



# HOUSE BILL 285: Suicide Prevention/Awareness School Personnel.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b> House Education - K-12	<b>Date:</b> April 20, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b> Reps. Murphy, Hardister, Dollar, Dobson	<b>Prepared by:</b> Kara McCraw
<b>Analysis of:</b> Third Edition	Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *The 3rd edition of HB 285 would provide for a training program on youth suicide awareness and prevention and a risk referral protocol for school personnel.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** HB 285 would require a training program on youth suicide awareness and prevention and risk referral for school personnel be established as follows:

- **SBOE Training Program and Protocol:** The SBOE, in consultation with the Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Human Services, would develop, review, and update periodically, a youth suicide awareness and training program (training program) and a model risk referral protocol (model protocol) for public school units.
- **Training and Protocol Requirements:** Public school units could comply by using the SBOE Program or a local plan meeting specific requirements (see below) to provide training for all school personnel working directly with students in grades six through 12. The training program would be provided at no cost to the school employee initially within 12 months of employment and every 2 years thereafter, and include least 2 hours of evidence-informed instruction to increase awareness of suicide, risk factors and signs, and information for referral to resources and support.
- **Local Developed Training and Risk Referral Protocols:** Public school units could 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.
- **Reporting:** Public school units would report annually to the Department of Public Instruction on compliance with the training program and model protocols during the previous school year by September 15 of each year. The report could be made in conjunction with other required student health reporting requirements.
- **Limitations and Liability:** The training and risk referral protocols would not create an obligation on public school units related to suicide prevention beyond what is required by other State or federal law. No board of a public school unit, nor their members, employees, designees, agents, or volunteers, would be liable in civil damages to any party for any act or omission of an act relating to the training program or protocol, unless that act or omission amounted to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.
- **Application:** The requirements of the act would apply to local school administrative units, charter schools, regional schools, and laboratory schools.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** HB 285 would become effective when it becomes law and apply beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578