

SCS SB 52 -- SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

This bill creates provisions relating to suicide awareness and prevention.

SHOW-ME COMPASSIONATE MEDICAL EDUCATION DAY

This bill designates August 28, 2017 and thereafter a date designated by specified committees, as "Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Day." Citizens are encouraged to participate in activities and events to increase awareness regarding medical student wellbeing (Section 9.154, RSMo).

SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

This bill requires each public institution of higher education to develop and implement a policy to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus that includes, but is not limited to crisis intervention access, mental health program access, multimedia application access, student communication plans, and post intervention plans. Such policy shall also advise students, faculty, and staff of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior, and shall require training where appropriate.

Each public institution of higher education shall provide all incoming students with information about depression and suicide prevention resources available to students. The information contained in such policy, in addition to any applicable free-of-cost prevention materials or programs, shall be posted on the websites of each public institution of higher education.

Each public institution shall establish and maintain methods of anonymous reporting of unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of such activities. Such methods shall ensure the anonymity of the reporting party (Section 173.1200).

SHOW-ME COMPASSIONATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACT

This bill creates the "Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Act." A medical school may not restrict any specified organization from conducting a study of the prevalence of mental health issues among medical students or punishing a specified organization or student for any involvement with such a study.

The bill creates the "Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Research Project" to facilitate the collection of data and

implement practices and protocols to minimize stress and reduce the risk of depression and suicide for medical students in the state.

The bill creates the "Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Research Project Committee," specifies the tasks of the committee, and permits medical schools in the state to collaborate with the committee to conduct a study of how to reduce medical student depression and suicide. The requirements of any study conducted under the provisions of the bill are specified and the committee is required to produce an annual report that must be made available on each medical school's website and provided to the General Assembly (Sections 191.594 and 191.596).

The bill contains an emergency clause.