

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

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BILL: SB 2564

INTRODUCER: Senators Fasano and Lynn

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention Education/School Boards

DATE: April 4, 2008

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>de-Marsh-Mathues</u>	<u>Matthews</u>	<u>ED</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Ray</u>	<u>Jameson</u>	<u>CF</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
3.	_____	_____	<u>EA</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

The bill creates the “Protect Florida’s Youth Act” to require each district school board to provide access to suicide prevention education for all instructional and administrative staff, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. School districts must use resources approved by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention. To meet this requirement, district staff may review education materials relating to youth suicide prevention, bullying prevention, or mental health.

This bill amends s. 1006.07, F.S.

**II. Present Situation:**

In 2006, suicide was the third leading cause of death for Florida’s youth ages 15-24.<sup>1</sup> One of the state’s long-term goals is to decrease the incidence of teen suicide in Florida by one third, from approximately 9.5 per 100,000 in 2001 to approximately 6.3 per 100,000 by the end of 2010.<sup>2</sup>

Florida’s strategy for teen suicide prevention recognizes that schools, in partnership with families and communities, are in a unique position to identify youth at risk of suicide. At school, students have the greatest exposure to potential responders such as teachers, counselors, coaches, staff, and classmates who have the opportunity to help.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report: 2006, Florida Department of Health, October, 2007, p. 128, See <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2006/vscomp.pdf> (last visited April 2, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2005-2010, Office of Drug Control, Executive Office of the Governor, January 2005, see <http://www.flgov.com/pdfs/SP-FlaSuicidePreventionStrategy.pdf> (last visited April 3, 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Id.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill creates the “Protect Florida’s Youth Act” to require each district school board to provide access to suicide prevention education for all instructional and administrative staff, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. School districts must use resources approved by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention. To meet this requirement, district staff may review education materials relating to youth suicide prevention, bullying prevention, or mental health.

The bill provides for a July 1, 2008, effective date.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention is located within the Governor’s Office of Drug Control.<sup>4</sup> According to the Department of Education, the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention indicates that the bill has no fiscal impact in that the education and training can be provided at no cost by numerous state and national suicide prevention organizations.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

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<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.flgov.com/suicide\\_prevention](http://www.flgov.com/suicide_prevention) (last visited April 2, 2008).

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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