

1-1 By: Naishtat (Senate Sponsor - Nelson) H.B. No. 1067
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2009;
1-3 April 24, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 4, 2009, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 4, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to a memorandum of understanding between certain
1-9 authorized entities to share suicide data that does not identify a
1-10 deceased individual.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to encourage the
1-13 prompt reporting of suicide data that does not name a deceased
1-14 individual and to encourage use of the data for instructive and
1-15 preventive purposes.

1-16 SECTION 2. Chapter 193, Health and Safety Code, is amended
1-17 by adding Section 193.011 to read as follows:

1-18 Sec. 193.011. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SUICIDE DATA.

1-19 (a) In this section, "authorized entity" means a medical examiner,
1-20 a local registrar, a local health authority, a local mental health
1-21 authority, a community mental health center, a mental health center
1-22 that acts as a collection agent for the suicide data reported by
1-23 community mental health centers, or any other political subdivision
1-24 of this state.

1-25 (b) An authorized entity may enter into a memorandum of
1-26 understanding with another authorized entity to share suicide data
1-27 that does not name a deceased individual. The shared data may
1-28 include:

1-29 (1) the deceased individual's date of birth, race or
1-30 national origin, gender, and zip code of residence;

1-31 (2) any school or college the deceased individual was
1-32 attending at the time of death;

1-33 (3) the suicide method used by the deceased
1-34 individual;

1-35 (4) the deceased individual's status as a veteran or
1-36 member of the armed services; and

1-37 (5) the date of the deceased individual's death.

1-38 (c) The suicide data an authorized entity receives or
1-39 provides under Subsection (b) is not confidential.

1-40 (d) An authorized entity that receives suicide data under a
1-41 memorandum of understanding authorized by this section may
1-42 periodically release suicide data that does not name a deceased
1-43 individual to an agency or organization with recognized expertise
1-44 in suicide prevention. The agency or organization may use suicide
1-45 data received by the agency or organization under this subsection
1-46 only for suicide prevention purposes.

1-47 (e) An authorized entity or an employee or agent of an
1-48 authorized entity is not civilly or criminally liable for receiving
1-49 or providing suicide data that does not name a deceased individual
1-50 and that may be shared under a memorandum of understanding
1-51 authorized by this section.

1-52 (f) This section does not prohibit the sharing of data as
1-53 authorized by other law.

1-54 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-55 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-56 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-57 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-58 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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