

---

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

SENATE BILL

No. 330 Session of  
2017

---

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

---

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 20, 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

19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (3) A State-owned institution.

29 (4) A State-related institution.

30 (5) An education enterprise.

1 § 7103. Student mental health and suicide prevention plans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (6) Postintervention plans, which shall include a

1 process to create a strategic plan to communicate effectively  
2 with students, staff and parents after the loss of a student  
3 to suicide.

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

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

9 (2) Applicable free prevention materials or programs.

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

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

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

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