

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 1490

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the development and implementation of a statewide  
3 suicide prevention plan under the direction of the Health and Human  
4 Services Commission.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 531.064 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.064. SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN. (a) The commission  
9 shall develop a statewide suicide prevention plan.

10 (b) The commission shall establish a Suicide Prevention  
11 Council to advise and assist the commission in developing and  
12 overseeing the implementation of the plan.

13 (c) The following state agencies shall each appoint a  
14 representative to the Suicide Prevention Council: the Texas  
15 Department on Aging; the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug  
16 Abuse; the Texas Education Agency; the Texas Department of Health;  
17 the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and  
18 the commission. The commission shall appoint at least two members  
19 of the Texas Suicide Prevention Plan Steering Committee, one member  
20 of the governor's trauma advisory council, and two persons who have  
21 lost a loved one to suicide to the council and may appoint other  
22 persons to the council as the commission considers appropriate. A  
23 member of the council appointed by the commission:

24 (1) serves on the council at the will of the

1 commission; and

2 (2) is not entitled to compensation for service on the  
3 council but is entitled to reasonable and necessary travel expenses  
4 incurred by the member in attending meetings of the council,  
5 subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by  
6 general law or the General Appropriations Act.

7 (d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the Suicide Prevention  
8 Council.

9 (e) In developing the statewide suicide prevention plan,  
10 the commission and the council shall consult the National Strategy  
11 For Suicide Prevention developed by the Surgeon General of the  
12 United States.

13 (f) The commission and any other state agency listed in  
14 Subsection (c) may accept gifts, grants, and donations for the  
15 purpose of developing or implementing the plan.

16 (g) The commission or another agency listed in Subsection  
17 (c) may implement provisions of the plan to the extent that gifts,  
18 grants, donations, or other money is made available to the  
19 commission or other agency for that purpose. The commission, in  
20 implementing the plan, may make grants to appropriate local or  
21 statewide public or private entities to accomplish objectives of  
22 the plan.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.