

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 57  
Second Edition Engrossed 2/22/89  
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Short Title: Youth Suicide Prevention Act.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Hunt of Moore; Allran, Ballance, Barker, Barnes, Basnight, Block, Bryan, Cochrane, Conder, Daniel, Guy, Harris, Hunt of Durham, Johnson of Wake, Kaplan, Martin of Pitt, Martin of Guilford, Marvin, Odom, Parnell, Rauch, Richardson, Royall, Sherron, Simpson, Soles, Speed, Staton, Swain, Taft, Tally, Walker, and Ward.

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Referred to: Children and Youth.

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January 25, 1989

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CREATE THE YOUTH SUICIDE ADVISORY BOARD AND TO  
3 APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Chapter 143B, Article 3 of the General Statutes is amended by  
6 adding a new Part 4A to read as follows:

7 **"PART 4A. YOUTH SUICIDE ADVISORY BOARD.**

8 **"§ 143B-150.1. Purpose.**

9 It is the expressed intent of this Part to make the prevention of youth suicide a  
10 priority of this State and to establish the Youth Suicide Advisory Board as a means to  
11 that end.

12 **"§ 143B-150.2. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - creation, powers and duties.**

13 There is hereby created the Youth Suicide Advisory Board to be located in the  
14 Department of Human Resources. The Board shall have the following powers and  
15 duties:

16 (a) To evaluate the existing system of delivery of State services in the prevention  
17 of youth suicide and to recommend an improved system of delivery to meet present and  
18 future needs.

1           (b) To seek the cooperation, advice, and assistance of both private and  
2 governmental agencies, commissions, and organizations and work cooperatively with  
3 other such groups to attain common goals.

4           (c) To encourage private organizations and local governments to organize and  
5 participate in activities to increase public awareness of the problem of youth suicide.

6           (d) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of  
7 information about youth suicide prevention plans and coordinate, generally, activities  
8 throughout all of the State.

9           (e) To solicit proposals for suicide prevention programs, and administer planning  
10 grants for the development of proposals which will best meet the objectives of a  
11 statewide program.

12 **"§ 143B-150.3. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - members; selection; meetings;**  
13 **quorum; compensation; services.**

14           (a) The Youth Suicide Advisory Board shall consist of 16 voting members, as  
15 follows:

16           (1) Four members from State government: the Secretary of Human  
17 Resources or his designate, the Superintendent of Public Instruction or  
18 his designate, the Director of the Administrative Office of the Court or  
19 his designate, the Secretary of Administration or his designate.

20           (2) Four members appointed by the Governor from the following  
21 categories: one shall be a local school board member, one shall be an  
22 area mental health administrator, one shall be an expert in the field of  
23 youth suicide, and one shall be a person under the age of 21 at the time  
24 of the appointment.

25           (3) Four members appointed by the President of the Senate from the  
26 following categories: one shall be a classroom teacher, one shall be a  
27 school administrator, one shall be a mental health clinician with  
28 expertise in the area of youth suicide, and one shall be a member of a  
29 parent-based organization.

30           (4) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
31 Representatives from the following categories: one shall be a student  
32 services professional (school counselor, school psychologist, school  
33 social worker, or school nurse), one shall be an expert in the field of  
34 youth suicide, one shall be a member of the clergy, and one shall be a  
35 representative of the news media.

36           (b) For continuity during the first term of the Board, each appointing authority  
37 shall select one member of the Youth Suicide Study Commission to serve on the Board.

38           (c) All members shall serve for two-year terms. All initial terms shall begin July  
39 1, 1989. A vacancy in membership shall be filled by the appointing authority who made  
40 the initial appointment. When the members' terms expire, their successors shall serve  
41 for the same length of time their predecessors served. A member whose term expires  
42 may be reappointed for an additional two-year term. If, when a term expires, the  
43 appointing authority has not filled the vacancy, the member whose term has expired  
44 shall continue to serve until the appointment is made.

1       The chairman of the Board shall be elected by the membership at its first meeting, to  
2 be convened by the Secretary of Human Resources.

3       The Youth Suicide Advisory Board shall meet at least once each quarter and may  
4 hold special meetings at any time at the call of its chairman.

5       A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

6       Members of the Board who are State employees shall receive travel expenses as set  
7 forth in G.S. 138-6. The other Board members shall receive per diem and travel  
8 expenses as set forth in G.S. 138-5.

9       Staff and support services required by the Board shall be provided by the Secretary  
10 of Human Resources.

11 **"§ 143B-150.4. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - projects.**

12       In order to carry out the purposes of this Part the Board shall, with the assistance of  
13 the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Public Instruction:

14       (a) Plan and host a statewide conference designed to emphasize the needs and  
15 goals of a statewide action plan to address the problems and issues related to youth  
16 suicide, which shall have as participants current and potential service providers,  
17 including school administrators, student services professionals, teachers, mental health  
18 professionals, and community organizations.

19       (b) Review applications and have final authority for the awarding of grants  
20 pursuant to this Article.

21       (c) Analyze program plans developed by grant recipients and make  
22 recommendations to the General Assembly for future funding of programs.

23       (d) Develop a State plan for the prevention of youth suicide for submission to the  
24 Governor and the General Assembly no later than January 1, 1991.

25 **"§ 143B-150.5. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - planning grants.**

26       In order to ensure that the most effective prevention and crisis intervention programs  
27 are developed and ultimately available statewide, the Board shall:

28       (a) Award eight planning grants in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)  
29 per grant, two each in the Western, North Central, South Central and Eastern Regions of  
30 the State, said Regions to be as designated by the Division of Mental Health, Mental  
31 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

32       (1) The grants may be awarded to public or private nonprofit  
33 organizations, agencies, schools, or hospitals to assess community  
34 needs and to develop community-based educational and service  
35 programs designed to prevent the occurrence of youth suicide.

36       (2) Grants awarded under this section are intended to encourage the  
37 development of community-based programs for the prevention of  
38 youth suicide. Youth suicide prevention programs are defined to be  
39 those programs and services which impact on children and families  
40 both before and after any substantiated incident of suicidal behavior  
41 has occurred. Such programs shall include, but are not limited to:

42       a. Instruction or materials designed to teach facts about youth  
43 suicide and how to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies; to  
44 publicize available community services aimed at prevention of

1 suicide; and to increase awareness of the relationship between  
2 youth suicide and drug and alcohol use.

3 b. Training programs in suicide prevention for school  
4 administrators, student services professionals, classroom  
5 teachers, and other teaching staff members.

6 c. Training programs in suicide prevention for members of the  
7 clergy, law enforcement personnel, and other professionals who  
8 provide services to youth.

9 d. Nonclassroom school or community-based programs such as  
10 a 24-hour 'hotline' telephone service staffed by trained  
11 professional counselors, crisis intervention and postvention  
12 services, parent education programs and programs for the  
13 families of suicide victims.

14 e. Community-based programs relating to crisis care, aid to  
15 parents, and support groups for parents and their children  
16 experiencing stress within the family unit.

17 (b) Develop, with the assistance of the Department of Human Resources and the  
18 Department of Public Instruction, appropriate guidelines and criteria for awarding  
19 grants pursuant to this Article. These criteria shall include, but not be limited to:

20 (1) Documentation of need within the proposed geographical impact area;

21 (2) Diversity of geographical areas to be covered under proposals funded  
22 pursuant to this section;

23 (3) Projected effectiveness of the proposed strategy or program for  
24 preventing youth suicide;

25 (4) Reasonableness of the implementation plan for achieving stated  
26 objectives;

27 (5) Community support and utilization of community resources including  
28 volunteers;

29 (6) Provision for an evaluation component that will provide outcome data;

30 (7) Reasonable plan for dissemination of the program for implementation  
31 in other communities;

32 (8) Potential for future funding from private sources.

33 (c) Develop, with the assistance of the Department of Human Resources and the  
34 Department of Public Instruction, guidelines for regular monitoring of grants awarded  
35 pursuant to this section in order to maximize the investments and to establish  
36 appropriate accountability measures for administration of grants.

37 **"§ 143B-150.6. Youth Suicide Advisory Board - reports.**

38 The Youth Suicide Advisory Board shall, with the assistance of the Department  
39 of Human Resources and the Department of Public Instruction, submit to the Governor  
40 and the General Assembly a comprehensive report regarding the use of its funds and  
41 incorporating specific recommendations of the Board for coordination of statewide  
42 efforts in youth suicide prevention.

43 The report shall be made not later than January 1, 1991, and may include  
44 recommendations for funding of projects and programs developed through planning

1 grants awarded by the Board and for publications, scholarly projects, conferences,  
2 programs, films, libraries, and other projects.

3 After submitting the comprehensive report, the Board shall submit an annual  
4 report to the Governor and the General Assembly."

5 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
6 Human Resources the sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) for  
7 the 1989-91 fiscal biennium to fund the Youth Suicide Advisory Board, and to  
8 implement the activities mandated by this act.

9 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989 and remain effective until  
10 July 1, 1991.