

MAR 1 2005
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 474
BY LENSING

(COMPANION TO LSB 2985SS
BY RAGAN)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of an office of suicide
2 prevention within the Iowa department of public health, and
3 making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

HF 474

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.20 OFFICE OF SUICIDE
2 PREVENTION.

3 1. The department shall establish and administer an office
4 of suicide prevention. The office shall be headed by an
5 administrator to be appointed by the director.

6 2. The objective of the office shall be to develop and
7 implement programs designed to accomplish the following:

8 a. Provide general information, regarding suicide
9 incidence rates, suicide counseling resources, suicide
10 prevention strategies, and identification of at-risk
11 individuals or groups, for dissemination to state and local
12 hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, resource centers, adult and
13 youth emergency shelters, and other appropriate distribution
14 points as determined by the administrator.

15 b. Develop specific suicide prevention presentations and
16 community outreach programs adapted for targeted populations
17 including elementary and secondary education students, the
18 elderly, and chronically or terminally ill or disabled
19 individuals.

20 c. Evaluate existing programs at the state and local level
21 devoted to suicide prevention, and formulate recommendations
22 regarding effective methods of reaching at-risk individuals or
23 groups, emergency response telephone efficiency, and media and
24 advertising strategies.

25 3. The administrator of the office shall submit a progress
26 report to the director and the general assembly by January 15,
27 annually, detailing up-to-date suicide statistics, groups
28 identified as most at risk, and suicide prevention program
29 implementation efforts and success rates.

30 Sec. 2. OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION -- APPROPRIATION.

31 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to
32 the Iowa department of public health for the fiscal year
33 beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, the
34 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
35 used for the purposes designated:

1 \$ 250,000

2 The amount appropriated pursuant to this section shall be
3 utilized to establish and staff the office of suicide
4 prevention within the department, pursuant to section 135.20.
5 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this
6 section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close
7 of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available
8 for expenditure for the purposes designated until the close of
9 the succeeding fiscal year.

10 EXPLANATION

11 This bill provides for the establishment of an office of
12 suicide prevention within the Iowa department of public health
13 to be headed by an administrator appointed by the director of
14 public health.

15 The bill provides that the objective of the office shall be
16 to develop and implement programs designed to accomplish
17 several goals. They include providing general information
18 regarding suicide incidence rates, suicide counseling
19 resources, suicide prevention strategies, and identification
20 of at-risk individuals or groups for dissemination; developing
21 specific suicide prevention presentations and community
22 outreach programs adapted for targeted populations including
23 elementary and secondary education students, the elderly, and
24 chronically or terminally ill or disabled individuals; and
25 evaluating existing programs at the state and local level
26 devoted to suicide prevention, and formulate recommendations
27 regarding effective methods of reaching at-risk individuals
28 or groups, emergency response telephone efficiency, and media
29 and advertising strategies.

30 The bill provides that the administrator shall submit a
31 progress report to the director and the general assembly by
32 January 15, annually, and makes an appropriation for FY 2005-
33 2006 of \$250,000 for the purpose of establishing and staffing
34 the office.

35