

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. The high rate of suicide has prompted a variety of legislation and other action at the state level. As long ago as 2007, the Legislature took steps to address concerns over the suicide rate when it created – in law – the position of suicide prevention officer and required the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to develop a plan every 2 years to reduce the number of suicides in Montana. Subsequent action has ranged from establishing a temporary Montana Suicide Mortality Review Team to funding prevention efforts and monitoring, during the interim, suicide prevention activities and best practices.

Legislative Services Division Materials

- [School-Based Depression Screening](#), January 2022

Legislative Fiscal Division Materials

- [Suicide Prevention Work Group: 2021-2022 Interim](#)
(Click on the "Meeting Materials" tab and scroll to see work group materials from June 1, June 30, and July 27, 2022)

Other Materials:

- Department of Public Health and Human Services Materials
 - PowerPoint: [Suicide Prevention Resources for Youth/Suicide Prevention Grant Allocation](#), Nov. 15, 2022
 - [The Suicide Prevention Program -- Youth Focused Programs](#), Nov. 15, 2021
 - [Suicide in Montana: Facts, Figures, and Formulas for Prevention](#), March 2022
 - [Montana Suicide Mortality Review Team](#)
 - [2016 Suicide Mortality Review Team Report](#)

Introduced Legislation

Please note: A status of "Chapter Number Assigned" means the bill was passed by the Legislature, approved by the governor, and became law.

2021

[House Bill No. 70](#) (Chapter Number Assigned) -- AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM; MODERNIZING THE PROGRAM TO BUILD ON EXISTING PROGRAMS AND REFLECT NATIONAL RESEARCH AND CURRENT BEST PRACTICES; REVISING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUICIDE REDUCTION PLAN; AMENDING SECTIONS 53-21-1101 AND 53-21-1102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 315](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE DESIGNATION ACT OF 2020; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CRISIS CENTERS; REQUIRING TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PREPAID WIRELESS SELLERS TO COLLECT A 9-8-8 FEE; PROVIDING DEADLINES AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 17-7-502, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

[House Bill No. 549](#) (Chapter Number Assigned) -- AN ACT REVISING BIENNIAL SUICIDE REDUCTION PLANS TO INCLUDE INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS, RESERVE MEMBERS, AND GUARD MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND VETERANS; AMENDING SECTION 53-21-1102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE

[House Bill No. 623](#) (Tabled in House Appropriations Committee) -- AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANTS; ESTABLISHING USES FOR GRANT FUNDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2019

[House Bill No. 187](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION; ESTABLISHING EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANTS; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AMENDING SECTION 53-21-1101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 398](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- AN ACT REQUESTING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO INCLUDE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING IN THE BOARD'S REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-4-102, MCA

[House Bill No. 453](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- AN ACT REVISING THE STATE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM; REVISING REQUIREMENTS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANTS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 52-2-302 AND 52-2-304, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 582](#) (Failed on Second Reading in House) -- AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUICIDE PREVENTION OFFICER TO PROVIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION MATERIALS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO DISTRIBUTE SUICIDE

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PREVENTION MATERIALS IN HUNTER SAFETY AND EDUCATION COURSES; AND AMENDING SECTION 53-21-1101, MCA.

[House Bill No. 696](#) (Chapter Number Assigned) -- AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS; ESTABLISHING PURPOSES FOR USE OF THE MONEY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2017

[House Bill No. 23](#) (Tabled in House Appropriations 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](#) (Tabled in Senate 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 AND HUMAN SERVICES IN IMPLEMENTING THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

[House Bill No. 117](#) (Tabled in House Appropriations 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](#) (Tabled in House 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](#) (Bill Withdrawn at Sponsor's Request) -- 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](#) (Tabled in House 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

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OF 2017 TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS AND DISABILITIES.

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](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- 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](#) (Failed on Second Reading in House) -- 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](#) (Tabled in Senate Committee) -- 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](#) (Tabled in House 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.

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