## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2017

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## HOUSE BILL 285 Committee Substitute Favorable 3/22/17 Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 4/20/17 Fourth Edition Engrossed 4/24/17

Short Title: Suicide Prevention/Awareness School Personnel.

(Public)

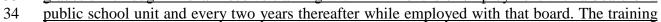
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Sponsors:

Referred to:

## March 9, 2017

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A TRAINING PROGRAM ON YOUTH SUICIDE
3	AWARENESS AND PREVENTION AND RISK REFERRAL PROTOCOL FOR
4	SCHOOL PERSONNEL.
5	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6	<b>SECTION 1.</b> G.S. 115C-5 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
7	"(11) The term "public school unit" means a local school administrative unit,
8	charter school, or regional school."
9	SECTION 2. Article 25A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
10	adding a new section to read:
11	" <u>§ 115C-375.10. Youth suicide awareness and prevention training and risk referral</u>
12	protocol for school personnel.
13	(a) State Board Training Program and Protocol. – The State Board of Education, in
14	consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health,
15	shall develop a youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and a model risk
16	referral protocol for public school units to provide to school personnel who work directly with
17	students in grades six through 12, including teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria
18	workers, janitorial staff, media coordinators, athletic coaches, administrators, administrative
19	assistants, school safety resource officers, school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and
20	counselors. The training program shall consist of at least two hours of evidence-informed
21	instruction to increase awareness of suicide, identification of risk factors and signs, and
22	information for student referral for suicide prevention resources and support. The model risk
23	referral protocol shall provide guidelines to public school unit on identification of at-risk
24	students, suicide prevention procedures, and referral sources. The training program and model
25	risk referral protocol shall be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary. Any mental
26	health training requirements established by the State Board of Education shall be fulfilled in
27	part by the youth suicide awareness and prevention training program.
28	(b) Training and Protocol Requirements. – Each public school unit shall provide the
29	training program and model risk referral protocol developed by the State Board of Education
30	under subsection (a) of this section, or a locally developed plan that meets the requirements of
31	subsection (c) of this section, to school personnel who work directly with students in grades six
32	through 12 at no cost to the employee. A school employee who works directly with students in
33	grades six through 12 shall receive training within 12 months of employment with a board of a





## **General Assembly Of North Carolina** Session 2017 1 may be offered in various formats, including electronically, through videoconferencing, or 2 through an individual program of study of designated materials consisting of at least two hours 3 of instruction. 4 Locally Developed Training and Risk Referral Protocols. – A board of a public (c) 5 school unit may comply with the training and protocol requirements of this section by 6 developing a local plan that includes, at a minimum, (i) conveying information on State and 7 national data on suicide deaths and attempts, suicide methods, and at-risk populations, (ii) 8 myths and attitudes about suicide, (iii) warning signs and symptoms for suicide, (iv) 9 identification of at-risk students and steps for referring students to support services, (v) 10 protective factors for prevention of suicide, and (vi) safe messaging to children. In addition, a 11 local plan shall include protocols for implementation and mandatory training that include at 12 least the following: 13 A plan to include specialized training for student support personnel, (1)14 including administrators, school nurses, counselors, social workers, and 15 psychologists. 16 A safety plan for the school in the event of (i) identification of a student as <u>(2)</u> 17 being at-risk of suicide, including a student help plan and immediate 18 assistance, and (ii) a suicide death or suicide attempt by a student enrolled in 19 the school, including a care plan for peers and school personnel. 20 (3) Designation of a school employee as the school suicide prevention 21 responder. 22 <u>(4)</u> A plan for communication with a parent or legal guardian of a student 23 identified as at-risk, including safe transfer of the student to the parent or 24 legal guardian. 25 A plan for post-intervention for a student who has been identified as at-risk (5) 26 or has attempted suicide, including reentry into the classroom. 27 Audits. – The Department of Public Instruction shall periodically randomly audit (d) 28 public school units to ensure compliance with the mandatory training requirements and 29 prevention activities required by this section. The Department may also audit a public school 30 unit if the Department has reason to believe the public school unit is not in compliance. The 31 Department of Public Instruction shall report on the results of the audits by December 15 32 annually to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the 33 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. 34 Limitations. - Notwithstanding the requirements in subsection (a) of this section, (e) 35 nothing in this section shall be construed to impose any obligation or responsibility on public 36 school units to provide referral, treatment, follow-up, or other services related to identification 37 of students at-risk of suicide and suicide prevention procedures beyond what may be required 38 by other State law or federal law. 39 Liability. - No board of a public school unit, nor its members, employees, (f) 40 designees, agents, or volunteers, shall be liable in civil damages to any party for any loss or 41 damage caused by any act or omission relating to the provision of, participation in, or 42 implementation of any component of the plan, referral protocol, or training program required 43 by this section, unless that act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or 44 intentional wrongdoing. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose any specific duty 45 of care or standard of care." SECTION 3. G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read: 46 47 Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training and Risk Referral Protocol. - A "(g) 48 charter school is subject to and shall comply with all requirements of G.S. 115C-375.10." 49 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

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1	"(14) Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training and Risk Referral
2	Protocol. – A regional school is subject to and shall comply with all
3	requirements of G.S. 115C-375.10."
4	<b>SECTION 5.</b> G.S. 116-239.8 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
5	"(17) Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training and Risk Referral
6	Protocol. – A lab school is subject to and shall comply with all requirements
7	of G.S. 115C-375.10. For purposes of G.S. 115C-375.10, a lab school shall
8	be a public school unit."
9	<b>SECTION 6.</b> This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
10	the 2018-2019 school year.