

1 Introduced by Committee on Health Care

2 Date:

3 Subject: Health; mental health; preventing death by suicide

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes the duties and
5 responsibilities of the Director of Suicide Prevention.

6 An act relating to public health initiatives to address death by suicide

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

8 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 192 is added to read:

9 CHAPTER 192. PREVENTING DEATH BY SUICIDE

10 § 8151. DIRECTOR OF SUICIDE PREVENTION; DUTIES

11 The Department of Mental Health’s Director of Suicide Prevention shall
12 lead the State’s suicide prevention efforts, intervention supports, and
13 postvention efforts and collaborate with communities and providers to reduce
14 the number of suicide deaths and attempts in the State. The Director shall
15 promote and support statewide crisis and suicide prevention recommendations
16 as outlined in the State’s Suicide Platform, including the creation of a strategic
17 plan and suicide prevention education protocol for all schools. The Director
18 shall expand partnerships, implementing innovative data-driven initiatives;
19 coordinate suicide prevention programs across the State; and work to secure
20 federal funding.

1 **Sec. 2. STATEWIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION; STRATEGIC PLAN AND**
2 **SCHOOL PROTOCOL**

3 (a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Director of Suicide Prevention, in
4 collaboration with the Department of Health and stakeholders, shall develop
5 and submit a statewide strategic plan pertaining to suicide prevention services,
6 training, education, and postvention service to the House Committee on Health
7 Care and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

8 (b) On or before January 15, 2024, the Director of Suicide Prevention, in
9 collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall develop and submit a
10 statewide protocol for all schools to implement suicide prevention, education,
11 and postvention services.

12 **Sec. 3. PRESENTATION; COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION**
13 **GRANT**

14 On or before February 15, 2024, the Director of Suicide Prevention shall
15 present information to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate
16 Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the work accomplished by the
17 State in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
18 Comprehensive Suicide Prevention grant, including the results of the complete
19 Suicide Data Linkage Project.

20 **Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.