
HOUSE BILL 2563

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Davis, Appleton, Lovick, Leavitt, Valdez, Chopp, J. Johnson, Pollet, and Lekanoff

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing Washington's suicide alert and
2 response system; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a
3 new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section; and
4 providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall, by January 1, 2021, amend its rules on
9 notifiable conditions to require health care providers, health care
10 facilities, and schools to report suicide deaths, suicide attempts,
11 and suspected suicides to their local health jurisdiction. The rules
12 must require the report be made as soon as practicable, but no later
13 than twenty-four hours after a provider, facility, or school becomes
14 aware of a suicide death, suicide attempt, or suspected suicide.

15 (2) The department shall expand the suicide-related data
16 collected by the Washington state violent death reporting system to
17 focus on a more complete understanding of suicide risk factors. The
18 expanded data must include, but not be limited to, clinical reviews
19 and the victims' interactions with the health care system, schools,
20 institutions of higher education, and the workplace.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Beginning January 1, 2021, a public or private school shall
4 report to the superintendent suicide deaths, suicide attempts, and
5 suspected suicides occurring on school grounds. The school must make
6 the report as soon as practicable, but no later than twenty-four
7 hours after the school becomes aware of the suicide death, suicide
8 attempt, or suspected suicide.

9 (2) The superintendent shall adopt any rules necessary to
10 implement this section. When adopting rules under this subsection,
11 the superintendent may collaborate with the department of health to
12 allow schools to make the reports in the same manner that schools
13 report notifiable conditions to their local health jurisdictions.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department of health shall convene
15 a work group on enhancing Washington's suicide alert and response
16 system. The work group shall consist of representatives of the
17 following stakeholders appointed by the secretary of health:

- 18 (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;
- 19 (b) The health care authority;
- 20 (c) Institutions of higher education;
- 21 (d) Experts in suicide prevention at the University of
22 Washington;
- 23 (e) Local health jurisdictions;
- 24 (f) Local crisis lines;
- 25 (g) First responders;
- 26 (h) Medical examiners;
- 27 (i) Coroners; and
- 28 (j) Any other stakeholders deemed appropriate by the department.

29 (2) The work group shall study and make recommendations on
30 enhancing Washington's suicide alert and response system. The
31 recommendations must include ways to integrate and utilize the data
32 collected under sections 1 and 2 of this act.

33 (3) The work group shall report its recommendations to the
34 governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by
35 December 1, 2020.

36 (4) This section expires January 1, 2021.

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