

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) To the extent practicable, in preparing the summary
3 report, the Health and Human Services Commission shall include in
4 the statewide and regional data provided under Subsection (a)(1) of
5 this section information that indicates the prevalence of
6 suicide-related events, including the following characteristics:

7 (1) the age of the individual;

8 (2) the gender of the individual; and

9 (3) whether at the time of the event the individual:

10 (A) was active duty in a branch of the armed
11 forces of the United States; or

12 (B) was a military veteran.

13 (c) Each state agency or institution of higher education
14 that is a member of the council shall provide to the Health and
15 Human Services Commission the information described by Subsection
16 (a) of this section, to the extent that information pertains to the
17 respective work of each agency or institution.

18 (d) In preparing the summary report required by this Act,
19 the Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of
20 State Health Services shall consult, and may seek assistance from,
21 a nonprofit group that:

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

24 (2) has experience in the development,
25 implementation, and monitoring of a statewide community-based
26 suicide prevention plan.

27 (e) Not later than May 1, 2020, the Health and Human

1 Services Commission shall provide a copy of the summary report to
2 the council, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
3 the house of representatives, and each standing legislative
4 committee with primary jurisdiction over health and mental health.

5 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT. (a) Using the summary
6 report on suicide prepared under Section 3 of this Act and with
7 input from the stakeholder workgroup established under Subsection
8 (b) of this section, the council shall prepare a legislative report
9 on suicide in this state that identifies opportunities and makes
10 recommendations, including those that require legislative action,
11 for state agencies to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (B) assists with the development,
24 implementation, and monitoring of a statewide community-based
25 suicide prevention plan;

26 (2) a representative of a local mental health
27 authority with experience in suicide prevention and postvention

1 activities;

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

4 (A) in a rural community, a suburban community,
5 and an urban community;

6 (B) with military and veteran service members and
7 their families; and

8 (C) in adult and juvenile justice settings;

9 (4) persons involved in suicide prevention and
10 postvention activities who have lived through the experience of
11 surviving a suicide attempt or have lost a family member to suicide;
12 and

13 (5) a representative of any other group identified by
14 the council.

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

18 (d) Not later than November 1, 2020, the council shall
19 submit a copy of the legislative report to the governor, the
20 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
21 and each standing legislative committee with primary jurisdiction
22 over health and mental health.

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

24 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
25 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
26 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
27 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for

H.B. No. 3980

1 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3980 was passed by the House on May 2, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3980 on May 24, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3980 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor