

By: Powell

S.B. No. 1849

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a model suicide prevention policy, the incorporation of
3 suicide prevention and intervention strategies in a crisis plan or
4 disaster plan of certain state agencies, access to suicide death
5 information maintained by the Department of State Health Services,
6 and the establishment of the Texas Violent Death Reporting System.

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

8 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
9 amended by adding Sections 531.0927 and 531.0928 to read as
10 follows:

11 Sec. 531.0927. MODEL SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY. (a) In
12 this section, "postvention" includes activities that promote
13 healing necessary to reduce the risk of suicide by a person affected
14 by the suicide of another.

15 (b) The commission shall develop and publish on the
16 commission's Internet website a model suicide prevention policy
17 that addresses information about suicide prevention, intervention,
18 and postvention, for implementation at state agencies, community
19 coalitions, and other public or private institutions or facilities
20 that serve populations at higher risk for suicide, including
21 veterans, persons with disabilities, and persons who live in rural
22 areas of the state.

23 (c) The policy must be designed to be implemented by persons
24 who may not be mental health professionals and provide information

1 related to:

2 (1) recognizing signs of suicidality in another; and

3 (2) resources, including local mental health
4 authorities, for persons at risk of suicide.

5 (d) The policy must address the development of community
6 coalitions to engage in suicide prevention, intervention, and
7 postvention activities, especially in high risk rural areas.

8 (e) In developing the policy under this section, the
9 executive commissioner:

10 (1) shall collaborate with the statewide behavioral
11 health coordinating council and the Texas Suicide Prevention
12 Collaborative; and

13 (2) may receive information or assistance from any
14 other interested statewide or local entities that are engaged in
15 suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention activities.

16 Sec. 531.0928. CRISIS AND DISASTER PLANS. (a) Not later
17 than August 31, 2022, the commission, in collaboration with the
18 Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium, shall:

19 (1) for the purpose of identifying opportunities to
20 incorporate suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention
21 strategies:

22 (A) conduct a review of crisis plans and disaster
23 plans of state agency members of the consortium; and

24 (B) identify lessons learned from responses by
25 state agency members of the consortium made during prior crises or
26 disasters; and

27 (2) make recommendations based on the information

1 obtained under Subdivision (1) to each state agency member of the
2 consortium regarding the incorporation, in a crisis plan or
3 disaster plan, of suicide prevention, intervention, and
4 postvention strategies.

5 (b) Not later than August 1, 2023, each state agency member
6 of the disaster behavioral health consortium shall incorporate
7 recommendations made by the commission under Subsection (a) to the
8 agency's crisis plan or disaster plan.

9 (c) This section expires September 1, 2023.

10 SECTION 2. Section 191.002(b), Health and Safety Code, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (b) The department shall:

13 (1) establish a vital statistics unit in the
14 department with suitable offices that are properly equipped for the
15 preservation of its official records;

16 (2) establish a statewide system of vital statistics;

17 (3) provide instructions and prescribe forms for
18 collecting, recording, transcribing, compiling, and preserving
19 vital statistics;

20 (4) require the enforcement of this title and rules
21 adopted under this title;

22 (5) prepare, print, and supply to local registrars
23 forms for registering, recording, and preserving returns or
24 otherwise carrying out the purposes of this title; ~~and~~

25 (6) propose legislation necessary for the purposes of
26 this title; and

27 (7) provide access to information regarding state

1 suicide deaths to the statewide suicide prevention coordinator of
2 the office of mental health coordination of the Health and Human
3 Services Commission.

4 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety
5 Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.090 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 1001.090. TEXAS VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM. (a)
7 The department shall establish and operate the Texas Violent Death
8 Reporting System for the purpose of participating in the National
9 Violent Death Reporting System operated by the federal Centers for
10 Disease Control and Prevention.

11 (b) The department shall provide access to suicide data
12 obtained or maintained through the Texas Violent Death Reporting
13 System to the statewide suicide prevention coordinator of the
14 office of mental health coordination of the Health and Human
15 Services Commission.

16 (c) The executive commissioner may adopt rules necessary to
17 implement this section.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.