
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1140 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, DRISCOLL, SCHWEYER, HAGGERTY, MURT,
FREEMAN, READSHAW, D. COSTA, ROZZI, O'BRIEN, VITALI, DEAN,
CALTAGIRONE, NEILSON, WARREN, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, DeLUCA AND
SIMS, APRIL 12, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 12, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," providing for suicide prevention at
6 institutions of higher education.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XX-H

13 SUICIDE PREVENTION AT INSTITUTIONS

14 OF HIGHER EDUCATION

15 Section 2001-H. Scope of article.

16 This article relates to college and university suicide
17 prevention.

18 Section 2002-H. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this article

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department." The Department of Education of the
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Independent institution of higher education." As defined in
6 section 302 of the act of November 29, 2004 (P.L.1383, No.180),
7 known as the Uniform Crime Reporting Act.

8 "Institution of higher education." An independent
9 institution of higher education, a community college, a State-
10 related institution or a member institution of the State System
11 of Higher Education.

12 "Private licensed school." As defined in section 2 of the
13 act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the
14 Private Licensed Schools Act.

15 "Student." A person who is enrolled on a full-time basis at
16 an institution of higher education or private licensed school.

17 "Suicide prevention program." A suicide prevention program
18 under this article.

19 Section 2003-H. Suicide prevention program.

20 (a) Establishment.--Each institution of higher education and
21 private licensed school shall establish a suicide prevention
22 program.

23 (b) Professionals.--An institution of higher education or
24 private licensed school shall hire or contract with mental
25 health professionals who have training and experience with
26 suicide prevention. The professionals shall work with faculty
27 and staff on ways to recognize the warning signs and risk
28 factors associated with student suicide.

29 (c) Access to professionals.--A professional under
30 subsection (b) shall be made available to students at the

1 institution of higher education or private licensed school 24
2 hours a day, 7 days a week.

3 (d) Notice to students.--An institution of higher education
4 or private licensed school shall transmit to each student the
5 contact information of the professionals under subsection (b) no
6 later than 15 days after the beginning of each semester or after
7 any change in professionals or contact information.

8 Section 2004-H. Duties of department.

9 The department shall:

10 (1) Ensure compliance with this article.

11 (2) Solicit the cooperation of other agencies,
12 institutions and organizations, both public and private, in
13 carrying out the provisions of this article.

14 (3) Otherwise administer the provisions of this article.

15 Section 2005-H. Report.

16 An institution of higher education and a private licensed
17 school shall report to the department on the implementation of
18 the suicide prevention program by the institution or school.

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.