

HB 269 -- Suicide Prevention

Sponsor: Smith (118)

This bill requires the Director of the Department of Mental Health to design and develop 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 requirements of the plan include:

- (1) Promoting the use of employee assistance and workplace programs to support employees experiencing depression or other psychiatric illnesses;
- (2) Promoting the use of student assistance and educational programs to support students with depression and other psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse disorders;
- (3) Providing training and technical assistance to local public health and other community-based professionals on the best practices to prevent suicides;
- (4) Coordinating 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;
- (5) Establishing a toll-free suicide prevention hotline; and
- (6) Recommending statutory changes and implementation and funding requirements to the General Assembly by December 31, 2004.