

CHAPTER 195**(SJR 148)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION establishing a suicide prevention advisory committee.

WHEREAS, suicide claims the lives of approximately 500 Kentuckians each year and, according to Healthy Kentuckians 2010, there are twice as many suicides as homicides among Kentuckians each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Kentucky's rate of suicide of 12.2 deaths per 100,000 residents is higher than the national average of 10.7 deaths per 100,000 residents, and it is the second leading cause of death for citizens ages 15 to 34, and the fourth leading cause of death for citizens ages 35 to 54; and

WHEREAS, suicide has profound emotional effects on a wide network of family members, friends, colleagues and associates; and

WHEREAS, the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has challenged the nation to advance strategies for suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Illness, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Disorders, and Dual Diagnoses that was established by the 2000 General Assembly is preparing a comprehensive state plan to improve access to mental health services to Kentucky citizens; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated group of mental health professionals, public health officials, educators, family members, and survivors of suicide have been meeting for approximately 2 years to advance state and local suicide prevention strategies;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Illness, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Disorders, and Dual Diagnoses shall establish a suicide prevention workgroup to develop recommendations and strategies to reduce suicide rates consistent with the goals of Healthy Kentuckians 2010. The workgroup shall be appointed by the co-chairs of the commission and shall include a representative of the Cabinet for Health Services' existing suicide prevention program, and may include representatives from state and regional mental health agencies, educational and correctional agencies, survivors of suicide and support group providers, crisis responders, emergency medical technicians and first responders, commission members, and others. The chairperson of the suicide prevention workgroup shall be a current member of the commission appointed by the co-chairs of the commission.

Section 2. The suicide prevention workgroup shall develop recommendations and strategies to coordinate suicide prevention and awareness efforts in the public and private sectors and to promote consistency of public health practices.

Section 3. The suicide prevention workgroup shall report to the Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Illness, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Disorders, and Dual Diagnoses by July 1, 2005, and the commission shall include recommendations relating to suicide prevention in its 2005 annual report to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission.

Approved April 22, 2004