
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1085

AN ACT CONCERNING SUICIDE PREVENTION.

SUMMARY

This bill renames the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Youth Suicide Advisory Board the "Interagency Suicide Advisory Board" and expands the board's scope to include suicide prevention initiatives for adults, in addition to children as under existing law. It makes related minor and conforming changes to the board's responsibilities, including specifying its recommendations for suicide prevention in schools and communities be research-based and data-driven. It also specifies that the board is a statewide, interagency network for these initiatives.

Additionally, the bill increases the board's membership from 20 to 22. It also (1) adds the executive directors of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity and Court Support Services Division, or their designees, as members and (2) removes the DCF commissioner as a non-voting ex-officio board member. Under existing law and the bill, appointing authorities have a specified number of appointments, with one exception. The DCF commissioner appoints the balance of members, up to the board's required membership. Currently, the commissioner appoints 9 members; under the bill she appoints 10 members.

Starting by November 1, 2021, the bill requires the chairperson to annually report to the Public Health Committee on the board's operations and legislative recommendations.

Lastly, the bill allows a physician to meet his or her continuing medical education (CME) requirement in behavioral health by completing training on suicide prevention and veteran suicide prevention. By law, physicians must take at least two contact hours

(i.e., 50 minutes) of CME in behavioral health during the first renewal period for which CME is required (the second license renewal), and once every six years after that.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 3 (03/31/2021)