



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1005

SENATE BILL NO. 1949

By Crowe, Massey, Swann, Jackson, Watson, Briggs, Bailey, Yarbrow

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1961

By Ramsey, Williams, Staples, Jones, Clemmons, Whitson, Terry, Butt, Kumar, Ragan, Cameron Sexton, Faison, Jernigan, Gilmore, Powell, Pitts, Eldridge, Miller, Thompson, Sanderson, Fitzhugh, Hardaway, Sherrell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 3, relative to suicide prevention.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network declares that suicide deaths are a serious public health issue and have a tremendous family and societal impact; and

WHEREAS, veterans account for ten percent of all suicide deaths in this State, as reported by the department of health as of 2016; and

WHEREAS, the number of recorded suicide deaths in Tennessee increased from 945 to 1,110 between 2014 and 2016, representing a sixteen and one-half percent increase and part of an overall upward trend; and

WHEREAS, three adults in this State die by suicide each day; and

WHEREAS, every year in this State, an average of 1,007 adults die by suicide, including ninety-four persons aged eighteen to twenty-four; and

WHEREAS, suicide deaths are significantly underestimated and inadequately documented, thus preventing efforts to identify and reduce or eliminate such deaths; and

WHEREAS, the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention as issued by the office of the U.S. Surgeon General recommends the improvement and expansion of state/territorial, tribal, and local public health capacity to routinely collect, analyze, report, and use suicide-related data to implement prevention efforts and inform policy decisions; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 3, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

68-3-701. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Suicide Prevention Act of 2018."

68-3-702. As used in this part:

(1) "Department" means the department of health;

(2) "Suicide" means a death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die because of the result of the behavior; and

(3) "Suicide mortality" means the number of deaths within this state and the proportion of those deaths to the number of total deaths over the course of a year.

68-3-703.

(a) The commissioner of health is authorized to create the Tennessee suicide prevention program.

(b) The department shall establish a team that shall:

(1) Compile existing data on suicide deaths;

(2) Review existing resources and programs related to suicide prevention;

(3) Identify evidence-based or promising practices related to the prevention of suicide;

(4) Convene relevant stakeholders to review existing data and existing programs and resources and identify opportunities to improve data collection and analysis and programming; and

(5) Submit a report to the general assembly no later than June 30, 2020, recommending any necessary programs or policies to prevent suicide deaths in this state.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it. This act shall expire on June 30, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 1949

PASSED: April 24, 2018



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR