

SSB 6514 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED 02/28/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Washington has been a leader in
4 addressing suicide as a public health issue. The legislature intends
5 for Washington to continue its leadership by supporting the creation
6 of comprehensive suicide prevention and behavioral health initiatives
7 for postsecondary students. In 2015, the legislature created the
8 mental health and suicide prevention in higher education task force.
9 The task force was charged with determining the policies, resources,
10 and technical assistance needed to support postsecondary institutions
11 in improving access to behavioral health services and improving
12 suicide prevention responses. In November 2016, the task force issued
13 its report on mental health and suicide prevention in higher
14 education.

15 (2) According to the task force report:

16 (a) The 2005 American college health assessment survey found that
17 nine and one-half percent of students seriously considered suicide,
18 one and one-half percent of students nationwide have attempted
19 suicide, and less than twenty percent were in treatment. According to
20 the 2015 American college health association national college health
21 assessment, seventy-five percent of postsecondary students reported
22 feeling overwhelmed and thirty percent reported feeling so depressed
23 it was difficult to function. More than one-third of students
24 reported anxiety as negatively impacting academics and almost one-
25 quarter said depression negatively impacted academics;

26 (b) There is incomplete data on suicide deaths among Washington's
27 postsecondary students and the availability of behavioral health
28 resources on Washington's campuses. There is currently no statewide
29 system in place to track this data;

30 (c) Lack of funding for behavioral health resources across all
31 sectors is the largest barrier to providing services for
32 postsecondary students statewide;

1 (d) Due to funding constraints, the level of professional mental
2 and behavioral health counseling is often limited for postsecondary
3 institutions in all sectors. For example, six institutions in the
4 public two-year sector servicing nearly fifty thousand students have
5 either no professional mental health providers to counsel students or
6 have such limited resources that the counselor to student ratio was
7 as low as one to nearly eight thousand five hundred in 2014-2015.

8 (3) The legislature also recognizes that, as of 2016, there were
9 over sixteen thousand student veterans and dependents enrolled in
10 Washington's community and technical colleges, and approximately four
11 thousand veterans and dependents enrolled in Washington's four-year
12 institutions of higher education. The legislature recognizes that the
13 risk for suicide is significantly higher among veterans when compared
14 to nonveteran adults in the United States and that student veterans
15 face unique challenges and often have vastly different life
16 experiences from traditional students. According to a study presented
17 a few years ago at an annual convention of the American psychological
18 association, almost half of military veterans who are enrolled in
19 college have contemplated suicide at some point and twenty percent
20 have planned to kill themselves.

21 (4) The legislature intends to implement task force
22 recommendations by:

23 (a) Creating a publicly available statewide resource for
24 postsecondary institutions;

25 (b) Developing and centralizing data collection; and

26 (c) Creating a grant program for resource-challenged institutions
27 to help develop suicide prevention programs in those institutions,
28 which may include for example, enhancing treatment services to
29 student veterans; creating campus-wide crisis services; expanding
30 existing crisis plans to integrate suicide intervention; reentry,
31 including medical leave that supports reentry; postvention; and
32 creating links and referral systems between campus behavioral health
33 resources and community-based mental health resources.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 (1) Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this
37 specific purpose, an entity within the University of Washington
38 school of social work that has expertise in suicide prevention, in
39 collaboration with the student achievement council, shall develop a

1 statewide resource for behavioral health and suicide prevention for
2 the state's postsecondary institutions.

3 (2) To establish the components of the statewide resource, the
4 entity shall convene and consult with a work group that consists of
5 representatives from stakeholder groups the entity deems appropriate.
6 The entity must consider representatives from those organizations
7 listed in the mental health and suicide prevention in higher
8 education task force, created by chapter 67, Laws of 2015. At a
9 minimum, the stakeholders in the work group must include:

- 10 (a) Representation from a tribal college;
- 11 (b) Representation from a veterans training support center;
- 12 (c) Representation from students and families;
- 13 (d) Representatives selected by the educational opportunity gap
14 oversight and accountability committee;
- 15 (e) Representation from a community behavioral health provider;
- 16 (f) A suicide prevention expert;
- 17 (g) Representation from the department of health; and
- 18 (h) Three institutional counseling center directors or executive
19 directors to include one from each of the following: A public four-
20 year college or university, a private, nonprofit institution, and a
21 community and technical college.

22 (3) The entity must be responsible for constructing and hosting
23 the statewide resource and linking the resource to the student
24 achievement council's and the department of health's web sites.

25 (4) At a minimum, the statewide resource must:

- 26 (a) Be made publicly available through a web-based portal or a
27 support line;
- 28 (b) Provide a free curriculum to train faculty, staff, and
29 students in suicide recognition and referral skills and in the
30 specific needs of student veterans;
- 31 (c) Provide a resource to build capacity within the institutions
32 to train individuals to deliver training in person;
- 33 (d) Contain model crisis protocols, per sector, that include
34 behavioral health and suicide identification, intervention, reentry,
35 and postvention;
- 36 (e) Contain model marketing materials and messages that promote
37 student behavioral health on college campuses;
- 38 (f) Develop capacity for an annual conference for postsecondary
39 institutions seeking to address students' behavioral health and

1 suicide prevention needs. The entity must be responsible for hosting
2 the first conference for postsecondary institutions; and

3 (g) Include resources that will serve diverse communities and
4 underrepresented populations, including resources that are culturally
5 relevant.

6 (5) The statewide resource must be made available to
7 postsecondary institutions by June 30, 2020.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this
11 specific purpose, the suicide prevention in higher education grant
12 program is established. The purpose of the grant program is to
13 provide funding to postsecondary institutions for the institutions to
14 create partnerships with health care entities to provide mental
15 health, behavioral health, and suicide prevention to students in
16 their institutions.

17 (2)(a) The council shall administer the grant program in
18 accordance with this section and in collaboration with the work group
19 convened by the entity within the University of Washington school of
20 social work specified under section 2 of this act. The council shall
21 establish minimum criteria that grant recipients must meet to be
22 awarded a grant. The grant program must be implemented by November 1,
23 2019.

24 (b) The council must award the first six grants created under
25 this section to public institutions of higher education. When
26 selecting the recipients of the first six grants under this
27 subsection, the council must consult with the state board for
28 community and technical colleges. The council must identify which
29 public institutions of higher education have the greatest need, have
30 a clear and strong demonstration of willingness from leadership to
31 utilize the statewide resources created under section 2 of this act,
32 and can develop partnerships to enhance capacity. From those
33 identified public institutions of higher education, proposals that
34 enhance treatment services to student veterans must be given
35 priority. Once the first six grants are awarded, the council may
36 award grants to other postsecondary institutions that meet the
37 council's criteria.

38 (3) For the purposes of this section, "postsecondary
39 institutions" means institutions of higher education as defined in

1 RCW 28B.10.016, degree-granting institutions as defined in RCW
2 28B.85.010, private vocational schools as defined under RCW
3 28C.10.020, and school as defined in RCW 18.16.020.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning June 1, 2019, and every June 1st thereafter until
7 2022, postsecondary institutions shall submit a report to the entity
8 within the University of Washington school of social work specified
9 under section 2 of this act for the purposes of establishing a
10 baseline for behavioral health concerns and responses at the
11 institutions of higher education.

12 (2) The annual report must include the following information as
13 reported to the postsecondary institution, in compliance with the
14 entity's established data collection requirements, and if an
15 institution does not collect or have access to the information it
16 must indicate this in the report:

17 (a) The awareness of students, faculty, and staff regarding
18 behavioral health and suicide prevention resources;

19 (b) The institution's counselor-to-student ratio;

20 (c) The number of students referred to off-campus behavioral
21 health providers;

22 (d) The number of students identifying emotional distress as
23 reasons for withdrawal;

24 (e) The number of student suicide deaths;

25 (f) The number of student suicide attempts that result in
26 hospitalization;

27 (g) Information about dissemination of material to students about
28 behavioral health resources that are available on and off campus;

29 (h) Confirmation of campus plans for suicide recognition and
30 referral training that identifies groups receiving the required
31 training and which groups are recommended to receive training in the
32 future;

33 (i) The entity or entities on campus responsible for the
34 development and maintenance of the campus crisis plan that integrate
35 policies for suicide identification, intervention, reentry, and
36 postvention;

37 (j) The campus point person or persons responsible for the crisis
38 plan; and

1 (k) Information about behavioral health services and supports
2 available to veterans on campus.

3 (3) For purposes of this section, "postsecondary institutions"
4 has the same meaning as that term is defined in section 3 of this
5 act.

6 (4) This section expires December 31, 2022.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) By December 31, 2018, for the purposes of collecting data on
10 suicide prevention and behavioral health in higher education, the
11 entity within the University of Washington school of social work
12 specified under section 2 of this act shall identify data, methods
13 for data collection, and data definitions to be used by postsecondary
14 institutions required to submit annual reports under section 4 of
15 this act. The entity shall collaborate with the postsecondary
16 institutions, as defined in section 3 of this act, in establishing
17 data collection requirements and criteria.

18 (2) The entity shall aggregate the information it receives by
19 sector and, by December 1st of each year, the entity must submit an
20 aggregated summary report to the relevant committees of the
21 legislature. The entity shall serve as the depository for annual
22 reports submitted by institutions of higher education under section 4
23 of this act."

24 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Requires an entity with suicide expertise within the
University of Washington School of Social Work (rather than the
Department of Health) to establish the statewide resource, convene
the work group, and collect and report data.

(2) Allows the public four-year institutions to also be eligible
for the first six grants, not just the public community and technical
colleges.

(3) Removes the provision requiring the WSIPP study on stress.

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