

ENROLLED BILL*-- Ways and Means/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs --*

Introduced by **Delegates Hixson, Heller, Aumann, Barkley, Bartlett, Boschert, Bozman, Cardin, Conroy, Cryor, C. Davis, Dumais, Elmore, Feldman, Gilleland, Goodwin, Healey, Howard, James, Kaiser, King, Marriott, McKee, Montgomery, Murray, Myers, Patterson, Petzold, Ramirez, Ross, and Taylor**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader._____
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
 ____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Youth Suicide Prevention School Program - Mental Health**
 3 **Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program to
 5 include certain mental health programs; requiring the Youth Suicide Prevention
 6 School Program to develop and implement certain mental health programs;
 7 authorizing the State Department of Education to assist in implementing
 8 certain programs; requiring the State Department of Education to seek certain
 9 federal funds for Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs; and generally
 10 relating to the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program and mental health
 11 programs.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

1 Article - Education
2 Section 7-504 and 7-505
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

5 Preamble

6 WHEREAS, More children and young adults die from suicide each year than
7 from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, and chronic lung disease
8 combined; and

9 WHEREAS, More people die from suicide than murder and more than 4,000
10 young people take their lives each year, making suicide the third leading cause of
11 death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 24 years; and

12 WHEREAS, More than 800,000 teens in the United States suffer from
13 depression each year and more than 500,000 make a suicide attempt requiring
14 medical attention; and

15 ~~WHEREAS, Many suicides are preventable through programs such as the~~
16 ~~Columbia University TeenScreen program, peer to peer support programs such as~~
17 ~~Active Minds, Inc. and high school psychology clubs; and~~

18 ~~WHEREAS, The ultimate goal of TeenScreen is to make mental health~~
19 ~~screening as accepted and routinely implemented as school-based screenings for~~
20 ~~vision and hearing and pediatrician screenings for tuberculosis and scoliosis; and~~

21 ~~WHEREAS, The Columbia University TeenScreen program provides, at no~~
22 ~~charge, education, staff training, screening tools, technical support, and consultation~~
23 ~~in the development and implementation of a screening program; and~~

24 ~~WHEREAS, President Bush established the New Freedom Commission on~~
25 ~~Mental Health to evaluate and address problems in the mental health service~~
26 ~~delivery system in the United States. On July 22, 2003, the Commission found that~~
27 ~~public schools are in a key position to identify mental health problems early and to~~
28 ~~provide a link to appropriate services. The Commission further determined that early~~
29 ~~detection, assessment, and links to treatment are key to preventing many mental~~
30 ~~health problems from worsening; and~~

31 ~~WHEREAS, Active Minds, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity~~
32 ~~headquartered in Washington, D.C., offers mental health awareness, education, and~~
33 ~~advocacy programs run by students; and~~

34 ~~WHEREAS, The mission of Active Minds, Inc. is to utilize peer outreach to~~
35 ~~increase students' awareness of mental health issues, provide information and~~
36 ~~resources regarding mental health and mental illness, encourage students to seek~~
37 ~~help as soon as it is needed, and serve as a liaison between students and the mental~~
38 ~~health community; and~~

1 WHEREAS, Under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, the United States
2 Congress authorized \$82 million to states, Indian tribes, and colleges and universities
3 for the development of youth suicide prevention programs; now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

6 **Article - Education**

7 7-504.

8 (a) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations that set eligibility guidelines
9 for State funding of Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs under this subtitle.

10 (2) The regulations shall:

11 (i) Establish procedures for developing local programs, in
12 cooperation with local education agencies, youth service bureaus, and community
13 mental health centers; and

14 (ii) Establish standards and policies for programs to offer:

15 1. Individual, family, and group counseling related to youth
16 suicide prevention;

17 2. Referral, crisis intervention, and information for students,
18 parents, and school personnel; and

19 3. Training for school personnel, and others responsible for
20 counseling or supervising student activities.

21 (b) A Youth Suicide Prevention School Program established under this subtitle
22 shall plan, fund, and implement educational programs, which may include any of the
23 following:

24 (1) Classroom instruction designed to achieve any of the following
25 objectives:

26 (i) Encourage sound decision making and promote ethical
27 development;

28 (ii) Increase pupils' awareness of the relationship between drug and
29 alcohol use and youth suicide;

30 (iii) Teach pupils to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies, and other
31 facts about youth suicide;

32 (iv) Inform pupils of available community youth suicide prevention
33 services;

1 (v) Enhance school climate and relationships between teachers,
2 counselors, and pupils; and

3 (vi) Further cooperative efforts of school personnel and community
4 youth suicide prevention program personnel;

5 (2) School or community based alternative programs outside of the
6 classroom, including:

7 (i) Positive peer group programs;

8 (ii) A 24-hour "hotline" telephone service, staffed by trained
9 professional counselors;

10 (iii) Programs to collect data on youth suicide attempts;

11 (iv) Intervention and follow-up; [and]

12 (V) ~~MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS SUCH AS TEENSCREEN AND~~
13 ~~ACTIVE MINDS, INC. TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE~~
14 ~~PUPILS TO SEEK HELP AS SOON AS IT IS NEEDED; AND~~

15 [(v)] (VI) Parent education and training programs; and

16 (3) Teacher training programs.

17 (c) Any Program established under this subtitle shall:

18 (1) Assist in increasing the awareness, among school personnel and
19 community leaders, of the incidence of teenage suicide;

20 (2) Train school personnel in individual and schoolwide strategies for
21 teenage suicide prevention;

22 (3) Develop and implement school-based teenage suicide prevention
23 programs and pilot projects; [and]

24 (4) ~~DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SCHOOL-BASED PILOT MENTAL HEALTH~~
25 ~~PROGRAMS SUCH AS TEENSCREEN AND PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT TO ADDRESS THE~~
26 ~~NEEDS OF STUDENTS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS; AND~~

27 (5) Through cooperative efforts, utilize community resources in the
28 development and implementation of teenage suicide prevention programs under this
29 subtitle.

30 (D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN
31 ~~IMPLEMENTING PILOT TEENSCREEN AND PILOT PEER-TO-PEER MENTAL HEALTH~~
32 ~~AWARENESS PROGRAMS.~~

1 7-505.

2 (a) The Department shall:

3 (1) As to each program receiving State funding:

4 (i) Monitor its operations; and

5 (ii) Evaluate annually its effectiveness.

6 (2) Review and either approve or disapprove the application for State
7 funding of a proposal program.

8 (b) (1) The funding of an eligible program shall be a shared responsibility of
9 this State and local education agencies.

10 (2) Each eligible program shall submit to the Department a proposed
11 annual budget for review and approval, at the times that the Department specifies.

12 (3) The proposed budget of the Department shall list the eligible
13 programs and estimate the amount of State funds to be allocated to each.

14 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEEK FEDERAL FUNDS FOR YOUTH
15 SUICIDE PREVENTION SCHOOL PROGRAMS UNDER THE GARRET LEE SMITH
16 MEMORIAL ACT.

17 (c) The State funds designated for Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs
18 may be included in the budgets of:

19 (1) The Department; and

20 (2) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2005.