

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 1822

PRINTER NO. 4045

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

September 26, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Schlossberg

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1822 establishes a new Chapter 71 (Suicide Prevention in Institutions of Higher Education) in Title 24 (Education) to allow institutions of higher education to establish student mental health and suicide prevention plans and to provide for an institution that implements a plan to be designated as a certified suicide prevention institution of higher education.

The legislation provides that an institution of higher education may develop a student mental health and suicide prevention plan that includes the following minimum requirements:

- Contact information for national, state and local suicide prevention hotlines;
- Crisis intervention services, which must include providing the address, telephone number or any other contact information of individuals with training and experience in mental health issues who focus on suicide prevention;
- Makes individuals with training and experience available on campus or remotely for students 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- Mental health services and access, which shall include providing the necessary information to access mental health services, including health promotion and wellness, student health and counseling, crisis services, local mental health providers and mental health clinics;
- Multimedia access, including mental health and suicide warning signs, services available to individuals at no cost and available mental health and suicide prevention resources, which may include mobile applications;
- Student communication plans, consisting of outreach plans regarding, at a minimum, mental health services and suicide prevention; and
- Post-intervention plans, including a process to create a strategic plan to communicate effectively with students, staff and parents after the loss of a student to suicide.

The legislation requires an institution of higher education that adopts a student mental health and suicide prevention plan to do the following:

- Post its plan and applicable free prevention materials or programs on its publically accessible internet website;
- Provide its incoming students with contact information for suicide prevention hotlines and crisis intervention services twice annually; and

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- Transmit a copy of the plan to the Department of Education (department) by August 1 each year.

The legislation requires the department to do the following related to student mental health and suicide prevention plans:

- Post the plans it receives on its publically accessible internet website.
- Designate an institution of higher education that submits a plan that meets the minimum requirements as a certified suicide prevention institution of higher education; and
- Adopt or create a logo to be used by an institution of higher education that is designated as a certified suicide prevention institution of higher education.

The legislation is scheduled to become effective in 120 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 1822 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative duties delegated to the department related to reviewing and posting student mental health and suicide prevention plans on the internet and creating a logo for use by a certified suicide prevention institution of higher education are routine functions of the agency that can be accomplished with its existing general government operations appropriation.

Additionally, there will be no adverse fiscal impact to the institutions of higher education as the adoption of student mental health and suicide prevention plans under the legislation is optional.