

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 3980

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a requirement that the Statewide Behavioral Health  
3 Coordinating Council prepare a report regarding suicide rates in  
4 this state and state efforts to prevent suicides.

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

6 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PURPOSE. The  
7 legislature finds that:

8 (1) suicide is a public health crisis that affects  
9 residents of all ages in every region of this state; and

10 (2) policymakers need a better understanding of the  
11 issue to determine the appropriate state and regional efforts  
12 necessary to decrease suicide rates in this state across different  
13 ages, places, and groups and to address the patchwork of state laws,  
14 policies, programs, and efforts that are currently being used to  
15 address suicide.

16 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

17 (1) "Council" means the Statewide Behavioral Health  
18 Coordinating Council.

19 (2) "Postvention" includes activities that promote  
20 healing necessary to reduce the risk of suicide by a person affected  
21 by the suicide of another.

22 SECTION 3. SUMMARY REPORT. (a) The Health and Human  
23 Services Commission, in conjunction with the Department of State  
24 Health Services, shall prepare a summary report on the prevalence

1 of suicide in this state and state policies and programs adopted  
2 across state systems and agencies to prevent suicides. The summary  
3 report must:

4 (1) include available statewide and regional data on  
5 the prevalence rates of suicide-related events, including suicidal  
6 thoughts, suicide attempts, and deaths caused by suicide, that to  
7 the extent practicable, is presented in a form that:

8 (A) is disaggregated by county and recognized  
9 categories of risk; and

10 (B) is longitudinal to identify changes in  
11 suicide prevalence rates since 2000;

12 (2) identify the highest categories of risk with  
13 correlational data;

14 (3) list state statutes, agency rules, and policies  
15 related to suicide and suicide prevention, intervention, and  
16 postvention; and

17 (4) describe state agency initiatives since 2000 to  
18 address suicide and include the following information relating to  
19 each initiative:

20 (A) the administering state agency;

21 (B) the funding sources, including whether the  
22 funding was provided by:

23 (i) a federal block grant;

24 (ii) a federal discretionary grant; or

25 (iii) state appropriations;

26 (C) the years of operation; and

27 (D) whether the initiative is an example of a

1 community-based effort to address suicide.

2 (b) Each state agency or institution of higher education  
3 that is a member of the council shall provide to the Health and  
4 Human Services Commission the information described by Subsection  
5 (a) of this section, to the extent that information pertains to the  
6 respective work of each agency or institution.

7 (c) In preparing the summary report required by this Act,  
8 the Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of  
9 State Health Services shall consult, and may seek assistance from,  
10 a nonprofit group that:

11 (1) coordinates a multisector network of state and  
12 community-based suicide prevention groups; and

13 (2) has experience in the development,  
14 implementation, and monitoring of a statewide community-based  
15 suicide prevention plan.

16 (d) Not later than May 1, 2020, the Health and Human  
17 Services Commission shall provide a copy of the summary report to  
18 the council, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of  
19 the house of representatives, and each standing legislative  
20 committee with primary jurisdiction over health and mental health.

21 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT. (a) Using the summary  
22 report on suicide prepared under Section 3 of this Act and with  
23 input from the stakeholder workgroup established under Subsection  
24 (b) of this section, the council shall prepare a legislative report  
25 on suicide in this state that identifies opportunities and makes  
26 recommendations, including those that require legislative action,  
27 for state agencies to:

1           (1) improve statewide and regional data collection on  
2 suicide-related events;

3           (2) use data to guide and inform decisions and policy  
4 development relating to suicide prevention; and

5           (3) decrease suicide in this state while targeting the  
6 highest categories of risk.

7           (b) The council shall establish a stakeholder workgroup to  
8 assist member agencies in preparing the report that includes:

9           (1) a representative of a nonprofit group that:

10                   (A) coordinates a multisector network of state  
11 and community-based suicide prevention groups; and

12                   (B) assists with the development,  
13 implementation, and monitoring of a statewide community-based  
14 suicide prevention plan;

15           (2) representatives of groups with experience in  
16 suicide prevention and postvention activities:

17                   (A) in a rural community, a suburban community,  
18 and an urban community;

19                   (B) with military and veteran service members and  
20 their families; and

21                   (C) in adult and juvenile justice settings;

22           (3) persons involved in suicide prevention and  
23 postvention activities who have lived through the experience of  
24 surviving a suicide attempt or have lost a family member to suicide;  
25 and

26           (4) a representative of any other group identified by  
27 the council.

1           (c) The chief administrator of each state agency  
2 represented on the council is entitled to a copy of the legislative  
3 report prepared under this section.

4           (d) Not later than November 1, 2020, the council shall  
5 submit a copy of the legislative report to the governor, the  
6 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
7 and each standing legislative committee with primary jurisdiction  
8 over health and mental health.

9           SECTION 5. EXPIRATION. This Act expires December 1, 2020.

10          SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
11 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
12 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
13 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
14 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.