



Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer
Chairman

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BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 1559, Printer's No. 2110
Prime Sponsor: Representative Farina

SYNOPSIS:

House Bill 1559 amends the Public School Code to provide for professional development training in youth suicide awareness and prevention.

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1559 amends the Public School Code to provide for Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, the professional development plan submitted by each school entity to the Secretary of Education shall include four hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention every five years for professional educators in school buildings serving students in grades 6 through 12. Training may be used to satisfy a professional educator's continuing professional education requirement.

The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, is required to develop and make available on the department's website recommended guidelines and educational materials for the required training. The guidelines and educational materials must be made available within 180 days, and may include materials that are already publicly available. A school entity is not required to use these materials.

Effective date: July 1, 2013, or immediately, whichever is later.

AMENDMENT A04278 TO HB 1559:

Amendment A04278 requires school entities, within 90 days, to adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy that includes reporting procedures and methods of prevention, intervention and postvention. The school entity must inform its employees of the policy, make available education and resources, and incorporate into the curriculum age-appropriate education based on the policy. The school entity may provide this education to contractors and nonteaching staff. Instead of developing training guidelines and materials, the department shall maintain on its website a list of approved resources, training materials, and age-appropriate education that school entities may use. PDE shall work with a Pennsylvania youth suicide prevention organization to determine the appropriate materials and resources.

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