

1 SB11
2 175195-7
3 By Senator Allen
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs
5 First Read: 02-FEB-16
6 PFD: 10/22/2015

1 SB11

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4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 To establish the Jason Flatt Act, relating to
6 student health in grades K-12 public school systems; to amend
7 Section 16-28B-8, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide for annual
8 suicide prevention education training for certificated school
9 system personnel; to provide that no cause of action is
10 created; to provide that no duty of care is created; to
11 provide for legislative findings; and to provide for an
12 advisory committee and related matters.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

14 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
15 as the Jason Flatt Act.

16 Section 2. The Legislature finds as follows:

17 (1) Suicide in youth cuts across ethnic, economic,
18 social, and age boundaries and has a tremendous and traumatic
19 impact on surviving family members, friends, and the community
20 at large.

21 (2) After unintentional injury, suicide has become
22 the leading cause of death among young people. At a time when
23 unintentional injuries have been on the decline, suicides have
24 increased.

1 (3) Suicide is a complex issue that requires school,
2 family, and community resources be harnessed for appropriate
3 and timely help to be available in order to prevent suicide.

4 Section 3. Section 16-28B-8 of the Code of Alabama
5 1975, is amended to read as follows:

6 "§16-28B-8.

7 "(a) To the extent that the Legislature shall
8 appropriate funds, or to the extent that any local board may
9 provide funds from other sources, each school system shall
10 implement the following standards and policies for programs in
11 an effort to prevent student suicide:

12 "(1) Foster individual, family, and group counseling
13 services related to suicide prevention.

14 "(2) Make referral, crisis intervention, and other
15 related information available for students, parents, and
16 school personnel.

17 "(3) Foster training for school personnel who are
18 responsible for counseling and supervising students.

19 "(4) Increase student awareness of the relationship
20 between drug and alcohol use and suicide.

21 "(5) Educate students in recognizing signs of
22 suicidal tendencies and other facts and warning signs of
23 suicide.

24 "(6) Inform students of available community suicide
25 prevention services.

1 "(7) Promote cooperative efforts between school
2 personnel and community suicide prevention program personnel.

3 "(8) Foster school-based or community-based, or
4 both, alternative programs outside of the classroom.

5 "(9) Develop a strategy to assist survivors of
6 attempted suicide, students, and school personnel in coping
7 with the issues relating to attempted suicide, suicide, the
8 death of a student, and healing.

9 "(10) Engage in any other program or activity which
10 the local board determines is appropriate and prudent in the
11 efforts of the school system to prevent student suicide.

12 "(11) Provide training for school employees and
13 volunteers who have significant contact with students on the
14 local board policies to prevent harassment, intimidation,
15 violence, and threats of violence.

16 "(12) Develop a process for discussing with students
17 local board policies relating to the prevention of student
18 suicide and to the prevention of harassment, intimidation,
19 violence, and threats of violence.

20 "(13) Provide annual training for all certificated
21 school employees in suicide awareness and prevention. This
22 training may be provided within the framework of existing
23 inservice training programs or as a part of required
24 professional development offered by the local school system.

1 "(b) (1) The State Department of Education shall
2 create an advisory committee consisting of practitioners and
3 representatives from all of the following organizations:

4 "a. The School Superintendents of Alabama.

5 "b. The Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools.

6 "c. The Alabama Education Association.

7 "d. The Alabama Association of School Boards.

8 "e. The Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation.

9 "f. Other pertinent mental health and suicide
10 prevention organizations as determined by the department.

11 (2) The advisory committee shall assist the
12 department in developing and adopting rules to provide for the
13 training of certificated school employees in suicide awareness
14 and prevention pursuant to subdivision (13) of subsection (a).

15 "(3) The department and the advisory committee may
16 develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the
17 requirements of subdivision (13) of subsection (a). Approved
18 training materials may include, but not be limited to, any of
19 the following:

20 "a. Training materials that are currently being used
21 by a local school system.

22 "b. Training materials that provide instruction on
23 identifying appropriate mental health services, both within
24 the school system and within the larger community.

1 "c. Training materials that may be completed through
2 self-review.

3 "(c) Each local school system shall adopt a policy
4 on student suicide prevention. To assist local school systems
5 in developing their own policies for student suicide
6 prevention, the department and advisory committee shall
7 establish a model policy for use by local school systems in
8 accordance with this section.

9 "(d) Any person involved in a cause of action or
10 omission resulting from the implementation of this section or
11 resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this
12 section, shall be subject to Section 36-1-12."

13 Section 4. This act shall become effective on the
14 first day of the third month following its passage and
15 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB11
Senate 15-MAR-16
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Passed: 28-APR-16

By: Senator Allen