

From: Rep.Ballweg
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:02 PM
To: *Legislative Everyone
Subject: Co-Sponsorship Memo for LRB-3871/1, relating to: implementing a suicide prevention program and making an appropriation.
Attachments: 19-3871_1.pdf



CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
TO: Legislative Colleagues
FROM: Representative Joan Ballweg
Representative Steve Doyle
RE: **Co-sponsorship of LRB-3871/1, relating to:** implementing a suicide prevention program and making an appropriation.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM

This legislation is part of a broader package of bills recommended by the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention. This bipartisan task force was created in March of 2019 and held six public hearings across the state with the charge of evaluating the current resources for suicide prevention and identifying opportunities to target and assist at-risk individuals.

Over the last six months, the task force traveled the state to learn more about suicide prevention best practices from experts, organizations and individuals. One recommendation the task force heard was the need for a centralized point of contact for all things regarding suicide prevention. The duties vested in this program would include administering grants, building community networks, conducting suicide prevention trainings and more.

This bill authorizes the creation of two FTE positions within the Department of Health Services, where the suicide prevention program will reside. One of the positions shall be designated the Director of Suicide Prevention. The bill also appropriates \$250,000 per fiscal year for the purpose of fulfilling the agency's suicide prevention responsibilities. The bill draft includes a list of responsibilities the program will implement, all dedicated toward reducing suicide throughout the state. This program will serve as a statewide resource to coordinate between agencies and spearhead efforts to reduce suicide in the State of Wisconsin.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please respond to this e-mail or contact Bethany in Representative Ballweg's office at 6-8077 by **Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM**

If you or someone you know is struggling, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.8255 or text "HOPELINE" to 741741.

You can also find the interim report, in its entirety, [here](#).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to implement a suicide prevention program, administer grant programs involving suicide prevention, and perform various other functions specified in the bill to promote efforts to prevent suicide. The bill authorizes two positions in DHS for implementing the suicide prevention program, one of which is the director of the suicide prevention program.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3871/1
KP:skw&kjf

2019 BILL

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.435 (5) (dm) and 51.03 (7) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 implementing a suicide prevention program and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to implement a suicide prevention program, coordinate suicide prevention activities with other state agencies, administer grant programs involving suicide prevention, and perform various other functions specified in the bill to promote efforts to prevent suicide. The bill authorizes two positions in DHS for implementing the suicide prevention program, one of which is the director of the suicide prevention program.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
4 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

BILL

2019-20

2020-21

1 **20.435 Health services, department of**

2 (5) MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

3 (dm) Statewide suicide prevention

4	program	GPR	A	250,000	250,000
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5 **SECTION 2.** 20.435 (5) (dm) of the statutes is created to read:

6 20.435 (5) (dm) *Statewide suicide prevention program.* The amounts in the
7 schedule for implementing the suicide prevention program under s. 51.03 (7).

8 **SECTION 3.** 51.03 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

9 51.03 (7) (a) The department shall implement a suicide prevention program
10 that creates public awareness for issues relating to suicide prevention, builds
11 community networks, and conducts training programs on suicide prevention for law
12 enforcement personnel, health care providers, school employees, and other persons
13 who have contact with persons at risk of suicide.

14 (b) As part of the suicide prevention program under this subsection, the
15 department shall do all of the following:

- 16 1. Coordinate suicide prevention activities with other state agencies.
- 17 2. Provide educational activities to the general public relating to suicide
18 prevention.
- 19 3. Provide training to persons who routinely interact with persons at risk of
20 suicide, including training on recognizing persons at risk of suicide and referring
21 those persons for appropriate treatment or support services.
- 22 4. Develop and carry out public awareness and media campaigns in each county
23 targeting groups of persons who are at risk of suicide.

BILL

1 5. Enhance crisis services relating to suicide prevention.

2 6. Link persons trained in the assessment of and intervention in suicide with
3 schools, public community centers, nursing homes, and other facilities serving
4 persons most at risk of suicide.

5 7. Coordinate the establishment of local advisory groups in each county to
6 support the efforts of the suicide prevention program under this subsection.

7 8. Work with groups advocating suicide prevention, community coalitions,
8 managers of existing crisis hotlines that are nationally accredited or certified, and
9 staff members of mental health agencies in this state to identify and address the
10 barriers that interfere with providing services to groups of persons who are at risk
11 of suicide, including elderly persons, Native Americans, youths, and residents of
12 rural communities.

13 9. Develop and maintain an Internet site with links to appropriate resource
14 documents, suicide hotlines that are nationally accredited or certified, credentialed
15 professional personnel, state and local mental health agencies, and appropriate
16 national organizations.

17 10. Review current research on data collection for factors related to suicide and
18 develop recommendations for improved systems of surveillance for suicide and
19 uniform collection of data related to suicide.

20 11. Develop and submit proposals for funding from federal government
21 agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

22 12. Administer grant programs involving suicide prevention.

23 13. By January 1, 2021, and by January 1 of each year thereafter, submit a
24 report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172 (3)

BILL**SECTION 3**

1 that describes suicide prevention activities in this state, including information
2 received in the course of administering suicide prevention grant programs.

3 **SECTION 4. Nonstatutory provisions.**

4 (1) SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM; DIRECTOR AND STAFF. The authorized FTE
5 positions for the department of health services are increased by 2.0 GPR positions
6 on the effective date of this subsection to be funded from the appropriation under s.
7 20.435 (5) (dm), for the purpose of providing a director of the suicide prevention
8 program under s. 51.03 (7) and staff to implement the suicide prevention program
9 under 51.03 (7).

10

(END)