

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Lori Houghton, Chair, House Committee of Health Care

FROM: Alison Krompf, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Mental Health

DATE: March 16, 2023

RE: Legislative Language for the Suicide Prevention Director Duties

Introduced by Committee on Health Care

Subject: Health; mental health; preventing death by suicide

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes the duties and responsibilities of the Director of Suicide Prevention. An act relating to public health initiatives to address death by suicide

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

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

CHAPTER 192. PREVENTING DEATH BY SUICIDE § 8151. DIRECTOR OF SUICIDE PREVENTION; DUTIES

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

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

(a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Director of Suicide Prevention, in collaboration with the Department of Health and stakeholders, shall provide an update on the development of a statewide strategic plan pertaining to suicide prevention services, training, education, and postvention service to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(b) On or before January 15, 2024, the Director of Suicide Prevention, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall develop and submit a model for a school-based protocol for suicide prevention, education, and postvention services available to all schools.



Sec. 3. PRESENTATION; COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT On or before February 15, 2024, the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Director of Suicide Prevention shall present information to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the work accomplished by the State in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Comprehensive Suicide Prevention grant, including the results of the complete Suicide Data Linkage Project.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE 21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

