
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6111

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Youth Suicide Advisory Board (YSAB) and the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) to jointly administer an evidence-based youth suicide prevention training program in each health district in the state.

The bill requires district health directors to determine eligibility criteria for program participants, who must be from certain groups of employees or volunteers, such as school employees. The program must be offered by July 1, 2022, and at least once every three years afterward.

Under the bill, the training program must provide certification in QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Initiative Gatekeeper Training (see BACKGROUND). Participants who complete the program and obtain certification may then provide the training to others while their certification is valid.

Lastly, the bill allows (1) YSAB and OCA to contract with a nongovernmental entity that provides evidence-based suicide prevention training to help administer the program and (2) school employees to participate in the training program as part of an in-service training program already required by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

Under the bill, program participants must be from the following groups within each health district:

1. local health department employees,
2. youth service bureau employees,
3. school employees,
4. municipal social service agency employees,
5. youth-serving organization employees and volunteers,
6. youth athletic activity employees and volunteers,
7. paid municipal or volunteer fire department members, and
8. local police department members.

BACKGROUND

QPR Initiative Gatekeeper Training

QPR Initiative Gatekeeper Training participants become "gatekeepers" trained to (1) recognize early signs of a suicidal crisis, (2) talk to someone about suicidal thoughts and feelings, and (3) provide early intervention and referral to local resources.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 2 (02/25/2021)