

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1623

By: Floyd

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; stating legislative
9 findings; requiring boards of education to adopt a
10 suicide and student drug abuse policy; directing the
11 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
12 Services to develop and make available to school
13 districts suicide prevention and awareness training;
14 establishing a minimum annual training requirement;
15 providing immunity for certain acts by school
16 employees; limiting causes of action; prohibiting
17 certain construction; providing for codification;
18 providing for noncodification; providing an effective
19 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
22 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

23 The Legislature finds that the American Journal of Public Health
24 recently reported that suicides have surpassed car crashes as the
leading cause of injury-related deaths in the nation. In Oklahoma,
student suicides are among the leading cause of death in the state

1 among school-age children. While both school and community
2 resources are limited, some Oklahoma educators have reported success
3 in intervening by using large, schoolwide presentations to staff and
4 students that focus on bullying prevention, suicide prevention and
5 early intervention through the use of real examples and testimony
6 from those who have dealt directly with student suicide and
7 bullying.

8 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-100.7 of Title 70, unless
10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 A. The board of education of each school district in this state
12 shall adopt a policy regarding suicide awareness and training and
13 the reporting of student drug abuse.

14 B. The board of education of each school district in this state
15 shall provide schoolwide training to all students and staff
16 addressing suicide awareness and prevention. The Department of
17 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall develop and make
18 available to school districts training which addresses suicide
19 awareness and prevention, without cost to the school districts.
20 Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, every school district
21 shall provide the training program provided by the Department of
22 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services or a suicide prevention
23 training program approved by the Department of Mental Health and
24 Substance Abuse Services to students and school district staff of

1 not less than two (2) hours annually that addresses suicide
2 awareness and prevention. The training program may be combined with
3 any other training provided by the school district addressing
4 bullying prevention. The board may require additional time to be
5 allotted for the training if deemed necessary.

6 C. Teachers, counselors, principals, administrators and other
7 school personnel shall be immune from employment discipline and any
8 civil liability for:

9 1. Calling the 911 emergency telephone number, law enforcement
10 or the Department of Human Services if they believe a student poses
11 a threat to themselves or others or if a student has committed or
12 been the victim of a violent act or threat of a violent act;

13 2. Providing counseling, referral, emergency medical care or
14 other assistance offered in good faith to a student or other youth;
15 and

16 3. Communicating information in good faith concerning drug or
17 alcohol abuse or a potential safety threat by or to any student to
18 the parents of the student, law enforcement officers or health care
19 providers.

20 D. No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
21 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
22 implementation of this section or resulting from any training, or
23 lack thereof, required by this section, unless the loss or damage
24 was caused by willful or wanton misconduct.

1 E. The training required pursuant to this section, or the lack
2 thereof, shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

4 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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