
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1822 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, DEAN, DRISCOLL, MURT,
O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI, ROTHMAN, ROZZI, SCHWEYER, SIMS, THOMAS
AND WARREN, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, providing for suicide prevention in institutions of
3 higher education.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 24 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 71

9 SUICIDE PREVENTION IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

10 Sec.

11 7101. Scope of chapter.

12 7102. Definitions.

13 7103. Student mental health and suicide prevention plans.

14 § 7101. Scope of chapter.

15 This chapter relates to suicide prevention in institutions of
16 higher education.

17 § 7102. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

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

3 "Education enterprise." An educational activity in this
4 Commonwealth:

5 (1) for which college credits or continuing education
6 units are awarded, continuing professional education is
7 offered or tuition or fees are charged or collected; and

8 (2) that is sponsored by a corporation, entity or
9 institution that is incorporated or authorized by other means
10 in a state other than this Commonwealth and is approved and
11 authorized to operate in this Commonwealth under Chapter 65
12 (relating to private colleges, universities and seminaries)
13 and 15 Pa.C.S. Pt. II Subpt. B (relating to business
14 corporations) or C (relating to nonprofit corporations).

15 "Institution of higher education." Any of the following:

16 (1) A community college that is an institution now or
17 hereafter created pursuant to Article XIX-A of the act of
18 March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School
19 Code of 1949, or the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132,
20 No.484), known as the Community College Act of 1963.

21 (2) An independent institution of higher education that
22 is an institution of higher education located in and
23 incorporated or chartered by the Commonwealth, entitled to
24 confer degrees as set forth in section 6505 (relating to
25 power to confer degrees) and entitled to apply to itself the
26 designation "college," "university" or "seminary" as provided
27 for by standards and qualifications prescribed by the State
28 board under Chapter 65.

29 (3) A State-owned institution.

30 (4) A State-related institution.

1 (5) An education enterprise.

2 § 7103. Student mental health and suicide prevention plans.

3 (a) Plan required and minimum required contents.--Each
4 institution of higher education shall develop and implement a
5 plan to advise students and staff on mental health and suicide
6 prevention programs available both on campus and off campus. The
7 mental health and suicide prevention plan shall, at a minimum,
8 include:

9 (1) Contact information for national, State and local
10 suicide prevention hotlines.

11 (2) Crisis intervention services, which shall include
12 providing the address, telephone number or any other contact
13 information of individuals with training and experience in
14 mental health issues who focus on suicide prevention. An
15 institution of higher education shall make individuals with
16 training and experience available on campus or remotely for
17 students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

18 (3) Mental health services and access, which shall
19 include providing the necessary information to access mental
20 health services, including, but not limited to, health
21 promotion and wellness, student health and counseling, crisis
22 services, local mental health providers and mental health
23 clinics.

24 (4) Multimedia access, which shall include mental health
25 and suicide warning signs, services available to individuals
26 at no cost and available mental health and suicide prevention
27 resources, which may include mobile applications.

28 (5) Student communication plans, which shall consist of
29 outreach plans regarding, at a minimum, mental health
30 services and suicide prevention.

1 (6) Postintervention plans, which shall include a
2 process to create a strategic plan to communicate effectively
3 with students, staff and parents after the loss of a student
4 to suicide.

5 (b) Public posting.--An institution of higher education
6 shall post on the institution's publicly accessible Internet
7 website the following:

8 (1) The mental health and suicide prevention plan
9 adopted by the institution of higher education.

10 (2) Applicable free prevention materials or programs.

11 (c) Information for students.--The following shall apply:

12 (1) An institution of higher education shall provide all
13 incoming students with the information required under
14 subsection (a)(1) and (2).

15 (2) No less than twice a calendar year, an institution
16 of higher education shall transmit to each student by mail or
17 e-mail the information under subsection (a)(1) and (2).

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 120 days.