

HB 59 -- Suicide Prevention

Sponsor: Johnson (61)

This bill requires the Director of the Department of Mental Health to design and implement a state suicide prevention plan in collaboration with the departments of Social Services, Health and Senior Services, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, and Corrections. The director is required to:

(1) Promote the use of employee assistance and workplace programs to support employees experiencing depression or other psychiatric illnesses;

(2) Promote the use of student assistance and educational programs to support students with depression and other psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse disorders;

(3) Provide training and technical assistance to local public health and other community-based professionals on the best practices to prevent suicides;

(4) Coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies in order to collect and analyze data on suicides and suicidal behaviors in Missouri and annually issue a public report; and

(5) Conduct periodic evaluations of the effect of the implementation of the suicide prevention program.

By July 1, 2004, and each July 1 of even-numbered years thereafter, the director is required to report the results of the evaluation to the chairs of the House Children, Families and Health Committee and the Senate Aging, Families and Mental Health Committee, or their successor committees.