

**Senate File 2253 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2253

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a mental health firearm safety fund.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 225C.70 Mental health firearm  
2 safety fund.

3 1. A mental health firearm safety fund is created in the  
4 state treasury under the control of the department and shall  
5 consist of any moneys appropriated by the general assembly  
6 and any other moneys available to and obtained or accepted by  
7 the department for placement in the fund. Moneys in the fund  
8 shall be used to award grants to organizations or coalitions of  
9 organizations for any of the following purposes:

10 a. To train staff at a firearms retailer or a firearm range  
11 on how to recognize signs that a person may be considering  
12 suicide.

13 b. To provide suicide prevention materials for distribution  
14 at a firearms retailer or a firearm range.

15 c. To provide voluntary, temporary firearm storage for  
16 the lawful owner of a firearm who is or may be experiencing a  
17 mental health emergency.

18 2. A grant awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed  
19 five thousand dollars per recipient organization per fiscal  
20 year.

21 3. In awarding grants pursuant to subsection 1, the  
22 department shall give preference to organizations or coalitions  
23 of organizations that have not previously received a grant  
24 under this section.

25 4. For purposes of this section, "organization" means any  
26 of the following:

27 a. A county.

28 b. A city.

29 c. An Indian tribe as that term is defined in 25 U.S.C.  
30 §5304, including any subdivision, subsidiary, or business  
31 enterprise wholly owned by such an Indian tribe.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 This bill establishes a mental health firearm safety fund

1 (fund) under the control of the department of health and human  
2 services (HHS) to be funded with moneys appropriated by the  
3 general assembly and any other moneys available to and obtained  
4 or accepted by HHS for placement in the fund.

5 The bill allows HHS to use moneys in the fund to award  
6 grants to organizations for the purposes of training staff at a  
7 firearms retailer or a firearm range on how to recognize signs  
8 that a person may be considering suicide; providing suicide  
9 prevention materials for distribution at a firearms retailer  
10 or a firearm range; or providing voluntary, temporary firearm  
11 storage for the lawful owner of a firearm who is or may be  
12 experiencing a mental health emergency.

13 The bill limits annual awards from the fund to \$5,000 per  
14 recipient organization per fiscal year.

15 The bill requires HHS, when awarding grants from the fund, to  
16 give preference to organizations or coalitions of organizations  
17 that have not previously received a grant from the fund.

18 The bill defines "organization" as a county; a city; or  
19 an Indian tribe as defined in 25 U.S.C. §5304, including any  
20 subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned  
21 by such an Indian tribe.