

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 2068

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a biennial state report on suicide rates, establishing
3 the Texas Violent Death Reporting System, and the sharing of
4 certain information under a memorandum of understanding on suicide
5 data.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 531.02112 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 531.02112. BIENNIAL STATE REPORT ON SUICIDE. (a) In
10 this section:

11 (1) "Council" means the Statewide Behavioral Health
12 Coordinating Council.

13 (2) "Postvention" includes activities that promote
14 healing necessary to reduce the risk of suicide by a person affected
15 by the suicide of another.

16 (b) The commission, in conjunction with the Department of
17 State Health Services, shall prepare a biennial report on the
18 prevalence of suicide in this state and state policies and programs
19 adopted across state systems and agencies to prevent suicides. The
20 report must:

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

1 (A) is disaggregated by county and recognized
2 categories of risk; and

3 (B) is longitudinal to identify changes in
4 suicide prevalence rates since 2000;

5 (2) identify the highest categories of risk with
6 correlational data;

7 (3) list state statutes, agency rules, and policies
8 related to suicide and suicide prevention, intervention, and
9 postvention; and

10 (4) describe state agency initiatives since 2000 to
11 address suicide and include the following information relating to
12 each initiative:

13 (A) the administering state agency;

14 (B) the funding sources, including whether the
15 funding was provided by:

16 (i) a federal block grant;

17 (ii) a federal discretionary grant; or

18 (iii) state appropriations;

19 (C) the years of operation; and

20 (D) whether the initiative is an example of a
21 community-based effort to address suicide.

22 (c) Each state agency or institution of higher education
23 that is a member of the council shall provide to the commission the
24 information described by Subsection (b) of this section, to the
25 extent that information pertains to the respective work of each
26 agency or institution.

27 (d) Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year,

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

5 SECTION 2. Section 193.011, Health and Safety Code, is
6 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection
7 (b-1) to read as follows:

8 (a) In this section, "authorized entity" means a medical
9 examiner, a local registrar, a local health authority, a local
10 mental health authority, a community mental health center, a mental
11 health center that acts as a collection agent for the suicide data
12 reported by community mental health centers, the department, the
13 Health and Human Services Commission, the Statewide Behavioral
14 Health Coordinating Council, or any other political subdivision of
15 this state.

16 (b-1) The department and the Health and Human Services
17 Commission shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to share,
18 as soon as practicable, suicide data collected by the vital
19 statistics unit to conduct timely fatality reviews and surveillance
20 for the purpose of preventing additional deaths.

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

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

25 Sec. 1001.090. TEXAS VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM. (a)
26 The department shall establish and operate the Texas Violent Death
27 Reporting System for the purpose of participating in the National

1 Violent Death Reporting System operated by the federal Centers for
2 Disease Control and Prevention.

3 (b) The department shall provide suicide data obtained or
4 maintained through the Texas Violent Death Reporting System:

5 (1) in accordance with any memorandum of understanding
6 entered into by the department under Section 193.011; and

7 (2) to the commission, for the purpose of the biennial
8 state report on suicide required under Section 531.02112,
9 Government Code.

10 (c) The executive commissioner may adopt rules necessary to
11 implement this section.

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