

**SUICIDE PREVENTION REVISIONS**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**Committee Note:**

The Education Interim Committee recommended this bill.

**General Description:**

This bill amends certain student survey and evaluation provisions related to public school suicide prevention.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ under certain circumstances, allows a school employee ~~to~~ **[or]**, ~~an~~ **agent** ~~to~~ **, or** school resource officer ~~to~~ **to** intervene and ask a student questions regarding the student's suicidal thoughts, ~~to~~ **physically** ~~to~~ self-harming behavior, or thoughts of harming others, for the purposes of:

- referring the student to appropriate prevention services; and
- informing the student's parent;

▶ requires a school district or charter school to develop a policy related to school employee intervention measures on or before September 1, 2014;

▶ allows school personnel to ask a student questions related to youth suicide prevention, intervention, or postvention as part of the school's suicide prevention program; and

▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None



90 (6) (a) This section does not limit the ability of a student under Section 53A-13-101.3  
 91 to spontaneously express sentiments or opinions otherwise protected against disclosure under  
 92 this section.

93 (b) (i) If a school employee or agent believes that a situation exists which presents a  
 94 serious threat to the well-being of a student, that employee or agent shall notify the student's  
 95 parent or guardian without delay.

96 (ii) If, however, the matter has been reported to the Division of Child and Family  
 97 Services within the Department of Human Services, it is the responsibility of the division to  
 98 notify the student's parent or guardian of any possible investigation, prior to the student's return  
 99 home from school.

100 (iii) The division may be exempted from the notification requirements described in this  
 101 Subsection (6)(b)(ii) only if it determines that the student would be endangered by notification  
 102 of his parent or guardian, or if that notification is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

103 (7) (a) If a school employee ~~H→~~ [or] , ~~←H~~ agent ~~H→~~ , or school resource officer ~~←H~~  
 103a believes a student is at-risk of attempting suicide,

104 ~~H→~~ physical ~~←H~~ self-harming, or harming others, the school employee ~~H→~~ [or] , ~~←H~~

104a agent ~~H→~~ , or school resource officer ~~←H~~ may intervene and ask a student

105 questions regarding the student's suicidal thoughts, ~~H→~~ physically ~~←H~~ self-harming behavior, or  
 105a thoughts of

106 harming others for the purposes of:

107 (i) referring the student to appropriate prevention services; and

108 (ii) informing the student's parent ~~H→~~ or legal guardian ~~←H~~ .

109 (b) On or before September 1, 2014, a school district or charter school shall develop  
 110 and adopt a policy regarding ~~H→~~ [school employee] ~~←H~~ intervention measures consistent with  
 111 Subsection (7)(a) ~~H→~~ while requiring the minimum degree of intervention to accomplish the  
 111a goals of this section ~~←H~~ .

112 [~~(7)~~] (8) Local school boards and charter school governing boards shall provide  
 113 inservice for teachers and administrators [~~within their respective school districts~~] on the  
 114 implementation of this section.

115 [~~(8)~~] (9) The board shall provide procedures for disciplinary action for violations of  
 116 this section.

117 Section 2. Section 53A-15-1301 is amended to read:

118 **53A-15-1301. Youth suicide prevention programs required in secondary schools**  
 119 **-- State Board of Education to develop model programs -- Reporting requirements.**

120 (1) As used in the section: