

SCS SB 328 -- YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Schupp (Lauer)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 10 to 7. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, any licensed educator may annually complete up to two hours of training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention as part of the professional development hours required for State Board of Education certification.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must develop guidelines for training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department must also develop materials that may be used for the training or professional development.

Each district must adopt a policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention by July 1, 2017. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must develop a model policy by July 1, 2016, that districts may adopt. The department must cooperate, consult with, and seek input from organizations that have expertise in youth suicide awareness and prevention. By July 1, 2020, and at least every three years thereafter, the department must request information and seek feedback from districts on their experience with the policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department must review this information and may use it to adapt the department's model policy. The department must post the information it receives from districts on its website that it deems relevant. The department must not post any confidential information or any information that personally identifies a student or school employee.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that by training teachers to identify and react appropriately in situations of potential suicide, this bill could save lives.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schupp; David Hoffman; Bart Andrews; Missouri Coalition of Community Mental Health Centers; Missouri School Boards Association; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; School Administrators' Coalition; and AFT St. Louis Local 420.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.