

H.184

An act relating to evaluation of suicide profiles

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 7260 is added to read:

§ 7260. EVALUATION OF SUICIDE PROFILES

(a) To the extent permitted under federal law, the Secretary of Human Services shall annually identify and collect information related to each death by suicide occurring in the State, including data from the Vermont Vital Statistics Program. The Agency shall use data collected by the Secretary to assess individual deaths by suicide for the purposes of:

(1) determining trends and patterns of suicide deaths;

(2) identifying and evaluating the prevalence of risk factors for preventable deaths;

(3) evaluating high-risk factors, current practices, gaps in systematic responses, and barriers to safety and well-being for individuals at risk for suicide;

(4) informing the implementation of suicide prevention activities and supporting the prioritization of suicide prevention resources and activities; and

(5) recommending improvement to the sources of data relative to investigating reported suicide deaths and preventing suicide.

(b) On or before February 15 of each year, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committee on Health Care regarding its findings and recommendations pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Reports produced by the Secretary shall not contain any personally identifying information.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.