

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 any 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 identify a deceased individual or any other 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 statistical suicide data that does not identify the deceased individual or any other individual. The shared data must include:

(1) the deceased individual's age, 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; and

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

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

7 (d) An authorized entity that receives suicide data under a
8 memorandum of understanding authorized by this section may:

9 (1) release to the public any data that does not
10 identify a deceased individual or any other individual;

11 (2) publish the data; or

12 (3) post the data on an Internet website.

13 (e) An authorized entity or an employee or agent of an
14 authorized entity is not civilly or criminally liable for
15 receiving, providing, or making public suicide data that does not
16 identify a deceased individual or any other individual and that may
17 be shared under a memorandum of understanding authorized by this
18 section.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.