

SENATE BILL 1992

By Roberts

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33
and Title 49, relative to suicide prevention.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding SECTIONS 2 through 5 as a new part.

SECTION 2. All employees of each LEA shall attend the annual in-service training in suicide prevention required to be provided to teachers and principals in accordance with § 49-6-3004(c)(1) or other equivalent training.

SECTION 3.

(a) The department of education, in consultation with the office of crisis services and suicide prevention of the department of mental health and substance abuse services, the department of health, and suicide prevention experts, shall develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of Section 2 and § 49-6-3004(c)(1). These training materials may include training materials presently being used by an LEA, if such training materials meet the criteria established by the department of education.

(b) Approved materials:

(1) Shall include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services within the school and within the larger community;

(2) Shall include when and how to refer students and their families to appropriate mental health services; and

(3) May include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

SECTION 4.

(a) Each LEA shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. The policies shall be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts, and shall, at a minimum, address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

(b) To assist LEAs in developing policies for student suicide prevention, the department of education shall establish a model policy in consultation with the office of crisis services and suicide prevention of the department of mental health and substance abuse services and the department of health. An LEA may develop its own policy or adopt the model policy.

SECTION 5.

(a) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of this part or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this part.

(b) The training required by this part, or the lack thereof, shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.