

First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0484.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 21-1119

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rich and Daugherty,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan,

House Committees
Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

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 <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

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,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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".

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

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

4 (a) People who have known someone who died by suicide in the
5 last year were 1.6 times more likely to have suicidal thoughts, 2.9 times
6 more likely to have a plan for suicide themselves, and 3.7 times more
7 likely to have attempted suicide themselves;

8 (b) More peace officers die of suicide than in the line of duty;

9 (c) An estimated three hundred to four hundred doctors die of
10 suicide annually, a rate of twenty-eight to forty per one hundred thousand,

1 which is more than double that of the general population;
2 (d) Suicide is a leading cause of death for school-aged children in
3 Colorado. After learning about the suicide of a schoolmate, children are
4 just as susceptible as adults to attempt suicide, which is why they need
5 care to help them cope with the after-effects of suicide.

6 (e) Children are at risk by just knowing about a friend's or
7 schoolmate's attempt, and adolescents who know about a friend's suicide
8 attempt are nearly twice as likely to attempt suicide themselves one year
9 later;

10 (f) Suicide risk is at its highest in the first week after discharge
11 from an inpatient setting. This risk is one hundred and two times higher
12 in men and two hundred and forty-six times higher in women than in their
13 counterparts in the general population.

14 (g) In addition to the tragedy of lost lives and disability due to
15 suicide and suicide attempts, the fiscal costs of suicide and suicide
16 attempts are enormous. Every suicide death results in an economic loss
17 of approximately one million three hundred thousand dollars, and every
18 suicide attempt results in an economic loss of approximately six hundred
19 and fifty thousand dollars.

20 (2) Therefore, the general assembly finds and declares it is
21 necessary for the state to spread its suicide focus and efforts beyond
22 prevention to include intervention and postvention services for persons
23 affected by suicide and suicide attempts, including:

24 (a) Making education and training available to providers to learn
25 about aftercare for suicide loss and suicide attempt survivors;

26 (b) Making education and training available for first and last
27 responders to suicides and suicide attempts;

(c) Providing follow-up care for suicide attempt survivors, including specialized counseling; and

(d) Training for K-12 educators on the importance of postvention efforts and communication with the students to address loss and the potential of suicidal contagion after a suicide or suicide attempt.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-127.9, amend (1) as follows:

22-2-127.9. Mental health education literacy - resource bank

9 - **technical assistance.** (1) The department, with assistance from the
10 office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION created
11 pursuant to section 25-1.5-101 (1)(w)(I), the Colorado youth advisory
12 council created pursuant to section 2-2-1302, and the suicide prevention,
13 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION commission created pursuant to
14 section 25-1.5-111, shall create and maintain a resource bank of
15 evidence-based, research-based, and promising program materials and
16 curricula pertaining to mental health. ~~which~~ THESE materials and
17 curricula may be used in elementary and secondary schools in the state.
18 The resource bank and curricula must be youth-friendly, culturally
19 sensitive, and available in both English and Spanish. In creating the
20 resource bank and curricula, the department may provide internet links to
21 resources and materials pertaining to mental health available from other
22 entities that the department finds reliable. Additionally, the department
23 shall solicit input from persons, including youth, within and outside of the
24 mental health profession, including both community and school mental
25 health professionals. Subject to available appropriations, the department
26 shall solicit requests for information and may contract for:

27 (a) The organization and enhancement of the resource bank,

1 including materials on the prevention of suicide, THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF
2 SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AND POSTVENTION TRAINING, and education on mental
3 AND BEHAVIORAL health;

4 (b) The development of mental AND BEHAVIORAL health curricula
5 for schools and providing such curricula to schools; and

6 (c) Training for educators and school staff concerning mental AND
7 BEHAVIORAL health.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1803,
9 **amend** (3)(n) as follows:

10 **24-33.5-1803. School safety resource center - created - duties.**

11 (3) The center has the following duties:

12 (n) (I) To act as a resource for school districts, public schools,
13 charter schools, and institute charter schools concerning crisis and suicide
14 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION training; and

15 (II) To work collaboratively with the office of suicide prevention,
16 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION in the department of public health and
17 environment concerning the crisis and suicide prevention, INTERVENTION,
18 AND POSTVENTION training grant program created in section 25-1.5-113.

19 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-101, **amend**
20 (1)(w) as follows:

21 **25-1.5-101. Powers and duties of department - laboratory cash
22 fund - report - definition - repeal.** (1) The department has, in addition
23 to all other powers and duties imposed upon it by law, the powers and
24 duties provided in this section as follows:

25 (w) (I) To operate the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION,
26 AND POSTVENTION, which is **hereby** established in the division of
27 prevention services in the department. **that** THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE

1 PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION serves as the coordinator
2 for crisis and suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
3 programs throughout the state, including the Colorado suicide prevention,
4 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION plan established in section 25-1.5-112
5 and the crisis and suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
6 training grant program established in section 25-1.5-113.

7 (II) The department is authorized to SEEK AND accept gifts, grants,
8 and donations on behalf of the office of suicide prevention,
9 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION. The department shall transmit all such
10 gifts, grants, and donations to the state treasurer who shall credit the same
11 to the suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION coordination
12 cash fund, which fund is hereby created AND REFERRED TO IN THIS
13 SUBSECTION (1)(w)(II) AS THE "FUND". The fund also consists of any
14 money appropriated or transferred to the fund by the general assembly for
15 the purposes of implementing section 25-1.5-112. Any money remaining
16 in the ~~suicide prevention coordination cash~~ fund at the end of any fiscal
17 year must remain in the fund and must not be transferred or credited to
18 the general fund. The general assembly shall make appropriations from
19 the ~~suicide prevention coordination cash~~ fund for expenditures incurred
20 by the department or the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
21 POSTVENTION in the performance of its duties pursuant to this subsection
22 (1)(w) and section 25-1.5-112.

23 (III) (A) Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), as part of
24 the duties of the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
25 POSTVENTION, on or before each November 1, the office of suicide
26 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION shall submit to the chairs
27 of the senate health and human services committee and the house of

1 representatives health, insurance, and environment committee, or their
2 successor committees, and to the members of the joint budget committee,
3 a report listing all crisis and suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
4 POSTVENTION programs in the state and describing the effectiveness of
5 the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION in
6 acting as the coordinator for crisis and suicide prevention, INTERVENTION,
7 AND POSTVENTION programs. For the report submitted in 2013 and each
8 year thereafter, the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
9 POSTVENTION shall include any findings and recommendations it has to
10 improve crisis and suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
11 in the state.

12 (B) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2012.)

13 (IV) The department and the office of suicide prevention,
14 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION may collaborate with the school safety
15 resource center and with each facility licensed or certified pursuant to
16 section 25-1.5-103 in order to coordinate crisis and suicide prevention,
17 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION services, including relevant training
18 and other services as part of the Colorado suicide prevention,
19 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION plan established in section 25-1.5-112.
20 When a facility treats a person who has attempted suicide or exhibits a
21 suicidal gesture, the facility may provide oral and written information or
22 educational materials to the person or, in the case of a minor, to parents,
23 relatives, or other responsible persons to whom the minor will be
24 released, prior to the person's release, regarding warning signs of
25 depression, risk factors of suicide, methods of preventing suicide,
26 available suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
27 resources, and any other information concerning suicide awareness, ~~and~~

1 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION. THE FACILITY SHALL ALSO
2 PROVIDE ORAL AND WRITTEN INFORMATION OR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
3 TO THE PERSON OR, IN THE CASE OF A MINOR, TO PARENTS, RELATIVES, OR
4 OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS TO WHOM THE MINOR WILL BE RELEASED,
5 PRIOR TO THE PERSON'S RELEASE, CONCERNING THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF A
6 SUICIDE ATTEMPT. The department and the office of suicide prevention,
7 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION may work with facilities and the
8 Colorado suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION plan to
9 determine whether and where gaps exist in suicide prevention,
10 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION programs and services, including gaps
11 that may be present in:

12 (A) The information and materials being used and distributed in
13 facilities throughout the state;

14 (B) Resources available to persons who attempt suicide or exhibit
15 a suicidal gesture and, when the person is a minor, to parents, relatives,
16 and other responsible persons to whom a minor is released; and

17 (C) The process for referring persons who attempt suicide or
18 exhibit a suicidal gesture to suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
19 POSTVENTION services and programs or other appropriate health-care
20 providers for treatment.

21 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-111, **amend**
22 (1), (2)(a) introductory portion, (2)(a)(I), (2)(a)(XX), (4), and (5) as
23 follows:

24 **25-1.5-111. Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention**
25 **commission - created - responsibilities - gifts, grants, donations -**
26 **repeal.** (1) The suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
27 commission, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "COMMISSION", is

1 hereby created for the purpose of:

2 (a) Providing public and private leadership for suicide prevention,
3 and intervention, AND POSTVENTION, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN
4 SECTION 25-1.5-113, in Colorado;

5 (b) Setting statewide, data-driven, evidence-based, and clinically
6 informed suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION priorities
7 in Colorado;

8 (c) Serving as an advisor to the office of suicide prevention,
9 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION;

10 (d) Establishing and leading subgroups to set strategy and
11 implementation plans for each statewide suicide prevention,
12 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION priority for the office of suicide
13 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION;

14 (e) Providing a forum for government agencies, community
15 members, business leaders, and lawmakers to examine the current status
16 of suicide prevention, and intervention, AND POSTVENTION policies;
17 analyze the system's near-term opportunities and challenges; and make
18 recommendations to the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
19 POSTVENTION, the governor's office, and the general assembly regarding
20 improvements and innovations in policies and programs to reduce the
21 preventable occurrence of suicide in Colorado AS WELL AS THE
22 AFTER-EFFECTS OF SUICIDE AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN COLORADO;

23 (f) Expanding local and national partnerships and resources for
24 statewide suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
25 activities;

26 (g) Promoting cooperation and coordination among suicide
27 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION programs and strategies

1 across Colorado;

2 (h) Evaluating the distribution of state resources for suicide
3 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION;

4 (i) Ensuring that suicide prevention, ~~remains~~ INTERVENTION, AND
5 POSTVENTION REMAIN a state priority; ~~and~~

6 (j) Encouraging the development of suicide prevention,
7 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION plans at the local level;

8 (k) PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON
9 SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION FOR PROVIDERS
10 AND RESPONDERS;

11 (l) ASSISTING THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION,
12 AND POSTVENTION IN THE DEPARTMENT IN CREATING A UNIFORM
13 STATEWIDE K-12 SUICIDE POSTVENTION COMPONENT TO INCLUDE IN THE
14 COLORADO SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION PLAN
15 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-112; AND

16 (m) DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR SUICIDE
17 ATTEMPT SURVIVORS WHO WERE TREATED IN AN EMERGENCY
18 DEPARTMENT.

19 (2) (a) Within sixty days after May 29, 2014, the executive
20 director of the department of public health and environment shall appoint
21 to the ~~committee~~ COMMISSION no more than twenty-six members,
22 including:

23 (I) A representative from the office of suicide prevention,
24 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION in the department, which office ~~shall~~
25 ~~serves~~ SERVES as the administrator and coordinator of the commission;

26 (XX) One representative of the suicide prevention, INTERVENTION,
27 AND POSTVENTION nonprofit community;

19 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-112, **amend**
20 (1), (2) introductory portion, (2)(c), (5), and (6); and **add** (2)(b)(I.5) as
21 follows:

22 **25-1.5-112. Colorado suicide prevention, intervention, and**
23 **postvention plan - established - goals - responsibilities - funding.**

24 (1) The Colorado suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
25 plan, referred to in this section as the "Colorado plan", is created in the
26 office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION within the
27 department. The goal and purpose of the Colorado plan is to reduce

1 suicide rates and numbers in Colorado through system-level
2 implementation of the Colorado plan in criminal justice and ~~health-care~~
3 HEALTH CARE systems, including mental and behavioral health systems,
4 AND TO MITIGATE THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AND SUICIDE.

5 (2) The suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
6 commission, together with the office of suicide prevention,
7 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION, the office of behavioral health, the
8 department, and the department of health care policy and financing, is
9 strongly encouraged to collaborate with criminal justice and ~~health-care~~
10 HEALTH CARE systems, mental and behavioral health systems, primary
11 care providers, physical and mental health clinics in educational
12 institutions, community mental health centers, advocacy groups,
13 emergency medical services professionals and responders, public and
14 private insurers, hospital chaplains, and faith-based organizations to
15 develop and implement:

16 (b) A plan to improve training on:

17 (I.5) SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION, AS
18 THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-1.5-113, FOR FIRST AND LAST
19 RESPONDERS, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, K-12 EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS,
20 AND FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPT SURVIVORS TREATED IN
21 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS;

22 (c) Professional development resources and training opportunities
23 regarding indicators of suicidal thoughts and behavior, risk assessment,
24 and management, AND THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AND
25 SUICIDE, as developed in collaboration with the department of regulatory
26 agencies, the department of corrections, and ~~health-care~~ HEALTH CARE
27 and mental health professional boards and associations.

16 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-113, **amend**
17 (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), (3), (4)(b)(V), and (5)(a); and
18 **add** (1)(d.5) as follows:

19 **25-1.5-113. Crisis and suicide prevention, intervention, and**
20 **postvention training grant program - creation - process - reporting**
21 **requirements - fund - definitions.** (1) As used in this section, unless the
22 context otherwise requires:

23 (b) "Fund" means the crisis and suicide prevention,
24 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION training grant program fund
25 established in subsection (5) of this section.

26 (c) "Grant program" means the crisis and suicide prevention,
27 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION training grant program created in

1 subsection (2) of this section.

2 (d) "Office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
3 POSTVENTION" means the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION,
4 AND POSTVENTION in the department, established pursuant to section
5 25-1.5-101 (1)(w).

6 (d.5) "POSTVENTION" MEANS ACTIONS THAT COME AFTER A
7 SUICIDE OR SUICIDE ATTEMPT THAT EITHER:

8 (I) SERVE TO MITIGATE THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF A SUICIDE OR
9 SUICIDE ATTEMPT; OR

10 (II) DEAL WITH THE HARMFUL AFTER-EFFECTS IN OTHER PERSONS
11 AFFECTED BY THE SUICIDE OR SUICIDE ATTEMPT, FOR EXAMPLE FAMILY
12 MEMBERS, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, FIRST AND LAST RESPONDERS, AND,
13 IN THE CASE OF A YOUNG PERSON, FELLOW STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS.

14 (2) (a) There is created in the department the crisis and suicide
15 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION training grant program.

16 The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial assistance for the
17 provision of comprehensive crisis and suicide prevention, INTERVENTION,
18 AND POSTVENTION training annually, if grant funding is available, for all
19 teachers and staff at public schools and school districts in Colorado who
20 work directly or indirectly with students. Priority for grant awards is for
21 public schools and school districts with educators and staff who have not
22 yet received such training. The grant program may authorize up to four
23 hundred thousand dollars in grants per year in varying amounts based on
24 the size and need of the public school or school district.

25 (b) On and after January 1, 2019, a public school or a school
26 district may apply to the department for a grant pursuant to the guidelines
27 adopted in subsection (3) of this section to provide crisis and suicide

1 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION training in the public
2 school or school district.

3 (c) The department shall administer the grant program in
4 consultation with the office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
5 POSTVENTION and the school safety resource center.

6 (3) (a) On or before November 1, 2018, the office of suicide
7 prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION and the school safety
8 resource center shall make recommendations to the department for the
9 administration of the grant program, and the department shall adopt
10 formal training guidelines for the grant program. The guidelines must
11 include:

12 (I) Application procedures by which public schools and school
13 districts may apply for a grant pursuant to this section;

14 (II) Criteria to utilize in selecting public schools and school
15 districts to receive grants and in determining the amount of grant money
16 to be awarded to each grant recipient. The criteria, at a minimum, must
17 include:

18 (A) That first priority for grant awards is to provide crisis and
19 suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION training to public
20 schools and school districts that have not previously received such
21 training;

22 (B) An emphasis on providing such training to all staff at the
23 public school or school district, not just educators; and

24 (C) A requirement that each application, at a minimum, must
25 describe how the applicant public school or school district will use a grant
26 award to provide comprehensive crisis and suicide prevention,
27 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION training to all educators and staff who

1 have not yet received such training.

7 (c) The office of suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND
8 POSTVENTION and school safety resource center shall assist the
9 department with reviewing grant applications, making recommendations
10 to the department on which public schools and school districts that
11 applied must receive a grant from the grant program and the amount of
12 each grant, and acting as a resource for grantees.

17 (V) A copy of the grant recipients' crisis and suicide prevention,
18 INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION plans.

1 must be credited to the fund. Any amount remaining in the fund at the end
2 of any fiscal year must remain in the fund and not be credited or
3 transferred to the general fund or to any other fund.

4 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **amend**
5 (15)(a)(III) as follows:

6 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative**
7 **declaration - definition - repeal.** (15) (a) The following statutory
8 authorizations for the designated advisory committees are scheduled for
9 repeal on September 1, 2024:

10 (III) The suicide prevention, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION
11 commission created in section 25-1.5-111; ~~C.R.S.~~;

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