

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1623

By: Floyd

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

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

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

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

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

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

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

15 B. The board of education of each school district in this state
16 shall provide schoolwide training to all students and staff
17 addressing suicide awareness and prevention. The Department of
18 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall develop and make
19 available to school districts training which addresses suicide
20 awareness and prevention, without cost to the school districts.
21 Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, every school district
22 shall provide the training program provided by the Department of
23 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services or a suicide prevention
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1 training program approved by the Department of Mental Health and
2 Substance Abuse Services to students and school district staff of
3 not less than two (2) hours annually that addresses suicide
4 awareness and prevention. The training program may be combined with
5 any other training provided by the school district addressing
6 bullying prevention. The board may require additional time to be
7 allotted for the training if deemed necessary.

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

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

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

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

22 D. No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
23 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the

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1 implementation of this section or resulting from any training, or
2 lack thereof, required by this section, unless the loss or damage
3 was caused by willful or wanton misconduct.

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

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

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

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COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/21/2013
- DO PASS, As Amended.

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