

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

HOUSE BILL HB1184

By: Greenwood

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health; requiring the Board of Health to establish a statewide suicide data collection 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; and providing an effective date.

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. Suicide is the second or third leading cause of all deaths among persons ten (10) to twenty-four (24) years of age, and accounts for approximately eighty-five (85) deaths in that age group each year. A state suicide data collection system would provide descriptive information about attempted suicides which could be used to design and evaluate 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. As used in this section:

1. "Suicide" means a voluntary and intentional taking of one's own life;

2. "Attempted suicide" means a voluntary and intentional injury to one's own body with the goal of ending one's own life; and

3. "E-codes" are external cause of injury codes contained in the International Classification of Diseases - 9th Revision.

C. The Board of Health shall establish a system for collecting information concerning attempted suicides among persons who were hospitalized or who were treated and released. In establishing the system, the Board may require hospitals, and other related institutions, as defined in Section 1-701 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, to include E-codes on all patient discharge data or, if necessary, to complete and submit a Report of Suicide Attempt form to be made available by the State Health Department.

D. The system shall be implemented statewide.

E. Individual forms, computer tapes or other forms of data collected pursuant to this section shall be confidential and shall not be public records as defined in the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

F. The confidentiality of identifying information is to be protected and the pertinent statutes, rules and regulations of the State of Oklahoma and of the federal government relative to confidentiality shall apply.

G. Identifying information shall not be disclosed, and shall not be used for any purpose except statistical reporting and data analysis.

H. 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.

I. 1. A violation of the provisions of this subsection by an employee of the Department shall be grounds for termination of employment.

2. Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall also be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment in the county jail for up to one (1) year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

J. The 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, 2001.

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