

# Florida Department of Education

**Bill Number:** House Bill 139

**Bill Title:** Relating to suicide prevention

**Bill Sponsor:** Representative H. Gibson, Healthcare Council

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007

**DOE Contact:** Bambi Lockman, Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services,  
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## **Executive Summary:**

The bill creates the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention in the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor. Specific duties of the Office include:

- Developing a network of community-based programs to improve suicide prevention initiatives.
- Preparing and implementing a statewide plan for suicide prevention.
- Increasing public awareness concerning topics relating to suicide prevention.
- Coordinating education and training curricula in suicide prevention efforts for professionals who may have contact with persons at risk of committing suicide.
- Soliciting grants from federal, state, and local sources to fund operations and expenses of the office and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.

The bill requires the office to employ a coordinator whose responsibility is to achieve the office's goals and objectives as set forth in the bill. Agencies under the control of the Governor or the Governor and Cabinet are directed, and all others are encouraged, to provide information and support to the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention as requested.

The bill creates a Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council of 28 members who will advise the office on the development of a statewide plan for suicide prevention and prepare an annual report to be submitted January 1, 2008 and each year thereafter, to the Legislature and the Governor regarding suicide prevention programs. Council membership is specified within the bill and includes: Office of Drug Control director, appointees from the private sector, state agency secretaries and executive directors, and appointees by the Governor. The bill specifies terms of office, meeting schedule and authorization for per diem and travel reimbursement for council members.

## **General Implementation Timeline:**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

The annual report is due to the Governor and Legislature January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter.