

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2020 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

### **Senate Bill 230**

SENATORS WELD, CLINE, BALDWIN, LINDSAY, ROBERTS,  
STOLLINGS, JEFFRIES, AND MARONEY, *original sponsors*

[Originating in the Committee on Children and  
Families; reported on January 27, 2020]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-40 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to suicide prevention awareness training and dissemination of information; providing  
3 findings; requiring State Board of Education to provide routine education in suicide  
4 prevention under guidelines established by board; and requiring dissemination of  
5 information.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**§18-2-40. Suicide prevention awareness training; dissemination of information.**

1 ~~(a) This section, section seven, article one b, chapter eighteen b of this code and section~~  
2 ~~one, article six, chapter twenty seven of this code shall be known as “Jamie’s Law”.~~

3 ~~(b) On or before September 1, 2015 and each year thereafter, a public middle and high~~  
4 ~~school administrator shall disseminate and provide opportunities to discuss suicide prevention~~  
5 ~~awareness information to all middle and high school students. The information may be obtained~~  
6 ~~from the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities or from a commercially developed~~  
7 ~~suicide prevention training program approved by the State Board of Education in consultation with~~  
8 ~~the bureau to assure the accuracy and appropriateness of the information~~

9 (a)(1) Legislative Findings. — The Legislature recognizes that the state of West Virginia  
10 has one of the highest rates of suicide in the nation, and that suicide serves as one of the leading  
11 causes of death in our state.

12 (2) The Legislature further finds that nationwide, suicide rates amongst adolescents and  
13 young adults are on the rise. As a result of disrupted families, poverty, and the opioid crises which  
14 have severely affected a significant number of families across this state, West Virginia’s students  
15 face a number of issues which may increase their risk of suicide.

16 (3) Consequently, the Legislature finds that it is imperative that those in our education  
17 system closest to our students receive training to increase their ability to better recognize students  
18 who may be exhibiting signs that they are at risk of suicide.

19           (b) On or before September 1, 2020, and each year thereafter, the State Board of  
20 Education shall provide for the routine education of all professional educators, including principals  
21 and administrators, and those service personnel having direct contact with students on warning  
22 signs and resources to assist in suicide prevention under guidelines established by the state  
23 board. The education may be accomplished through self-review of suicide prevention materials  
24 and resources approved by the state board.

25           (c) On or before September 1, 2020, and each year thereafter, a public middle and high  
26 school administrator shall disseminate and provide opportunities to discuss suicide prevention  
27 awareness information to all middle and high school students. The information may be obtained  
28 from the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities or from a commercially developed  
29 suicide prevention training program approved by the State Board of Education in consultation with  
30 the bureau to assure the accuracy and appropriateness of the information.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the State Board of Education to provide for the routine education of all professional educators, including principals and administrators, and those service personnel having direct contact with students on warning signs and resources to assist in suicide prevention under guidelines established by the state board. This section has been completely rewritten.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added. This section has been completely rewritten.