

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 193

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a model suicide prevention policy, suicide prevention and intervention strategies incorporated into a state agency crisis or disaster plan, suicide death information maintained by the Department of State Health Services, and the Texas Violent Death Reporting System.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 547, Government Code, as effective April 1, 2025, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sec. 547.0451. MODEL SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY. (a) In this section, "postvention" includes activities that promote healing necessary to reduce the risk of suicide by an individual affected by the suicide of another individual.

(b) The commission shall develop and publish on the commission's Internet website a model suicide prevention policy to be implemented at state agencies, community coalitions, and other public or private institutions or facilities that serve populations at higher risk for suicide, including veterans, individuals with disabilities, and individuals who live in rural areas of this state. The policy must be designed for implementation by individuals who may not be mental health professionals.

(c) The policy must include:

(1) information on suicide prevention, intervention,

1 and postvention;

2 (2) information on recognizing warning signs of
3 suicide; and

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

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

10 (e) In developing the policy under this section, the
11 commission:

12 (1) shall collaborate with the statewide behavioral
13 health coordinating council established under Subchapter D and the
14 Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative; and

15 (2) may receive information or assistance from any
16 other interested statewide or local entities engaged in suicide
17 prevention, intervention, and postvention.

18 Sec. 547.0452. CRISIS AND DISASTER PLANS. (a) Not later
19 than August 31, 2026, the commission, in collaboration with the
20 Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium, shall:

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

24 (A) conduct a review of crisis plans and disaster
25 plans of state agency consortium members; and

26 (B) identify lessons learned from responses by
27 state agency consortium members during prior crises or disasters;

1 and

2 (2) based on the information obtained under
3 Subdivision (1), recommend to each state agency consortium member
4 incorporating suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention
5 strategies into a crisis plan or disaster plan.

6 (b) Not later than August 1, 2027, each state agency member
7 of the Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium shall incorporate
8 recommendations the commission made under Subsection (a) into the
9 agency's crisis plan or disaster plan.

10 (c) This section expires September 1, 2027.

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

13 (b) The department shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (7) provide access to information regarding suicides
2 in this state to the statewide suicide prevention coordinator of
3 the Health and Human Services Commission's office of mental health
4 coordination.

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

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

12 (b) The department shall provide access to suicide data
13 obtained or maintained through the Texas Violent Death Reporting
14 System to the statewide suicide prevention coordinator of the
15 commission's office of mental health coordination.

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, 2025.