

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, WARREN, ROEBUCK, DeLUCA, D. COSTA, DAVIDSON, M. QUINN, WATSON, DEASY, SNYDER, WHEATLEY, KORTZ, SOLOMON AND BRIGGS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

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 7104. CERTIFIED SUICIDE PREVENTION INSTITUTION OF HIGHER

15 EDUCATION.

16 § 7101. Scope of chapter.

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1 This chapter relates to suicide prevention in institutions of
2 higher education.

3 § 7102. Definitions.

4 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
6 context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Education enterprise." An educational activity in this <--
8 Commonwealth:

9 (1) for which college credits or continuing education
10 units are awarded, continuing professional education is
11 offered or tuition or fees are charged or collected; and

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

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

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

25 (2) An independent institution of higher education that
26 is an institution of higher education located in and
27 incorporated or chartered by the Commonwealth, entitled to
28 confer degrees as set forth in section 6505 (relating to
29 power to confer degrees) and entitled to apply to itself the
30 designation "college," "university" or "seminary" as provided

1 ~~for by standards and qualifications prescribed by the State~~
2 ~~board under Chapter 65.~~

3 ~~(3) A State owned institution.~~

4 ~~(4) A State related institution.~~

5 ~~(5) An education enterprise.~~

6 "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." INCLUDES ANY OF THE <--
7 FOLLOWING:

8 (1) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE XIX-A OF
9 THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE
10 PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949.

11 (2) A UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER
12 EDUCATION.

13 (3) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF
14 PITTSBURGH, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OR ANY
15 OTHER INSTITUTION DESIGNATED AS STATE-RELATED BY THE
16 COMMONWEALTH.

17 (4) THE THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY.

18 (5) A COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE XIX-G OF THE
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949.

20 (6) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN AND
21 INCORPORATED OR CHARTERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND ENTITLED TO
22 CONFER DEGREES AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 6505 (RELATING TO
23 POWER TO CONFER DEGREES) AND AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE STANDARDS
24 AND QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
25 UNDER CHAPTER 65 (RELATING TO PRIVATE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES
26 AND SEMINARIES).

27 (7) A PRIVATE SCHOOL LICENSED UNDER THE ACT OF DECEMBER
28 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, NO.174), KNOWN AS THE PRIVATE LICENSED
29 SCHOOLS ACT.

30 (8) A FOREIGN CORPORATION APPROVED TO OPERATE AN

1 EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISE UNDER 22 PA. CODE CH. 36 (RELATING TO
2 FOREIGN CORPORATION STANDARDS).

3 § 7103. Student mental health and suicide prevention plans.

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

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

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

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

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

29 (5) Student communication plans, which shall consist of
30 outreach plans regarding, at a minimum, mental health

1 services and suicide prevention.

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

6 (b) Public posting.--An IF AN institution of higher <--
7 education ADOPTS A PLAN UNDER SUBSECTION (A), THE INSTITUTION OF <--
8 HIGHER EDUCATION shall post on the institution's publicly
9 accessible Internet website the following:

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

12 (2) Applicable free prevention materials or programs.

13 (c) Information for students.--The IF AN INSTITUTION OF <--
14 HIGHER EDUCATION ADOPTS A PLAN UNDER SUBSECTION (A), THE
15 following shall apply:

16 (1) An THE institution of higher education shall provide <--
17 all incoming students with the information required under
18 subsection (a) (1) and (2).

19 (2) No less than twice a calendar year, an THE <--
20 institution of higher education shall transmit to each
21 student by mail or e-mail the information under subsection
22 (a) (1) and (2).

23 (D) REVIEW AND UPDATE.--IF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER <--
24 EDUCATION ADOPTS A PLAN UNDER SUBSECTION (A), THE INSTITUTION OF
25 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE THE PLAN AT LEAST ONCE
26 ANNUALLY.

27 § 7104. CERTIFIED SUICIDE PREVENTION INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
28 EDUCATION.

29 (A) TRANSMITTAL OF PLAN.--IF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
30 EDUCATION ADOPTS A PLAN UNDER SECTION 7103(A) (RELATING TO

1 STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLANS), THE
2 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL TRANSMIT A COPY OF THE
3 PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY AUGUST 1 OF EACH YEAR.

4 (B) DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.--

5 (1) IF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECEIVES A STUDENT
6 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN FROM AN INSTITUTION
7 OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST THAT
8 INFORMATION ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

9 (2) IF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SUBMITS A PLAN
10 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONTAINING INFORMATION UNDER
11 SECTION 7103(A) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) AND (6), THE
12 DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
13 EDUCATION AS A CERTIFIED SUICIDE PREVENTION INSTITUTION OF
14 HIGHER EDUCATION.

15 (3) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY ADOPT OR CREATE A
16 LOGO FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT HAVE BEEN
17 CERTIFIED AS CERTIFIED SUICIDE PREVENTION INSTITUTIONS OF
18 HIGHER EDUCATION. IF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ADOPTS OR
19 CREATES A LOGO, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHICH HAS
20 BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY USE THE
21 LOGO.

22 (C) DESIGNATION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.--UPON
23 LISTING OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S PLAN CONTAINING
24 INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 7103(A) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) AND (6)
25 ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET
26 WEBSITE, THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY USE AND MARKET
27 THE DESIGNATION OF "CERTIFIED SUICIDE PREVENTION INSTITUTION OF
28 HIGHER EDUCATION."

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