

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 1067

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a memorandum of understanding between certain authorized entities to share suicide data that does not identify a deceased individual.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to encourage the prompt reporting of suicide data that does not name a deceased individual and to encourage use of the data for instructive and preventive purposes.

SECTION 2. Chapter 193, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 193.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 193.011. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SUICIDE DATA.

(a) In this section, "authorized entity" means a medical examiner, a local registrar, a local health authority, a local mental health authority, a community mental health center, a mental health center that acts as a collection agent for the suicide data reported by community mental health centers, or any other political subdivision of this state.

(b) An authorized entity may enter into a memorandum of understanding with another authorized entity to share suicide data that does not name a deceased individual. The shared data may include:

(1) the deceased individual's date of birth, race or national origin, gender, and zip code of residence;

1 (2) any school or college the deceased individual was
2 attending at the time of death;

3 (3) the suicide method used by the deceased
4 individual;

5 (4) the deceased individual's status as a veteran or
6 member of the armed services; and

7 (5) the date of the deceased individual's death.

8 (c) The suicide data an authorized entity receives or
9 provides under Subsection (b) is not confidential.

10 (d) An authorized entity that receives suicide data under a
11 memorandum of understanding authorized by this section may
12 periodically release suicide data that does not name a deceased
13 individual to an agency or organization with recognized expertise
14 in suicide prevention. The agency or organization may use suicide
15 data received by the agency or organization under this subsection
16 only for suicide prevention purposes.

17 (e) An authorized entity or an employee or agent of an
18 authorized entity is not civilly or criminally liable for receiving
19 or providing suicide data that does not name a deceased individual
20 and that may be shared under a memorandum of understanding
21 authorized by this section.

22 (f) This section does not prohibit the sharing of data as
23 authorized by other law.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

H.B. No. 1067

1 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.