

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVES MOSS, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, BACALA, BAGNERIS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BOURRIAQUE, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, GARY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, DWIGHT, EMERSON, GISCLAIR, GUINN, HILL, HOFFMANN, HORTON, HUVAL, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LEBAS, LYONS, MCFARLAND, MOORE, JAY MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PUGH, PYLANT, RICHARD, SMITH, THOMAS, AND TURNER AND SENATOR PEACOCK

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:282.4(C)(introductory paragraph) and 437.1 and to enact R.S.
3 17:282.4(F) and 3996(B)(54), relative to suicide prevention in schools; to provide
4 for training for school employees, to provide relative to services provided to
5 students; to provide relative to student identification cards; to provide for programs
6 and policies; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:282.4(C)(introductory paragraph) and 437.1 are hereby amended
9 and reenacted and R.S. 17:282.4(F) and 3996(B)(54) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §282.4. Youth suicide prevention programs; policies; intent; rules; services; funding
11 * * *

12 C. Any city, parish, or other local public school system offering a youth
13 suicide prevention program established pursuant to this Section shall do so in
14 accordance with such rules and regulations adopted by the state board; and shall
15 report its participation to the state Department of Education. The department shall
16 designate such a school as a Suicide Prevention Certified School and maintain an
17 updated list of such schools on its website. A youth suicide prevention program may
18 include but shall not be limited to the following:

19 * * *

20 F. Beginning not later than the 2020-2021 school year, the governing
21 authority of each public and approved nonpublic secondary school that issues student
22 identification cards shall have printed on the cards the following information:

1 (1) The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number.

2 (2) A local suicide prevention hotline number, if available.

3 * * *

4 §437.1. Suicide prevention; in-service training; materials and supplies; limitation
5 on liability

6 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop
7 and adopt guidelines for in-service training in suicide prevention as provided for in
8 Subsection B of this Section. The board, in coordination with the Louisiana
9 Department of Health, shall identify suitable ~~materials~~ programs for use in such
10 training. The state Department of Education shall post on its website a listing of
11 approved programs. The list shall include instructions on accessing such programs.
12 The board shall update the list every five years.

13 B.(1) The board shall adopt rules to require that all public and approved
14 nonpublic school teachers, school counselors, and principals and, as determined by
15 the board, other school administrators for whom such training is deemed beneficial
16 participate annually in at least two hours of in-service training in suicide prevention.
17 Such rules shall include provisions permitting such training to be provided by
18 self-review of suitable materials.

19 (2) The training shall address the following:

20 (a) Increasing awareness of risk factors including but not limited to the
21 following:

22 (i) Mental health and substance abuse conditions.

23 (ii) Childhood abuse, neglect, and trauma.

24 (iii) Potential causes of stress, such as bullying, harassment, and relationship
25 problems.

26 (iv) Secondary trauma from a suicide or sensationalized or graphic accounts
27 of suicide in media.

28 (v) History of suicide attempts and related family history.

29 (b) How teachers should respond to suspicious behavior or warning signs
30 exhibited by students.

1 (c) How teachers should respond to a crisis situation in which a student is an
 2 imminent danger to himself.

3 (d) Policies and protocol for communication with parents, including
 4 specifications for circumstances in which parental notification is not in the best
 5 interest of the student.

6 (e) Counseling services available within the school for students and their
 7 families related to suicide prevention.

8 (f) Dissemination of information concerning crisis intervention, suicide
 9 prevention, and mental health services in the community for students and their
 10 families and school employees.

11 (g) Community organizations and agencies for referral of students to health,
 12 mental health, substance abuse, and social support services, including development
 13 of at least one memorandum of understanding between the school system and such
 14 an entity in the community or region.

15 C.(1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused
 16 by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of or good faith attempt
 17 to implement the provisions of this Section or resulting from any training; or lack
 18 thereof; required by this Section, unless such loss or damage was caused by willful
 19 or wanton misconduct.

20 (2) ~~The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of this Section~~
 21 ~~shall not~~ Neither the training required by this Section nor the lack thereof shall be
 22 construed to impose any specific duty of care.

23 D.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
 24 randomly survey employees of public and approved nonpublic secondary schools to
 25 ascertain their compliance with the suicide prevention training requirements of this
 26 Section.

27 (2) The governing authority of each such secondary school shall document
 28 and verify to the state Department of Education, by December thirty-first of each
 29 year, that all school employees have received the mandatory suicide prevention
 30 training as outlined in this Section.

