



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 285: Suicide Prevention/Awareness School Personnel.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Education - K-12	Date:	March 22, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Murphy, Hardister, Dollar, Dobson	Prepared by:	Jennifer Mundt
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H285-CSTA-6		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: House Bill 285 would provide for a training program on youth suicide awareness and prevention and a risk referral protocol for school personnel.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S316, as introduced by Sens. Krawiec, D. Davis, Pate, which is currently in Senate Health Care.]

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 285 would create new statutes regarding youth suicide awareness and prevention training and risk referral protocols in the statutes that pertain to special medical needs of students in elementary and secondary education and the statutes that pertain to charter schools' general operating requirements (in Article 25A of Chapter 115C and Article 14A of the General Statutes, respectively) that do the following:

- Directs the State Board of Education (State Board), in consultation with the Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Human Services, to develop, review, and update periodically, a youth suicide awareness and training program (training program) and a model risk referral protocol (model protocol) for local school administrative units (LEA) and charter schools.
- The *proposed committee substitute* amends the 1st Edition of the bill to require that both the training program and model protocol are provided to school personnel¹ who work directly with students in grades 7 through 12, rather than kindergarten through 12.
 - The training program must be provided at no cost to the school employee within 12 months of employment and every 5 years thereafter, which includes least 2 hours of evidence-based instruction to increase awareness of suicide, risk factors and signs, and information for referral to resources and support.
 - The model protocol must provide guidelines to LEAs on the identification of at-risk students, suicide prevention measures, and referral sources.

¹G.S. 115C-375.10(f) would define "school personnel" for purposes of this program to mean: teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, janitorial staff, media coordinators, athletic coaches, administrators, administrative assistants, school safety resource officers, school nurses, social workers, psychologists, counselors, and any other school employee who has direct contact with students in grades kindergarten through 12.

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- Authorizes LEAs to comply with the training program and model protocol requirements by developing a local plan that includes, at a minimum, the criteria identified in G.S. 115C-375.10(c)(1) and (c)(2), respectively.
- Directs each LEA and charter school to report to the Department of Public Instruction on its compliance with the training program and model protocols during the previous school year by September 15 of each year.
- Provides that no local board of education or charter school, nor their members, employees, designees, agents, or volunteers, are liable in civil damages to any party for any act or omission of an act relating to the provision of, participation in, or implementation of the components of the training program or protocol required by this section unless that act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.