

SUICIDE PREVENTION

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting. (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)) The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes.

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: For all age groups, Montana has been in the top five in the nation for suicide rates for the past 30 years. Between 2012 and 2016, the highest suicide rate in Montana was among American Indians at 28.5 per 100,000. Caucasians are second at 23.1 per 100,000. The youth suicide rate in Montana (ages 11-17) is 12.6 per 100,000, almost triple the national rate. Firearms (62%), suffocation (20%), and poisoning (9%) are the most common means of suicide in Montana.¹

In the last five sessions, bills aimed at preventing suicide have been introduced since 2013. Most recently, the 2017 Legislature enacted [House Bill No. 118](#), which revised duties of the state suicide prevention officer and appropriated \$1 million for suicide prevention grants. In 2015, the Legislature appropriated \$250,000 for Indian youth suicide prevention grants via [House Bill No. 2](#), although the State-Tribal Relations Committee [objected](#) during the 2015-2016 interim to how the Department of Public Health and Human Services used some of the funds.

The 2013 Legislature created a temporary Montana Suicide Review Team, which sunset in 2016. A proposal to reestablish the team in the 2017 Legislature failed to pass.

Other Materials:

- [Suicide in Montana: Facts, Figures, and Formulas for Prevention](#), DPHHS, August 2018
- [Montana Suicide Mortality Review Team](#)
- [2016 Suicide Mortality Review Team Report](#), DPHHS

¹ Rosston, Karl, Suicide in Montana: Facts, Figures, and Formulas for Prevention, August 2018, page 3.

Introduced Legislation

2017

[House Bill No. 23](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND RURAL YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT GRANT PROGRAM; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM; DEFINING SERVICES THAT QUALIFY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM; REQUIRING REPORTS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

[House Bill No. 71](#) – (S) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN LICENSED HEALTH AND EMERGENCY CARE PROFESSIONALS TO COMPLETE TRAINING RELATED TO SUICIDE PREVENTION; ESTABLISHING CRITERIA; AND REQUIRING CERTAIN ACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN DISCRETION BY LICENSING BOARDS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN IMPLEMENTING THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

[House Bill No. 117](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION FOR GRANTS TO LOCAL ENTITIES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES; AMENDING SECTION 53-21-1101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 118](#) – Chapter Number Assigned - AN ACT REVISING THE STATE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM; CLARIFYING THE DUTIES OF THE SUICIDE PREVENTION OFFICER; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANTS; IMPLEMENTING PORTIONS OF THE MONTANA NATIVE YOUTH SUICIDE REDUCTION STRATEGIC PLAN; PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 53-6-1201 AND 53-21-1101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 451](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE REGISTRY OF SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINERS; REQUIRING THE STATE SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATOR TO ASSIST WITH THE REGISTRY AND COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER TRAINERS; REQUIRING THE REGISTRY INFORMATION BE INCLUDED AS A DIRECTORY IN THE BIENNIAL SUICIDE REDUCTION PLAN; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 53-21-1101 AND 53-21-1102, MCA.

[House Bill No. 561](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT CREATING A MONTANA SUICIDE REVIEW TEAM; ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS; ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AND REVIEWING INFORMATION RELATED TO SUICIDES; PROVIDING CONFIDENTIALITY; PROVIDING PENALTIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 50-16-522, 50-16-525, 50-16-804, 50-16-805, AND 53-21-1102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

[House Joint Resolution No. 14](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee - A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO UPDATE THE MONTANA STRATEGIC SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN OF 2017 TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS AND DISABILITIES.

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2015

[House Bill No. 374](#) – Chapter Number Assigned - AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING MATERIALS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES; RECOMMENDING AT LEAST 2 HOURS OF TRAINING EVERY 5 YEARS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 509](#) - (H) Missed Deadline for Appropriation Bill Transmittal - AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION; ESTABLISHING THE NATIVE AMERICAN AND RURAL YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT PROJECT; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM; DEFINING SERVICES THAT QUALIFY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM; REQUIRING REPORTS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

[House Bill No. 568](#) – (H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal - AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN LICENSED PROFESSIONALS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUICIDALITY ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT, AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING; ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAMS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY AND CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL BOARDS TO DEVELOP A MODEL LIST OF TRAINING PROGRAMS; REQUIRING THE MODEL LIST TO BE UPDATED EVERY 2 YEARS; PROVIDING DEADLINES FOR THE CREATION OF THE MODEL LIST AND PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST REQUIRED TRAINING; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 302](#) – (S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal - AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO CONTRACT WITH A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COMPLETES SUICIDE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

2013

[House Bill No. 43](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee - AN ACT REQUIRING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ESTABLISH A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRIAGE SYSTEM FOR PARTICIPATING DETENTION CENTERS; PROVIDING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR PARTICIPATING DETENTION CENTERS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO ADOPT RULES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 583](#) – Chapter Number Assigned - AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA SUICIDE REVIEW TEAM; ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS; ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR OBTAINING AND REVIEWING INFORMATION RELATED TO SUICIDES; PROVIDING CONFIDENTIALITY; PROVIDING PENALTIES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 50-16-522, 50-16-525, 50-16-804, 50-16-805, AND 53-21-1102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

Prepared by Hope Stockwell, Research Analyst