

**UTAH SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT**

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper**

Senate Sponsor: Wayne L. Niederhauser

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates a task force to study issues relating to suicide and to determine the best way to prevent suicide in the state. This bill also amends the Utah Human Services Code to impose reporting requirements, and other duties relating to suicide prevention, on certain departments in state government.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ states the legislative findings and purposes related to this bill;
- ▶ describes the duties of the Department of Human Services relating to the purposes of this bill, including duties relating to implementing, managing, and updating a statewide suicide prevention plan if the task force determines that a plan should be developed;
- ▶ requires the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to make an annual report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee regarding:
  - statistics relating to suicide; and
  - the duties described in the preceding paragraph;
- ▶ creates the Utah Suicide Prevention Task Force;
- ▶ describes the task force's membership, duties, and procedures and requirements for operation;



- 28           ▶ provides for compensation of legislators who are members of the task force;
- 29           ▶ provides that the task force will be staffed by the Office of Legislative Research and
- 30 General Counsel;
- 31           ▶ designates the minimum and maximum number of meetings that the task force may
- 32 hold;
- 33           ▶ provides for the creation of working or advisory groups to assist in fulfilling the
- 34 duties of the task force;
- 35           ▶ requires the task force to present a report to the Health and Human Services Interim
- 36 Committee regarding the determinations of the task force and legislative action that
- 37 could be taken to prevent suicides in the state; and
- 38           ▶ requires certain government agencies to provide information and recommendations
- 39 to the task force.

40 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

41           This bill appropriates:

- 42           ▶ \$31,900 in nonlapsing funds from the General Fund for the fiscal year 2006-07
- 43 only, to fund the task force.

44 **Other Special Clauses:**

45           Sections 6 through 12 of this bill are repealed on December 1, 2007.

46 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

47 ENACTS:

- 48           **62A-16-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 49           **62A-16-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 50           **62A-16-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 51           **62A-16-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 52           **62A-16-105**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53 **Uncodified Material Affected:**

54 ENACTS UNCODIFIED MATERIAL



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

57           Section 1. Section **62A-16-101** is enacted to read:

58                                   **CHAPTER 16. UTAH SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT**

59 **62A-16-101. Title.**

60 This chapter is known as the "Utah Suicide Prevention Act."

61 Section 2. Section **62A-16-102** is enacted to read:

62 **62A-16-102. Legislative findings and purpose.**

63 (1) The Legislature finds that:

64 (a) suicide has a significant negative impact on individuals, families, and communities  
65 in the state;

66 (b) action can and must be taken to address the multiple factors that contribute to  
67 suicide; and

68 (c) the state must study the problem of suicide and determine whether it would be  
69 beneficial to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide plan to prevent suicides in the  
70 state.

71 (2) The purpose of this act is to:

72 (a) discover contributing factors relating to suicide;

73 (b) make the determination described in Subsection (1)(c);

74 (c) take appropriate action in response to the determination made under Subsection  
75 (2)(b); and

76 (d) to support community, charitable, and faith-based organizations in their efforts to  
77 reduce suicide rates and improve the quality of life for the citizens of the state.

78 Section 3. Section **62A-16-103** is enacted to read:

79 **62A-16-103. Definitions.**

80 As used in this chapter:

81 (1) "Suicide prevention plan" means a statewide suicide prevention plan, developed by  
82 the department, to prevent suicides in the state.

83 (2) "Task force" means the Utah Suicide Prevention Task Force.

84 Section 4. Section **62A-16-104** is enacted to read:

85 **62A-16-104. Duties of the Department of Human Services.**

86 Beginning on December 1, 2007, the department shall:

87 (1) carry out the purposes of this chapter, described in Subsections 62A-16-102(2)(a),  
88 (c), and (d); and

89 (2) if the task force determines that a suicide prevention plan should be developed:

- 90 (a) manage, implement, and update the suicide prevention plan;
- 91 (b) ensure that the suicide prevention plan:
- 92 (i) includes specific, implementable, and measurable actions that may be taken by
- 93 various governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, families, and individuals to
- 94 prevent and respond to suicide;
- 95 (ii) identifies the actions described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) that:
- 96 (A) have already been implemented;
- 97 (B) could be implemented within existing state budgets; and
- 98 (C) will require additional funding to be implemented or continued, specifying for each
- 99 the amount and potential source of funding that will be required;
- 100 (iii) includes the appropriate delivery of services to communities;
- 101 (iv) establishes a coordinated system for the utilization of data for the prevention of
- 102 suicide;
- 103 (v) includes, if the department determines it to be beneficial, training for professional
- 104 caregivers who work with populations that have a high risk of suicide;
- 105 (vi) is based on scientifically verifiable and quantifiable data and studies;
- 106 (vii) does not include mandatory testing, questioning, or interviewing of groups of
- 107 children, students, teenagers, or other people in order to determine if some of them may be at
- 108 risk of suicide;
- 109 (viii) requires that consent for the testing, questioning, or interviewing described in
- 110 Subsection (2)(b)(vii) shall be informed and lawful; and
- 111 (ix) incorporates recommendations made by the task force; and
- 112 (c) ensure that educational resources produced in relation to the suicide prevention plan
- 113 are presented in a simple, clear format that can be easily understood by people who are not
- 114 knowledgeable in subjects relating to suicide or suicide prevention.

115 Section 5. Section **62A-16-105** is enacted to read:

116 **62A-16-105. Annual reports by the Department of Health and the Department of**  
117 **Human Services.**

118 (1) The Department of Health shall, on or before November 30 of each year, report to  
119 the Health and Human Services Interim Committee regarding the following:

- 120 (a) suicide rates in the state, broken down by groups based on age, gender, and

121 minority status;

122 (b) a comparison of the suicide rates described in Subsection (1)(a) with the rates in the  
123 same categories nationally, and for each state within the United States, to the extent the  
124 information is available; and

125 (c) the relationship between suicide and the use or abuse of psychotropic drugs,  
126 prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and other drugs.

127 (2) Beginning in 2008, the Department of Human Services shall, on or before  
128 November 30 of each year, report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee  
129 regarding the following:

130 (a) the progress made by the department in fulfilling the duties described in Section  
131 62A-16-104; and

132 (b) suggestions for legislative action that can be taken to prevent suicides in the state.

133 **Section 6. Utah Suicide Prevention Task Force -- Creation -- Membership --**  
134 **Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff.**

135 (1) There is created the Utah Suicide Prevention Task Force consisting of the following  
136 members:

137 (a) four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, no more than  
138 three of whom may be from the same political party; and

139 (b) seven members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
140 House of Representatives, no more than five of whom may be from the same political party.

141 (2) (a) The President of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed  
142 under Subsection (1)(a) as a cochair of the task force.

143 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the  
144 House of Representatives appointed under Subsection (1)(b) as a cochair of the task force.

145 (3) (a) A majority of the members of the task force constitute a quorum.

146 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the task force.

147 (4) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force shall be paid in accordance  
148 with Section 36-2-2 and legislative rule.

149 (5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support  
150 to the task force.

151 **Section 7. Duties -- Meetings.**

- 152           (1) The task force shall:  
153           (a) study issues related to suicide, including:  
154           (i) the causes of suicide;  
155           (ii) identifying groups at risk of suicide;  
156           (iii) the incidence of suicide among minority populations;  
157           (iv) the incidence of suicide among children, including children in the court system and  
158 children in foster care;  
159           (v) the incidence of suicide among the elderly;  
160           (vi) methods of preventing suicide;  
161           (vii) the relationship between suicide and the use or abuse of psychotropic drugs,  
162 prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and other drugs; and  
163           (viii) methods of coordinating information among and between pharmacies and  
164 physicians that may assist in preventing suicides and drug abuse;  
165           (b) determine whether it would be beneficial to develop a statewide suicide prevention  
166 plan to reduce the number of suicides in the state;  
167           (c) advise the Legislature regarding actions that can be taken:  
168           (i) improve the quality of life in the state by reducing suicide and its affect on  
169 individuals, families, and communities;  
170           (ii) increase the public's awareness of suicide, the risk factors of suicide, and methods  
171 of preventing suicide;  
172           (iii) enhance suicide prevention services and programs throughout the state;  
173           (iv) coordinate and develop community resources through comprehensive and  
174 collaborative government, community-based, charitable, family-based, and faith-based  
175 approaches to suicide prevention; and  
176           (v) strengthen existing partnerships, and build new partnerships, between public and  
177 private entities that will advance suicide prevention efforts in the state;  
178           (d) identify additional research that needs to be done, or action that should be taken, in  
179 order to:  
180           (i) increase understanding by the community of issues relating to suicide; and  
181           (ii) increase collaboration among organizations that provide services relating to suicide  
182 prevention;

183 (e) study and make recommendations regarding whether the department could more  
184 effectively provide suicide prevention services by reorganizing existing structures or programs  
185 within the department; and

186 (f) receive input from:

187 (i) stakeholders, professional associations, and other public, private, faith-based, or  
188 charitable organizations that provide services relating to suicide prevention or remediation; and

189 (ii) other groups that are considering plans, methods, or programs for preventing  
190 suicide in the state, including the Department of Health's Prescription Drug Abuse Working  
191 Group.

192 (2) The task force:

193 (a) shall meet at least monthly during the 2007 interim; and

194 (b) may meet up to ten times during the 2007 interim.

195 **Section 8. Working or advisory groups.**

196 The task force may create working or advisory groups to advise and assist the task force  
197 in fulfilling the duties of the task force.

198 **Section 9. Report by the task force.**

199 Before November 30, 2007, the task force shall present a report to the Health and  
200 Human Services interim committee regarding:

201 (1) whether it would be beneficial to:

202 (a) develop a suicide prevention plan; or

203 (b) reorganize existing structures or programs within the department; and

204 (2) legislative action that could be taken to prevent suicides in the state.

205 **Section 10. Reports to Utah Suicide Prevention Task Force.**

206 (1) On or before July 1, 2007, each of the following agencies shall provide to the task  
207 force the report described in Subsection (2):

208 (a) the Department of Human Services;

209 (b) the Department of Health;

210 (c) the Department of Corrections;

211 (d) the Utah Division of Indian Affairs, within the Department of Community and  
212 Culture; and

213 (e) the Administrative Office of the Courts.

- 214           (2) The report provided under Subsection (1) shall include:  
215           (a) a brief description, including funding levels, of each program under the direction of  
216 the reporting agency that provides services related to suicide prevention;  
217           (b) recommendations regarding modifications, within current budgets, that could be  
218 made to improve suicide prevention;  
219           (c) a brief description of new programs that, if instituted, could have a significant  
220 impact on reducing suicide rates or drug abuse that may impact suicidal tendencies, including  
221 in the description the funding that would be necessary to implement those programs;  
222           (d) recommendations regarding measures that can be taken to prevent suicide through  
223 education, outreach, and interagency collaboration;  
224           (e) identification of nongovernmental groups and services that could be utilized in  
225 cooperation with government programs and services to improve suicide prevention; and  
226           (f) recommendations regarding measures that can be taken to prevent suicides within  
227 specific groups, including:  
228           (i) the elderly;  
229           (ii) children in foster care;  
230           (iii) other children;  
231           (iv) minorities; and  
232           (v) other groups within the community.

233           Section 11. **Appropriation.**

- 234           (1) There is appropriated from the General Fund for the fiscal year 2006-07 only:  
235           (a) \$11,600 to the Senate to pay for the compensation and expenses of senators on the  
236 task force; and  
237           (b) \$20,300 to the House of Representatives to pay for the compensation and expenses  
238 of representatives on the task force.

- 239           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that this appropriation is nonlapsing.

240           Section 12. **Repeal date.**

241           Sections 6 through 12 of this bill are repealed on December 1, 2007.



**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-9-07 9:03 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**H.B. 252 - Utah Suicide Prevention Act**

**Fiscal Note**

2007 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will appropriate for FY 2007 one-time, non-lapsing General Funds of \$11,600 to the Senate and \$20,300 to the House of Representatives, a total of \$31,900, for a task force to study and determine the best way to prevent suicide.

	<u>FY 2007</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2007</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Revenue</u>
General Fund, One-Time	\$31,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,900</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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