

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.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

BILL: SB 2564

INTRODUCER: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention Education/School Boards

DATE: March 28, 2008

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	deMarsh-Mathues	Matthews	ED	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	CF	_____
3.	_____	_____	EA	_____
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 section 1006.07 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

For 2006, suicide was the third leading cause of death for Florida’s youth ages 15-24.¹ 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).²

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.³

¹ Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report: 2006, Florida Department of Health, October, 2007, p. 128, See <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2006/vscomp.pdf>

² Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2005-2010, Office of Drug Control, Executive Office of the Governor, January 2005.

³ 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.

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.⁴ 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.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

⁴ See http://www.flgov.com/suicide_prevention

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.

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