

1 **SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

2 2017 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason**

5 Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill amends and enacts provisions relating to suicide prevention programs.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

- 12 ▶ establishes reporting requirements;
- 13 ▶ creates a position in the Department of Health; and
- 14 ▶ provides for grant awards for suicide prevention programs.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2017:

17 ▶ to Department of Health -- Disease Control and Prevention -- Office of the Medical
18 Examiner, - as an ongoing appropriation:

- 19 • from General Fund, \$85,000;

20 ▶ to Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental
21 Health -- Community Mental Health Services, - as an ongoing appropriation:

- 22 • from General Fund, \$100,000;

23 ▶ to State Board of Education -- State Administrative Office -- Teaching and
24 Learning, as an ongoing appropriation:

- 25 • from General Fund, (\$100,000); and
- 26 • from Education Fund, \$225,000.

27 **Other Special Clauses:**



28 None

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 AMENDS:

31 **26-4-28**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 167

32 **62A-15-1101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapters 144, 164, and 168

33 ENACTS:

34 **26-4-28.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 **53A-15-1303**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



37 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

38 Section 1. Section **26-4-28** is amended to read:

39 **26-4-28. Testing for suspected suicides -- Maintaining information --**

40 **Compensation to deputy medical examiners.**

41 (1) In all cases where it is suspected that a death resulted from suicide, including
42 assisted suicide or drug overdose, the medical examiner shall endeavor to have the following
43 tests conducted upon samples taken from the body of the deceased:

44 (a) a test that detects all of the substances included in the volatiles panel of the Bureau
45 of Forensic Toxicology within the Department of Health;

46 (b) a test that detects all of the substances included in the drugs of abuse panel of the
47 Bureau of Forensic Toxicology within the Department of Health; and

48 (c) a test that detects all of the substances included in the prescription drug panel of the
49 Bureau of Forensic Toxicology within the Department of Health.

50 (2) The medical examiner shall maintain information regarding the types of substances
51 found present in the samples taken from the body of a person who is suspected to have died as
52 a result of suicide or assisted suicide.

53 (3) In compliance with applicable privacy laws, the medical examiner shall release the
54 following preliminary data each month after the medical examiner receives a deceased body
55 until finalized data and a finalized report is released, which shall be no longer than one year
56 after the medical examiner receives a deceased body:

57 (a) data gathered from the tests described in Subsection (1); and

58 (b) data gathered regarding a death that resulted from suicide, including assisted

59 suicide or drug overdose, for the report described in Subsection 26-4-17(1).

60 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) Within funds appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose, the medical
61 examiner shall provide compensation, at a standard rate determined by the medical examiner,
62 to a deputy medical examiner who collects samples for the purposes described in Subsection
63 (1).

64 Section 2. Section 26-4-28.5 is enacted to read:

65 **26-4-28.5. Psychological autopsy examiner.**

66 (1) With funds appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose, the department shall
67 provide compensation, at a standard rate determined by the department, to a psychological
68 autopsy examiner.

69 (2) The psychological autopsy examiner shall:

70 (a) work with the medical examiner to compile data regarding suicide and drug
71 overdose related deaths;

72 (b) as relatives of the deceased are willing, gather information from relatives of the
73 deceased regarding the psychological reasons for the decedent's death;

74 (c) maintain a database of information described in Subsections (2)(a) and (b);

75 (d) in accordance with all applicable privacy laws, share the database described in
76 Subsection (2)(c) with the University of Utah Department of Psychiatry;

77 (e) coordinate no less than monthly with the suicide prevention coordinator described
78 in Subsection 62A-15-1101(2); and

79 (f) coordinate no less than quarterly with the state suicide prevention coalition.

80 Section 3. Section 53A-15-1303 is enacted to read:

81 **53A-15-1303. Grant awards for elementary programs.**

82 (1) To foster peer-to-peer suicide prevention, resiliency, and anti-bullying programs in
83 elementary schools, the public education suicide prevention coordinator, described in Section
84 53A-15-301, shall, subject to legislative appropriations, award grants to elementary schools.

85 (2) A grant award may not exceed \$500 per school per year.

86 (3) The application for a grant shall contain:

87 (a) a requested award amount;

88 (b) a budget; and

89 (c) a narrative plan of the peer-to-peer suicide prevention, resiliency, or anti-bullying

90 program.

91 (4) When awarding a grant under this section, the public education suicide prevention
92 coordinator shall consider:

93 (a) the content of a grant application; and

94 (b) whether an application is submitted in the manner and form prescribed.

95 Section 4. Section **62A-15-1101** is amended to read:

96 **62A-15-1101. Suicide prevention -- Reporting requirements.**

97 (1) As used in the section:

98 (a) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification created in Section [53-10-201](#)
99 within the Department of Public Safety.

100 (b) "Division" means the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

101 (c) "Intervention" means an effort to prevent a person from attempting suicide.

102 (d) "Postvention" means mental health intervention after a suicide attempt or death to
103 prevent or contain contagion.

104 (e) "State suicide prevention coordinator" means an individual designated by the
105 division as described in Subsections (2) and (3).

106 (2) The division shall appoint a state suicide prevention coordinator to administer a
107 state suicide prevention program composed of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention
108 programs, services, and efforts.

109 (3) The state suicide prevention program may include the following components:

110 (a) delivery of resources, tools, and training to community-based coalitions;

111 (b) evidence-based suicide risk assessment tools and training;

112 (c) town hall meetings for building community-based suicide prevention strategies;

113 (d) suicide prevention gatekeeper training;

114 (e) training to identify warning signs and to manage an at-risk individual's crisis;

115 (f) evidence-based intervention training;

116 (g) intervention skills training; and

117 (h) postvention training.

118 (4) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall coordinate with the following to
119 gather statistics, among other duties:

120 (a) local mental health and substance abuse authorities;

121 (b) the State Board of Education, including the public education suicide prevention
122 coordinator described in Section 53A-15-1301;

123 (c) the Department of Health;

124 (d) health care providers, including emergency rooms;

125 (e) federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

126 (f) other unbiased sources; and

127 (g) other public health suicide prevention efforts.

128 (5) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall provide a written report to the Health
129 and Human Services Interim Committee, by the October meeting every year, on:

130 (a) implementation of the state suicide prevention program, as described in Subsections
131 (2) and (3);

132 (b) data measuring the effectiveness of each component of the state suicide prevention
133 program;

134 (c) funds appropriated for each component of the state suicide prevention program; and

135 (d) five-year trends of suicides in Utah, including subgroups of youths and adults and
136 other subgroups identified by the state suicide prevention coordinator.

137 (6) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall report to the Legislature's:

138 (a) Education Interim Committee, by the October 2015 meeting, jointly with the State
139 Board of Education, on the coordination of suicide prevention programs and efforts with the
140 State Board of Education and the public education suicide prevention coordinator as described
141 in Section 53A-15-1301; and

142 (b) Health and Human Services Interim Committee, by the October 2017 meeting,
143 statistics on the number of annual suicides in Utah, including how many suicides were
144 committed with a gun, and if so:

145 (i) where the victim procured the gun and if the gun was legally possessed by the
146 victim;

147 (ii) if the victim purchased the gun legally and whether a background check was
148 performed before the victim purchased the gun;

149 (iii) whether the victim had a history of mental illness or was under the treatment of a
150 mental health professional;

151 (iv) whether any medication or illegal drugs or alcohol were also involved in the

152 suicide; and

153 (v) if the suicide incident also involved the injury or death of another individual,
154 whether the shooter had a history of domestic violence.

155 (7) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall consult with the bureau to implement
156 and manage the operation of a firearm safety program, as described in Subsection
157 [53-10-202\(18\)](#) and Section [53-10-202.1](#).

158 (8) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
159 division shall make rules governing the implementation of the state suicide prevention
160 program, consistent with this section.

161 (9) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall present to the Health and Human
162 Services Interim Committee, no later than November 2017, a 10-year statewide suicide
163 prevention plan.

164 (10) As funding by the Legislature allows, the state suicide prevention coordinator
165 shall award grants, not to exceed a total of \$100,000 per fiscal year, to suicide prevention
166 programs that focus on the needs of children who have been served by the Division of Juvenile
167 Justice Services.

168 Section 5. **Appropriation.**

169 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
170 2017, and ending June 30, 2018. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
171 fiscal year 2018. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
172 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
173 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

174 ITEM 1

175 To Department of Health -- Disease Control and Prevention

176 From General Fund

\$85,000

177 Schedule of Programs:

178 Office of the Medical Examiner

\$85,000

179 The Legislature intends that the amount provided by this Item 1 be used to fund the
180 appointment of a psychological autopsy examiner, as described in Section [26-4-28.5](#).

181 ITEM 2

182 To Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

183 From General Fund \$100,000

184 Schedule of Programs:

185 Community Mental Health Services \$100,000

186 The Legislature intends that the amount provided by this item be used to fund the grant
187 awards described in Subsection [62A-15-1101\(10\)](#).

188 ITEM 3

189 To State Board of Education -- State Administrative Office

190 From General Fund (\$100,000)

191 From Education Fund \$225,000

192 Schedule of Programs:

193 Teaching and Learning \$125,000

194 The Legislature intends that:

195 (1) General Fund money provided to the State Board of Education -- State
196 Administrative Office in the 2013 General Session, H.B. 154, for a public education suicide
197 prevention coordinator as designated in Subsection [53A-15-1301\(3\)](#) be redirected to the
198 Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health for the
199 purpose described in Subsection [62A-15-1101\(10\)](#);

200 (2) the public education suicide prevention coordinator at the State Board of Education
201 -- State Administrative Office be funded with money from the Education Fund; and

202 (3) \$25,000 provided by this Item 3 be used to fund the grant awards described in
203 Section [53A-15-1303](#).