APPROACHES THAT SEEK TO PREVENT THE
23	ONSET OF SUICIDAL DESPAIR, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SUICIDE
24	PREVENTION";
25	(B) PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION SUPPORTS, INCLUDING
26	COMMUNITY TRAINING, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY
27	IMPROVEMENT AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT

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1	THE ADOPTION OF BEST SUICIDE ATTEMPT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND
2	POSTVENTION PRACTICES AND POLICIES; AND
3	(C) POSTVENTION RESPONSES TO AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS
4	AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE AFTERMATH OF A SUICIDE ATTEMPT.
5	(IV) The department and the office of suicide prevention may
6	collaborate with the school safety resource center and with each facility
7	licensed or certified pursuant to section 25-1.5-103 in order to coordinate
8	SERVICES RELATED TO crisis and suicide prevention, services AS THAT
9	TERM IS DEFINED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(w), including relevant training
10	and other services as part of the Colorado suicide prevention plan
11	established in section 25-1.5-112. When a facility treats a person who has
12	attempted suicide or exhibits a suicidal gesture, the facility may provide
13	oral and written information or educational materials to the person or, in
14	the case of a minor, to parents, relatives, or other responsible persons to
15	whom the minor will be released, prior to the person's release, regarding
16	warning signs of depression, risk factors of suicide, methods of
17	preventing suicide, available RESOURCES FOR COMPREHENSIVE suicide
18	prevention, resources, and any other information concerning suicide
19	awareness, and prevention. THE FACILITY SHALL ALSO PROVIDE ORAL AND
20	WRITTEN INFORMATION OR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO THE PERSON OR,
21	IN THE CASE OF A MINOR, TO PARENTS, RELATIVES, OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE
22	PERSONS TO WHOM THE MINOR WILL BE RELEASED, PRIOR TO THE PERSON'S
23	RELEASE, CONCERNING THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF A SUICIDE ATTEMPT. The
24	department and the office of suicide prevention may work with facilities
25	and the Colorado suicide prevention plan to determine whether and where
26	gaps exist in COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention programs and services,
27	including gaps that may be present in:

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1	(A) The COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION information and
2	materials being used and distributed in facilities throughout the state;
3	(B) COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION resources available to
4	persons who attempt suicide or exhibit a suicidal gesture and, when the
5	person is a minor, to parents, relatives, and other responsible persons to
6	whom a minor is released; and
7	(C) The process for referring persons who attempt suicide or
8	exhibit a suicidal gesture to COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention services
9	and programs or other appropriate health-care providers for treatment.
10	(V) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION
11	SHALL PREPARE WRITTEN INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY CARE OFFICES AND
12	PROVIDERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE INFORMATION MUST BE
13	REGION-SPECIFIC CONCERNING HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO A
14	SUICIDAL PATIENT AND INCLUDE SEPARATE WRITTEN INFORMATION FOR
15	PROVIDERS AND INFORMATION THAT MAY BE SHARED WITH PATIENTS.
16	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-111, amend
17	(1) and (2)(a) introductory portion; and add (7) as follows:
18	25-1.5-111. Suicide prevention commission - created -
19	responsibilities - gifts, grants, donations - definition - repeal. (1) The
20	suicide prevention commission, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE
21	"COMMISSION", is hereby created for the purpose of:
22	(a) Providing public and private leadership for COMPREHENSIVE
23	suicide prevention, and intervention AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN
24	SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS SECTION, in Colorado;
25	(b) Setting statewide, data-driven, evidence-based, and clinically
26	informed PRIORITIES FOR COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention priorities in
27	Colorado;

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1	(c) Serving as an advisor to the office of suicide prevention;
2	(d) Establishing and leading subgroups to set strategy and
3	implementation plans for each statewide COMPREHENSIVE suicide
4	prevention priority for the office of suicide prevention;
5	(e) Providing a forum for government agencies, community
6	members, business leaders, and lawmakers to examine the current status
7	of COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention and intervention policies; analyze
8	the system's near-term opportunities and challenges; and make
9	recommendations to the office of suicide prevention, the governor's
10	office, and the general assembly regarding improvements and innovations
11	in policies and programs to reduce the preventable occurrence of suicide
12	in Colorado AS WELL AS THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF SUICIDE AND SUICIDE
13	ATTEMPTS IN COLORADO;
14	(f) Expanding local and national partnerships and resources for
15	statewide COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention activities;
16	(g) Promoting cooperation and coordination among
17	COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention programs and strategies across
18	Colorado;
19	(h) Evaluating the distribution of state resources for
20	COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention;
21	(i) Ensuring that COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention remains a
22	state priority; <del>and</del>
23	(j) Encouraging the development of COMPREHENSIVE suicide
24	prevention plans at the local level;
25	(k) ADVISING ON COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON
26	SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION FOR PROVIDERS
27	AND RESPONDERS;

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1	(I) ASSISTING THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE
2	DEPARTMENT IN CREATING A UNIFORM STATEWIDE K-12 SUICIDE
3	POSTVENTION COMPONENT TO INCLUDE IN THE COLORADO SUICIDE
4	PREVENTION PLAN ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-112; AND
5	(m) DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR SUICIDE
6	ATTEMPT SURVIVORS WHO WERE TREATED IN AN EMERGENCY
7	DEPARTMENT.
8	(2) (a) Within sixty days after May 29, 2014, the executive
9	director of the department of public health and environment shall appoint
10	to the committee COMMISSION no more than twenty-six members,
11	including:
12	(7) As used in this section, the term "comprehensive suicide
13	PREVENTION" OR "SUICIDE PREVENTION" INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING
14	COMPONENTS:
15	(a) STRATEGIES OR APPROACHES THAT SEEK TO PREVENT THE
16	ONSET OF SUICIDAL DESPAIR, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SUICIDE
17	PREVENTION";
18	(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION SUPPORTS, INCLUDING
19	COMMUNITY TRAINING, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY
20	IMPROVEMENT AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT
21	THE ADOPTION OF BEST SUICIDE ATTEMPT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND
22	POSTVENTION PRACTICES AND POLICIES; AND
23	(c) POSTVENTION RESPONSES TO AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS
24	AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE AFTERMATH OF A SUICIDE ATTEMPT.
25	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-112, amend
26	(1) and (2)(c); and <b>add</b> (2)(b)(I.5) and (7) as follows:
27	25-1.5-112. Colorado suicide prevention plan - established -

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goals - responsibilities - funding - definition. (1) The Colorado suicide prevention plan, referred to in this section as the "Colorado plan", is created in the office of suicide prevention within the department. The goal and purpose of the Colorado plan is to reduce suicide rates and numbers in Colorado through system-level implementation of the Colorado plan in criminal justice and health-care systems, including mental and behavioral health systems, AND TO MITIGATE THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AND SUICIDE DEATHS.

- (2) The suicide prevention commission, together with the office of suicide prevention, the office of behavioral health, the department, and the department of health care policy and financing, is strongly encouraged to collaborate with criminal justice and health-care systems, mental and behavioral health systems, primary care providers, physical and mental health clinics in educational institutions, community mental health centers, advocacy groups, emergency medical services professionals and responders, public and private insurers, hospital chaplains, and faith-based organizations to develop and implement:
  - (b) A plan to improve training on:
- (I.5) COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS SECTION, FOR FIRST AND LAST RESPONDERS, HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS, K-12 EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS, AND FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPT SURVIVORS TREATED IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS;
- (c) Professional development resources and training opportunities regarding indicators of suicidal thoughts and behavior, risk assessment, and management, and the After-Effects of Suicide Attempts and Suicide Deaths, as developed in collaboration with the department of

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1	regulatory agencies, the department of corrections, and health-care and
2	mental health professional boards and associations.
3	(7) As used in this section, the term "comprehensive suicide
4	PREVENTION" OR "SUICIDE PREVENTION" INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING
5	COMPONENTS:
6	(a) STRATEGIES OR APPROACHES THAT SEEK TO PREVENT THE
7	ONSET OF SUICIDAL DESPAIR, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SUICIDE
8	PREVENTION";
9	(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION SUPPORTS, INCLUDING
10	COMMUNITY TRAINING, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY
11	IMPROVEMENT AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT
12	THE ADOPTION OF BEST SUICIDE ATTEMPT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND
13	POSTVENTION PRACTICES AND POLICIES; AND
14	(c) POSTVENTION RESPONSES TO AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS
15	AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE AFTERMATH OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
16	AND SUICIDE DEATHS.
17	SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-113, amend
18	(2)(b), (3)(a)(II), (3)(b), and (4)(b)(V); and <b>add</b> (1)(h) as follows:
19	25-1.5-113. Crisis and suicide prevention training grant
20	program - creation - process - reporting requirements - fund -
21	definitions. (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
22	requires:
23	(h) "SUICIDE PREVENTION" OR "COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE
24	PREVENTION" INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:
25	(I) STRATEGIES OR APPROACHES THAT SEEK TO PREVENT THE
26	ONSET OF SUICIDAL DESPAIR, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SUICIDE
27	PREVENTION";

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1	(II) PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION SUPPORTS, INCLUDING
2	COMMUNITY TRAINING, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY
3	IMPROVEMENT AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT
4	THE ADOPTION OF BEST SUICIDE ATTEMPT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND
5	POSTVENTION PRACTICES AND POLICIES; AND
6	(III) POSTVENTION RESPONSES TO AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS
7	AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE AFTERMATH OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
8	AND SUICIDE DEATHS.
9	(2) (b) On and after January 1, 2019, a public school or a school
10	district may apply to the department for a grant pursuant to the guidelines
11	adopted in subsection (3) of this section to provide crisis and
12	COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention training in the public school or school
13	district.
14	(3) (a) On or before November 1, 2018, the office of suicide
15	prevention and the school safety resource center shall make
16	recommendations to the department for the administration of the grant
17	program, and the department shall adopt formal training guidelines for the
18	grant program. The guidelines must include:
19	(II) Criteria to utilize in selecting public schools and school
20	districts to receive grants and in determining the amount of grant money
21	to be awarded to each grant recipient. The criteria, at a minimum, must
22	include:
23	(A) That first priority for grant awards is to provide crisis and
24	COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention training to public schools and school
25	districts that have not previously received such training;
26	(B) An emphasis on providing such training to all staff at the
27	public school or school district, not just educators; and

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1	(C) A requirement that each application, at a minimum, must
2	describe how the applicant public school or school district will use a grant
3	award to provide comprehensive crisis and suicide prevention training to
4	all educators and staff who have not yet received such training OR
5	PROVIDE A TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAM TO INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS
6	WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED SUCH TRAINING; OR
7	(D) AN EMPHASIS ON PROVIDING A TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAM
8	FOR EMPLOYEES AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ARE
9	DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE PROGRAM ATTENDEES TO TEACH A TEEN
10	BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING COURSE, AS WELL AS
11	IMPROVE OVERALL SCHOOL CLIMATE AND PROMOTE TEEN BEHAVIORAL
12	AND MENTAL HEALTH. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION
13	(3)(a)(II)(D), A "TEEN BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING
14	COURSE" IS A COURSE THAT TRAINS STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL TO
15	IDENTIFY, UNDERSTAND, AND RESPOND TO SIGNS OF BEHAVIORAL AND
16	MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AMONG THEIR FRIENDS AND PEERS.
17	(b) If there is money remaining in the fund after grants are made
18	to all public schools or school districts that applied for a grant and that
19	had not previously received crisis and COMPREHENSIVE suicide prevention
20	training, the department may award grants to a public school or school
21	district that had previously received such training.
22	(4) (b) The department shall include in the report required
23	pursuant to section 25-1.5-101 (1)(w)(III)(A) the following information
24	regarding the administration of the grant program during the preceding
25	year:
26	(V) A copy of the grant recipients' crisis and COMPREHENSIVE
27	suicide prevention plans.

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1	SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
2	takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3	ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
4	that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
5	of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
6	act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
7	effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
8	November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
9	official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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