

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

HOUSE BILL _HB2375By:

Greenwood

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to suicide prevention; permitting the Commissioner of Health to establish a statewide surveillance system to track attempted suicides; stating purpose; limiting access to data; requiring maintenance of records; providing for contents; authorizing publication; providing exceptions; requiring confidentiality of information; imposing penalties for violation; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3151 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby finds that suicide is a complex societal problem that takes a tremendous toll on the emotional and physical well-being of survivors and imposes a significant economic burden on the state with regard to years of life lost. A state suicide surveillance system that would provide descriptive information about attempted suicides could be used to design more effective suicide prevention programs. Therefore, it is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature, in enacting this section, to:

1. Collect information on the incidence of suicide attempts;
2. Collect demographic information for persons who attempt suicide; and

3. Develop more effective prevention strategies for reducing the number of attempted and completed suicides.

B. The Commissioner of Health may establish a system for the collection and verification of information concerning suicide attempts. In establishing the system, the Commissioner may require hospitals, as defined in Section 1-701 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, to complete and submit a "Report of Suicide Attempt" form.

C. The system shall be implemented statewide.

D. All information collected and analyzed pursuant to this section shall be confidential insofar as the identity of the individual is concerned and shall be used solely for the purpose provided in this section. Access to such information shall be limited to the State Department of Health, provided that the Commissioner may provide access to researchers approved by the State Board of Health who are engaged in demographic, epidemiological or other similar studies related to health or mental health, and who agree, in writing as nonstate employees, to be identified and coded while maintaining confidentiality as described herein.

E. The Department shall maintain an accurate record of all persons who are given access to the information in the system. The record shall include:

1. The name of the persons authorizing access;
2. The name, title and organizational affiliation of persons given access;
3. The dates of access;
4. The specific purpose for which the information is to be used; and
5. The results of the independent research.

F. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the publishing of statistical compilations relating to suicide attempts which do not in any way identify individual cases or individual sources of information.

G. Any person who, in violation of a written agreement to maintain confidentiality, willfully discloses any information

provided pursuant to this section shall be denied further access to any confidential information maintained by the Department. That person shall also be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

H. The State Board of Health is authorized to promulgate rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2000.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

47-2-7568

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