

E2SHB 1181 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation

ADOPTED 03/03/2022

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Suicide is a public health issue that
4 affects many Washington families and communities daily. Over the last
5 10 years, Washington state has been at the forefront of suicide
6 prevention, investing more in upstream suicide prevention strategies
7 and supports with the goal of a noteworthy reduction in suicide by
8 2025.

9 (2) At the request of the governor, in 2020 Washington
10 stakeholders engaged in a national and statewide initiative to end
11 veteran and military member suicide. This initiative culminated in a
12 new state plan to educate providers and help them address the unique
13 needs of veterans and military members, particularly those in
14 transition to civilian life; and to provide resources and supports
15 including improved lethal means safety training. The purpose of this
16 act is to support the implementation of that plan.

17 (3) Service members, veterans, and their families are at a higher
18 risk of being affected by suicide as experiences prior to enlistment,
19 during service, and transition from service can contribute to
20 suicidal thoughts and behaviors. A report on post-9/11 era military
21 deaths by the United States department of veterans affairs found that
22 service members are four times more likely to die by suicide than in
23 military operations. Over 7,000 service members died in combat during
24 the global war on terror, while more than 30,000 active duty members
25 and veterans died by suicide. For veterans of all United States
26 military operations, there is an average of 22 suicide deaths per day
27 across the country, with one occurring every 65 minutes.

28 (4) Washington is home to 544,290 veterans, 60,699 active duty
29 service members, 17,941 guard and reserve service members, and
30 2,000,000 military and veteran family members. Although veterans
31 themselves make up only seven percent of the Washington population,
32 they account for 19 percent of total suicides in the state. Nearly

1 1,000 veterans have died by suicide in Washington state over the last
2 five years. More than two-thirds of veterans who died by suicide in
3 Washington used a firearm.

4 (5) Family members of veterans who die by suicide are at higher
5 risk for future suicide due to the exposure of experiencing suicide
6 loss. Research shows for every suicide that occurs, 135 people suffer
7 from the effects either directly or indirectly, meaning veteran
8 suicides impact a community of 2,600,000 people.

9 (6) There is no one path to suicide, but life experiences, moral
10 injury, trauma, culture, and health can play a major role in suicidal
11 behavior. Military and veteran culture in particular includes stigma
12 around mental wellness and help-seeking behavior, emphasizes
13 reliability on group cohesion, and facilitates access,
14 comfortability, and familiarity with lethal means such as firearms.
15 Additionally, a significant number of veterans do not seek care
16 within the veterans administration system.

17 (7) The legislature intends to address the tragedy of suicide
18 amongst veterans, military members, and their families through
19 support of professionals and community and peer organizations serving
20 veterans, cultural changes that support help-seeking behaviors, and
21 investments in education, training, prevention, and care.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) There is created in the department a suicide prevention
25 community-based services grant program. The purpose of the grant
26 program is to provide suicide prevention, peer support, and other
27 assistance to at-risk and transitioning veterans and military members
28 and their families in their communities.

29 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for the
30 specific purposes provided in this section and amounts disbursed from
31 the veterans and military members suicide prevention account created
32 in section 3 of this act, the department, in consultation with the
33 forefront suicide prevention center, must establish a process to
34 receive, review, process, and award grants to organizations,
35 including nonprofit and peer support community programs, that address
36 veterans, military members, and their families who may be at risk of
37 suicide and other mental health crises. Priority should be given to
38 organizations using peer support models that use evidence-based,
39 research-based, or promising practices.

1 (3) The department shall report to the legislature annually
2 beginning July 1, 2023, on grant recipients, number of veterans and
3 military members served, and the types of services offered by grant
4 recipients.

5 (4) The forefront suicide prevention center shall evaluate the
6 effectiveness of each grant program recipient providing suicide
7 prevention and peer support services to veterans, military members,
8 and their families who may be at risk of suicide and other mental
9 health crises.

10 (5) For the purposes of this section, "forefront suicide
11 prevention center" means the University of Washington's forefront
12 suicide prevention center of excellence.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The veterans and military members suicide prevention account
16 is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The account shall
17 consist of funds appropriated by the legislature, revenues received
18 from the prevent veteran suicide emblem under section 8 of this act,
19 and all receipts from gifts, grants, bequests, devises, or other
20 donations from public and private sources to support veterans and
21 military members suicide prevention measures. Expenditures from the
22 account may be used only for the purposes provided in subsection (3)
23 of this section. Only the director or the director's designee may
24 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to
25 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is
26 not required for expenditures.

27 (2)(a) The department may request and accept nondedicated
28 contributions, grants, or gifts in cash or otherwise, and voluntary
29 donations for deposit into the account, including funds generated by
30 voluntary donations under (b) of this subsection.

31 (b) The department may accept, for deposit into the account,
32 voluntary donations from persons who are: (i) Applying for a
33 concealed pistol license or renewal of a concealed pistol license; or
34 (ii) undergoing a background check under chapter 9.41 RCW in
35 connection with the purchase of a firearm from a firearms dealer. The
36 department shall coordinate with local law enforcement agencies, the
37 department of licensing, and firearms dealers licensed under chapter
38 9.41 RCW to develop a form and process for publicizing and collecting
39 voluntary donations under this subsection. The department and the

1 department of licensing shall post educational information regarding
2 the voluntary donation provisions of this section on their websites.

3 (3) All moneys deposited into the account must be used for
4 activities that are dedicated to the benefit of veteran and military
5 member suicide education and prevention including, but not limited
6 to: (a) Expanding the department's peer corps program; and (b)
7 providing programs, peer support, and services that assist veterans
8 and military members in addressing mental health and wellness impacts
9 of military service, trauma, moral injury, and transition to civilian
10 life. Funds may also be used for the suicide prevention community-
11 based services grant program established in section 2 of this act.
12 Funds from the account may not be used to supplant existing funds
13 received by the department nor shall grant recipients use the funds
14 to supplant existing funding.

15 (4) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
16 apply:

17 (a) "Veteran" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 41.04.005
18 and 41.04.007.

19 (b) "Military members" means actively serving members of the
20 national guard or reserves, or active duty military personnel.

21 (c) "Account" means the veterans and military members suicide
22 prevention account.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 Beginning December 2022, subject to the availability of amounts
26 appropriated for this specific purpose, the governor's challenge team
27 and service members, veterans, and their families suicide prevention
28 advisory committee shall report to the legislature on a biannual
29 basis regarding implementation of the plan developed by the
30 committee.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
34 specific purpose, the department shall:

35 (1) Create and maintain a database of information on nonprofit,
36 for-profit, city, county, state, and federal organizations,
37 providers, and resources that address the mental health, well-being,
38 and suicide prevention of veterans, military members, and their

1 families. The department shall establish criteria for inclusion in
2 the database by July 1, 2022. The department must make the database
3 accessible on its website to veterans, military members, and their
4 families by July 1, 2023;

5 (2) Provide suicide prevention education training and information
6 for veterans, military members, and their families that is accessible
7 through the internet; and

8 (3) By December 1, 2023, create, in consultation with the
9 suicide-safer homes task force, a web-based application to be shared
10 by state agencies and primary care providers with veterans, military
11 members, and their families to provide applicable information and
12 resources including but not limited to benefits, mental health
13 resources, and lethal means safety information.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.130
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
17 specific purpose, the department shall consult with the department of
18 veterans affairs to create educational materials informing health
19 care providers regulated under this chapter about the availability of
20 the nationwide 988 phone number for individuals in crisis to connect
21 with suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors. The
22 educational materials must include information about the veterans
23 crisis line for veterans and service members, and, beginning July 1,
24 2023, information about the resources developed under section 5 of
25 this act.

26 (2) The department shall:

27 (a) Determine the health professions to which this section shall
28 apply; and

29 (b) Collaborate with the corresponding disciplining authority
30 under RCW 18.130.020 to ensure that the educational materials are
31 distributed electronically to appropriate licensed health care
32 providers when a provider renews his or her license.

33 (3) Beginning July 1, 2023, all health care providers are
34 strongly encouraged to inquire with new patients entering care
35 whether the patient is a veteran, member of the military, or a family
36 member of a veteran or member of the military. If the patient
37 responds in the affirmative, the provider is encouraged to share the
38 educational materials created under this section with the patient.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
4 specific purpose, a suicide-safer homes task force is established to
5 raise public awareness and increase suicide prevention education
6 among new partners who are in key positions to help reduce suicide.
7 The task force shall be administered and staffed by the department of
8 veterans affairs. To the extent possible, the task force membership
9 should include representatives from geographically diverse and
10 priority populations, including tribal populations.

11 (2) The suicide-safer homes task force shall be cochaired by the
12 director, or the director's designee, of the department of veterans
13 affairs and the director, or the director's designee, of the
14 forefront suicide prevention center and also consist of the following
15 members:

16 (a) Two representatives of suicide prevention organizations,
17 selected by the cochairs of the task force;

18 (b) Two representatives of the firearms industry, selected by the
19 cochairs of the task force;

20 (c) Two individuals who are suicide attempt survivors or who have
21 experienced suicide loss, selected by the cochairs of the task force;

22 (d) Two representatives of law enforcement agencies, selected by
23 the cochairs of the task force;

24 (e) One representative from the department of health;

25 (f) One representative from the department of fish and wildlife;

26 (g) One individual representing veterans;

27 (h) One member of a Washington or federally recognized Indian
28 tribe;

29 (i) Two veterans;

30 (j) One representative of the national rifle association;

31 (k) One representative of the Second Amendment foundation;

32 (l) One representative of a nonprofit organization working on gun
33 safety issues;

34 (m) One representative of a national firearms trade association;

35 (n) One representative of a Washington state pharmacy
36 association; and

37 (o) No more than five other interested parties, selected by the
38 cochairs of the task force.

39 (3) The department of veterans affairs shall convene the initial
40 meeting of the task force.

- 1 (4) The task force shall:
- 2 (a) Develop and prepare to disseminate online trainings on
3 suicide awareness and prevention for firearms dealers and their
4 employees and firearm range owners and their employees;
- 5 (b) Partner with medical providers, firearms dealers, firearms
6 ranges, and pharmacies to develop and distribute suicide awareness
7 and prevention messages for posters and brochures;
- 8 (c) In consultation with the department of fish and wildlife,
9 develop strategies for creating and disseminating suicide awareness
10 and prevention information for hunting safety classes, including
11 messages to parents that can be shared during online registration, in
12 either follow-up email communications, or in writing, or both;
- 13 (d) Create a website that will be a clearinghouse for the newly
14 created suicide awareness and prevention materials developed by the
15 task force;
- 16 (e) Continue to support medical providers with suicide prevention
17 and awareness work through the dissemination of collateral education
18 programs;
- 19 (f) Allocate funding towards the purchase of lock boxes for
20 dissemination via the forefront suicide prevention center's TeleSAFER
21 program;
- 22 (g) Develop and direct advocacy efforts with firearms dealers to
23 pair suicide awareness and prevention training with distribution of
24 safe storage devices;
- 25 (h) Partner with a statewide pharmacy association to market and
26 promote medication disposal kits and safe storage devices;
- 27 (i) Train health care providers on suicide awareness and
28 prevention, paired with distribution of medication disposal kits and
29 safe storage devices; and
- 30 (j) Train local law enforcement officers on suicide awareness and
31 prevention, paired with distribution of medication disposal kits and
32 safe storage devices.
- 33 (5) The forefront suicide prevention center shall provide subject
34 matter expertise, technical and programmatic support, and
35 consultation and evaluation to the task force.
- 36 (6) Beginning December 1, 2022, the task force shall annually
37 report to the legislature on the status of its work.
- 38 (7) This section expires July 1, 2024.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 46.18
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The general public may purchase a prevent veteran suicide
4 emblem for a prescribed fee set by the department. The emblem must be
5 displayed on license plates in the manner described by the
6 department, existing vehicular registration procedures, and current
7 laws.

8 (2) The department, in creating the prevent veteran suicide
9 emblem, must consult with the department of veterans affairs on the
10 design of the emblem. The emblem must incorporate the 988 suicide
11 prevention hotline or its successor.

12 (3) Revenues from the prevent veteran suicide emblem must be
13 deposited into the veterans and military members suicide prevention
14 account created in section 3 of this act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 During the application process for public assistance benefits,
18 the department shall inquire of each applicant whether he or she has
19 ever served in the United States military services or is a family or
20 household member of someone who has ever served in the United States
21 military services. If the applicant answers in the affirmative, the
22 department shall provide the applicant with information on how to
23 contact the Washington department of veterans affairs to inquire as
24 to whether the applicant may be eligible for any benefits, services,
25 or programs offered to veterans, military members, or their families.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) In order to better prevent suicide by veterans, military
29 members, and their families, an expansion of safe storage of firearms
30 and reduced access to lethal means in the community is encouraged.

31 (2) A dealer who provides a service of allowing a person to
32 temporarily store a firearm on the dealer's premises in a storage
33 locker, box, or container that is locked and not accessible to the
34 dealer does not thereby create a special relationship, for civil
35 liability purposes, between the dealer and the person who temporarily
36 stores the firearm on the dealer's premises.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 39.04
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) (a) For any building, bridge, ferry, or park being constructed
4 or replaced after July 1, 2024, as a public works project, there must
5 be installed in appropriate locations signs displaying the 988
6 national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

7 (b) The public body as defined in RCW 39.10.210 in control of a
8 public works project in this subsection must decide where signs under
9 this section would be physically feasible and appropriate. The
10 following facilities are recommended to have such signs:

11 (i) Bridges where suicides by jumping have occurred or are likely
12 to occur; and

13 (ii) Locations that provide services to people that have high
14 incidence of suicide or mental health conditions that would benefit
15 from knowing about the hotline.

16 (c) The signs must be designed to communicate that dialing 988 on
17 a telephone will connect callers to behavioral health and suicide
18 prevention services as provided in accordance with state and federal
19 laws governing the 988 number.

20 (d) If a sign is located along a state highway or the interstate
21 system, the department of transportation must approve the location
22 prior to erecting the sign, but no permit is necessary.

23 (e) Signs created under this section may not conflict with
24 provisions of the manual of uniform traffic control devices or
25 existing state laws related to placement and design of signs.

26 (2) This section does not create a private right of action by, or
27 a legal duty to, any party, and may not be used to impose liability
28 on the public body if a sign has or has not been erected on its
29 property. The state of Washington, including all of its agencies,
30 subdivisions, employees, and agents, shall not be liable in tort for
31 any violation of this section, notwithstanding any other provision of
32 law.

33 (3) The public body may accept gifts or donations to pay for the
34 creation, installation, or maintenance of signs under this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 43.34
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 Any memorial established on capitol campus to commemorate the
38 global war on terror must recognize service members who died in
39 Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation

1 New Dawn, which are classified under the umbrella term global war on
2 terror. Any such memorial must include a component designed to
3 reflect on the great number of active duty service members and
4 veterans who have died by suicide after serving in these wars. The
5 design of such a memorial must serve to honor those who are lost and
6 provide a sacred space for healing and reflection for veterans and
7 military families.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** (1) The Washington state global war on
9 terror memorial account is created in the custody of the state
10 treasurer. The purpose of the account is to support the establishment
11 and maintenance of the memorial. The secretary of state may solicit
12 and accept moneys from gifts, grants, or endowments for this purpose.
13 All receipts from federal funds, gifts, or grants from the private
14 sector, foundations, or other sources must be deposited into the
15 account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the
16 design, siting, permitting, construction, maintenance, dedication, or
17 creation of educational materials related to placement of this
18 memorial on the capital campus. Only the secretary of state, or the
19 secretary of state's designee, may authorize expenditures from the
20 account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter
21 43.88 RCW, but appropriation is not required for expenditures.

22 (2) The secretary of state may adopt rules governing the receipt
23 and use of these funds.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Section 11 of this act takes effect July
25 1, 2024.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** Section 8 of this act takes effect
27 October 1, 2022.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** If specific funding for the purposes of
29 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
30 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
31 act is null and void."

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By Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation

ADOPTED 03/03/2022

1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "members;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
3 43.60A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.130 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.18
5 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.04 RCW; adding a new section
6 to chapter 9.41 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 39.04 RCW;
7 adding a new section to chapter 43.34 RCW; creating new sections;
8 providing effective dates; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Creates a Washington State Global War on Terror Memorial Account in the custody of the state treasurer, under the direction of the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, and authorizes the Secretary to solicit and accept moneys to support the establishment and maintenance of the memorial. Specifies that any memorial established on Capitol Campus to commemorate the Global War on Terror must recognize service members and veterans who died by suicide after serving. Modifies language providing liability protection for actions related to installation of signs on public works projects advertising the 988 crisis response hotline. Adds intent language describing the rate of death by suicide among U.S. service members and veterans.

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