

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 84

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishment of a suicide prevention program for public high schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.920 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.920. SUICIDE PREVENTION. (a) The agency, in coordination with the Department of State Health Services, shall develop a comprehensive suicide prevention program for implementation in public high schools.

(b) The program must include components that provide for training high school counselors, teachers, nurses, administrators, and other staff, as well as law enforcement officers and social workers who regularly interact with high school students, to:

(1) recognize students at risk of committing suicide;
and

(2) intervene effectively with those students by providing all appropriate assistance, including referrals for mental health services.

(c) In developing the program, the agency and the Department of State Health Services may consider any existing suicide prevention method developed by a school district under Section 11.252(a)(3)(B) or 33.006(b)(1)(A).

(d) The agency may solicit and accept a gift, grant, or

1 donation from any source for the development and implementation of
2 the program required by this section.

3 (e) Not later than January 1, 2011, the agency shall submit
4 a report to the legislature relating to the development and
5 implementation of the program required by this section. This
6 subsection expires September 1, 2011.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.