

ESHB 1336 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/15/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) According to the state department of health, suicide is the
5 second leading cause of death for Washington youth between the ages of
6 ten and twenty-four. Suicide rates among Washington youth remain
7 higher than that national average;

8 (b) An increasing body of research shows an association between
9 adverse childhood experiences such as trauma, violence, or abuse, and
10 school performance. Children and teens spend a significant amount of
11 time in school. Teachers and other school staff who interact with
12 students daily are in a prime position to recognize the signs of
13 emotional or behavioral distress and make appropriate referrals.
14 School personnel need effective training to help build the skills and
15 confidence to assist youth in seeking help;

16 (c) Educators are not necessarily trained to address significant
17 social, emotional, or behavioral issues exhibited by youth. Rather,
18 best practices guidelines suggest that school districts should form
19 partnerships with qualified health, mental health, and social services
20 agencies to provide support; and

21 (d) Current safe school plans prepared by school districts tend to
22 focus more on natural disasters and external threats and less on how to
23 recognize and respond to potential crises among the students inside the
24 school.

25 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the capacity for
26 school districts to recognize and respond to youth in need through
27 additional training, more comprehensive planning, and emphasis on
28 partnerships between schools and communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) As provided under subsections (2) and (3) of this section,
4 individuals certified by the professional educator standards board as
5 a school nurse, school social worker, school psychologist, or school
6 counselor must complete a training program on youth suicide screening
7 and referral as a condition of certification. The training program
8 must be at least three hours in length. The professional educator
9 standards board must adopt standards for the minimum content of the
10 training in consultation with the office of the superintendent of
11 public instruction and the department of health. In developing the
12 standards, the board must consider training programs listed on the best
13 practices registry of the American foundation for suicide prevention
14 and the suicide prevention resource center.

15 (2) This section applies to the following certificates if the
16 certificate is first issued or is renewed on or after July 1, 2015:

17 (a) Continuing certificates for school nurses;

18 (b) Continuing certificates for school social workers;

19 (c) Continuing and professional certificates for school
20 psychologists; and

21 (d) Continuing and professional certificates for school counselors.

22 (3) A school counselor who holds or submits a school counseling
23 certificate from the national board for professional teaching standards
24 or a school psychologist who holds or submits a school psychologist
25 certificate from the national association of school psychologists in
26 lieu of a professional certificate must complete the training program
27 under subsection (1) of this section by July 1, 2015, or within the
28 five-year period before the certificate is first submitted to the
29 professional educator standards board, whichever is later, and at least
30 once every five years thereafter in order to be considered certified by
31 the professional educator standards board.

32 (4) The professional educator standards board shall consider the
33 training program under subsection (1) of this section as approved
34 continuing education under RCW 28A.415.020 and shall count the training
35 program toward meeting continuing education requirements for
36 certification as a school nurse, school social worker, school
37 psychologist, or school counselor.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.410.035 and 1990 c 90 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) To receive initial certification as a teacher in this state
4 after August 31, 1991, an applicant shall have successfully completed
5 a course on issues of abuse. The content of the course shall discuss
6 the identification of physical, emotional, sexual, and substance abuse,
7 information on the impact of abuse on the behavior and learning
8 abilities of students, discussion of the responsibilities of a teacher
9 to report abuse or provide assistance to students who are the victims
10 of abuse, and methods for teaching students about abuse of all types
11 and their prevention.

12 (2) The professional educator standards board shall incorporate
13 into the content required for the course under this section, knowledge
14 and skill standards pertaining to recognition, initial screening, and
15 response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but
16 not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and
17 youth suicide. To receive initial certification after August 31, 2014,
18 an applicant must have successfully completed a course that includes
19 the content of this subsection. The board shall consult with the
20 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department
21 of health in developing the standards.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, each school district must
25 adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to
26 emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited
27 to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.
28 The school district must annually provide the plan to all district
29 staff.

30 (2) At a minimum the plan must address:

31 (a) Identification of training opportunities in recognition,
32 screening, and referral that may be available for staff;

33 (b) How to use the expertise of district staff who have been
34 trained in recognition, screening, and referral;

35 (c) How staff should respond to suspicions, concerns, or warning
36 signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students;

1 (d) Identification and development of partnerships with community
2 organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental
3 health, substance abuse, and social support services, including
4 development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the
5 district and such an entity in the community or region;

6 (e) Protocols and procedures for communication with parents;

7 (f) How staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student
8 is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others; and

9 (g) How the district will provide support to students and staff
10 after an incident of violence or youth suicide.

11 (3) The plan under this section may be a separate plan or a
12 component of another district plan or policy, such as the harassment,
13 intimidation, and bullying prevention policy under RCW 28A.300.2851 or
14 the comprehensive safe school plan required under RCW 28A.320.125.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
18 school safety advisory committee shall develop a model school district
19 plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or
20 behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to
21 indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.
22 The model plan must incorporate research-based best practices,
23 including practices and protocols used in schools and school districts
24 in other states. The model plan must be posted by February 1, 2014, on
25 the school safety center web site, along with relevant resources and
26 information to support school districts in developing and implementing
27 the plan required under section 4 of this act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 Each educational service district shall develop and maintain the
31 capacity to offer training for educators and other school district
32 staff on youth suicide screening and referral, and on recognition,
33 initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in
34 students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance
35 abuse, violence, and youth suicide. An educational service district
36 may demonstrate capacity by employing staff with sufficient expertise

1 to offer the training or by contracting with individuals or
2 organizations to offer the training. Training may be offered on a fee-
3 for-service basis, or at no cost to school districts or educators if
4 funds are appropriated specifically for this purpose or made available
5 through grants or other sources.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The office of the superintendent of public
7 instruction shall convene a temporary task force to identify best
8 practices, model programs, and successful strategies for school
9 districts to form partnerships with qualified health, mental health,
10 and social services agencies in the community to coordinate and improve
11 support for youth in need. The task force shall identify and develop
12 resource documents to be posted on the school safety center web site,
13 and submit a report with recommendations to the education committees of
14 the legislature by December 1, 2013. The task force shall also explore
15 the potential use of advance online youth emotional health and crisis
16 response systems that have been developed for use in other countries.
17 The task force must include the results of the review in its December
18 1st report.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) The legislature finds that a lack of
20 information about mental health problems among the general public leads
21 to stigmatizing attitudes and prevents people from seeking help early
22 and seeking the best sort of help. It also prevents people from
23 providing support to family members, friends, and colleagues because
24 they might not know what to do. This lack of knowledge about mental
25 health problems limits the initial accessibility of evidence-based
26 treatments and leads to a lack of support for people with a mental
27 disorder from family, friends, and other members of the community.

28 (2) The focus on training for teachers and educational staff is
29 intended to provide opportunities for early intervention when the first
30 signs of developing mental illness may be recognized in children,
31 teens, and young adults, so that appropriate referrals may be made to
32 evidence-based behavioral health services.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 Subject to appropriation for this specific purpose, the department

1 shall provide funds for mental health first-aid training targeted at
2 teachers and educational staff. The training will follow the model
3 developed by the department of psychology in Melbourne, Australia.
4 Instruction provided will describe common mental disorders that arise
5 in youth, their possible causes and risk factors, the availability of
6 evidence-based medical, psychological, and alternative treatments,
7 processes for making referrals for behavioral health services, and
8 methods to effectively render assistance in both initial intervention
9 and crisis situations. The department shall collaborate with the
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction to identify sites
11 and methods of instruction that leverage local resources to the extent
12 possible for the purpose of making the mental health first-aid training
13 broadly available.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act does not create any civil
15 liability on the part of the state or any state agency, officer,
16 employee, agent, political subdivision, or school district."

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17 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "youth;" strike the remainder
18 of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.410.035; adding a new section
19 to chapter 28A.410 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.320 RCW;
20 adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; adding a new section to
21 chapter 71.24 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Replaces the provisions of the House bill with the
language adopted by the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education and
Ways & Means Committees in the Senate companion bill, SSB 5365.

Includes the provisions of Substitute Senate Bill 5333 (providing

mental health first-aid training to teachers and educational staff) as adopted by the Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

Makes typographical adjustments. Adds a section regarding liability.

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