
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1648

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Orwall, Klippert, Kilduff, Goodman, Lovick, Ryu, Appleton, Doglio, Ortiz-Self, Jenkins, Davis, Stanford, Reeves, Macri, Leavitt, and Frame)

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for suicide awareness and prevention
2 programs to create safer homes and reduce suicide among service
3 members, veterans, and their families; amending RCW 28B.20.746,
4 43.70.445, 9.41.310, 43.70.446, and 43.70.447; adding a new section
5 to chapter 43.60A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 9.41 RCW;
6 adding a new section to chapter 18.64 RCW; adding a new section to
7 chapter 43.70 RCW; creating a new section; and recodifying RCW
8 28B.20.746.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state of
11 Washington lost one thousand two hundred ninety-seven lives to
12 suicide in 2017, including two hundred fifty-five veterans and
13 seventy-seven individuals working in the construction industry. The
14 legislature finds that Washington's suicide rate is eleven percent
15 higher than the national average and that men in the middle years
16 (ages thirty-five to sixty-four) account for four out of ten suicide
17 deaths in Washington, creating significant trauma for children,
18 communities, and workplaces affected. The legislature finds that
19 veterans and their family members are disproportionately impacted by
20 suicide and that many veterans reenter the workforce in industries
21 and professions with this highest suicide risk such as, construction,

1 law enforcement, corrections, and emergency medical services. The
2 legislature finds that means safety, defined as reducing access
3 during times of crisis and/or increased safe storage of means
4 commonly used in suicide, is a promising population-level strategy
5 for reducing suicide. Therefore, the legislature seeks to implement
6 best practices for workplace mental health promotion and suicide
7 prevention and to provide resources to develop and implement a
8 statewide plan to reduce suicide among service members, veterans, and
9 their families.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 The department shall develop and implement a statewide plan to
13 reduce suicide among service members, veterans, and their families.
14 In developing and implementing the plan, the department shall:

15 (1) Collaborate with government and nongovernment agencies and
16 organizations to establish promising best practices for suicide
17 awareness and prevention materials, training, and outreach programs
18 targeted to service members, veterans, and their families;

19 (2) Cultivate peer-led organizations serving veterans in
20 transition and recovery;

21 (3) Create and deliver statewide suicide awareness and prevention
22 training programs with content specific to service members, veterans,
23 and their families; and

24 (4) Provide safer homes materials and trainings, and distribute
25 safe firearms storage devices, to the Washington national guard, the
26 Washington state patrol, allied veteran groups, and other
27 organizations serving or employing veterans, following the
28 recommendations of the safer homes, suicide aware task force.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 The safer homes, suicide aware task force shall distribute to all
32 firearms dealers in the state suicide awareness and prevention
33 materials tailored to firearms owners that are developed by the safer
34 homes, suicide aware task force under RCW 43.70.445. Firearms dealers
35 are strongly encouraged to post on the premises and make available to
36 firearms purchasers and transferees the suicide awareness and
37 prevention materials.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.64
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The commission shall distribute or make available through
4 electronic means to all licensed pharmacies suicide awareness and
5 prevention materials developed by the safer homes, suicide aware task
6 force under RCW 43.70.445. Each licensed pharmacy shall, when deemed
7 appropriate through patient evaluation, make available to patients at
8 the point of care the suicide awareness and prevention materials
9 distributed by the commission.

10 (2) The commission shall survey each pharmacist licensed under
11 this chapter on methods to bridge the gap between practice and
12 suicide awareness and prevention training, including identifying
13 barriers that exist in putting the training into practice. The
14 commission shall consult with the safer homes, suicide aware task
15 force in developing the survey. The commission may distribute the
16 survey as part of each pharmacist's license renewal. The commission
17 shall compile and analyze the survey data and report the results to
18 the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 15, 2020.

19 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.20.746 and 2016 c 90 s 6 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The schools of pharmacy at the University of Washington and
22 Washington State University shall convene a work group to jointly
23 develop a curriculum on suicide assessment, treatment, and management
24 for pharmacy students. The curriculum must include material on
25 identifying at-risk patients and limiting access to lethal means.
26 When developing the curriculum, the schools shall consult with
27 experts on suicide assessment, treatment, and management, and with
28 the (~~safe homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware task force created in
29 RCW 43.70.445 on appropriate suicide awareness and prevention
30 messaging. The schools of pharmacy shall submit a progress report to
31 the governor and the relevant committees of the legislature by
32 December 1, 2016.

33 (2) The pharmacy quality assurance commission shall, for purposes
34 of RCW 43.70.442(4)(a), consider a pharmacist who has successfully
35 completed the curriculum developed under subsection (1) of this
36 section prior to licensure as possessing the minimum training and
37 experience necessary to be exempt from the training requirements in
38 RCW 43.70.442.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.70.445 and 2017 c 262 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
4 this specific purpose, a (~~(suicide-safer homes)~~) safer homes, suicide
5 aware task force is established to raise public awareness and
6 increase suicide prevention education among new partners who are in
7 key positions to help reduce suicide. The task force shall be
8 administered and staffed by the University of Washington school of
9 social work. To the extent possible, the task force membership should
10 include representatives from geographically diverse and priority
11 populations, including tribal populations.

12 (b) The (~~(suicide-safer homes)~~) safer homes, suicide aware task
13 force comprises a suicide prevention and firearms subcommittee and a
14 suicide prevention and health care subcommittee, as follows:

15 (i) The suicide prevention and firearms subcommittee shall
16 consist of the following members and be cochaired by the University
17 of Washington school of social work and a member (~~(identified in~~
18 ~~(b)(i)(A) of this subsection (1))~~) elected by the subcommittee
19 members:

20 (A) A representative of the national rifle association and a
21 representative of the second amendment foundation;

22 (B) Two representatives of suicide prevention organizations,
23 selected by the cochaairs of the subcommittee;

24 (C) Two representatives of the firearms industry, selected by the
25 cochaairs of the subcommittee;

26 (D) Two individuals who are suicide attempt survivors or who have
27 experienced suicide loss, selected by the cochaairs of the
28 subcommittee;

29 (E) Two representatives of law enforcement agencies, selected by
30 the cochaairs of the subcommittee;

31 (F) One representative from the department of health;

32 (G) One representative from the department of veterans affairs,
33 and one other individual representing veterans to be selected by the
34 cochaairs of the subcommittee; and

35 (H) No more than two other interested parties, selected by the
36 cochaairs of the subcommittee.

37 (ii) The suicide prevention and health care subcommittee shall
38 consist of the following members and be cochaired by the University
39 of Washington school of social work and a member (~~(identified in~~

1 ~~(b)(ii)(A) of this subsection (1))~~ elected by the subcommittee
2 members:

3 (A) Two representatives of the Washington state pharmacy
4 association;

5 (B) Two representatives of retailers who operate pharmacies,
6 selected by the cochairs of the subcommittee;

7 (C) One faculty member from the University of Washington school
8 of pharmacy and one faculty member from the Washington State
9 University school of pharmacy;

10 (D) One representative of the department of health;

11 (E) One representative of the pharmacy quality assurance
12 commission;

13 (F) ~~((Two))~~ One representative~~((s))~~ of the Washington state
14 poison control center;

15 (G) One representative of the department of veterans affairs, and
16 one other individual representing veterans to be selected by the
17 cochairs of the subcommittee;

18 (H) Three members representing health care ~~((professionals~~
19 ~~providing suicide prevention training in the state))~~ systems,
20 selected by the cochairs of the subcommittee; and

21 (I) No more than two other interested parties, selected by the
22 cochairs of the subcommittee.

23 ~~((c) The University of Washington school of social work shall~~
24 ~~convene the initial meeting of the task force.))~~

25 (2) The task force shall:

26 (a) Develop and prepare to disseminate online trainings on
27 suicide awareness and prevention for firearms dealers and their
28 employees and firearm range owners and their employees;

29 (b) In consultation with the department of fish and wildlife,
30 review the firearm safety pamphlet produced by the department of fish
31 and wildlife under RCW 9.41.310 and, by January 1, 2017, recommend
32 changes to the pamphlet to incorporate information on suicide
33 awareness and prevention;

34 (c) Develop and approve suicide awareness and prevention messages
35 for posters and brochures that are tailored to be effective for
36 firearms owners for distribution to firearms dealers and firearms
37 ranges;

38 (d) Develop suicide awareness and prevention messages for posters
39 and brochures for distribution to pharmacies;

1 (e) In consultation with the department of fish and wildlife,
2 develop strategies for creating and disseminating suicide awareness
3 and prevention information for hunting safety classes, including
4 messages to parents that can be shared during online registration, in
5 either follow-up email communications, or in writing, or both;

6 (f) Develop suicide awareness and prevention messages for
7 training for the schools of pharmacy and provide input on trainings
8 being developed for community pharmacists;

9 (g) Create a web site that will be a clearinghouse for the newly
10 created suicide awareness and prevention materials developed by the
11 task force;

12 (h) Conduct a survey of firearms dealers and firearms ranges in
13 the state to determine the types and amounts of incentives that would
14 be effective in encouraging those entities to participate in
15 (~~((suicide-safer homes))~~) safer homes, suicide aware projects;

16 (i) Gather input on collateral educational materials that will
17 help health care professionals in suicide prevention work; (~~and~~)

18 (j) Create, implement, and evaluate a suicide awareness and
19 prevention pilot program in two counties, one rural and one urban,
20 that have high suicide rates. The pilot program shall include:

21 (i) Developing and directing advocacy efforts with firearms
22 dealers to pair suicide awareness and prevention training with
23 distribution of safe storage devices;

24 (ii) Developing and directing advocacy efforts with pharmacies to
25 pair suicide awareness and prevention training with distribution of
26 medication disposal kits and safe storage devices;

27 (iii) Training health care providers on suicide awareness and
28 prevention, paired with distribution of medication disposal kits and
29 safe storage devices; and

30 (iv) Training local law enforcement officers on suicide awareness
31 and prevention, paired with distribution of medication disposal kits
32 and safe storage devices;

33 (k) Develop a plan to provide resources to industries,
34 professions, and workplaces impacted by high rates of suicide. In
35 developing and implementing the plan, the task force shall:

36 (i) Develop customized trainings and provide consultation to
37 workplaces in developing a comprehensive approach to workplace safety
38 that incorporates mental health and suicide prevention focusing first
39 on construction, unions, and the trade associations; and

1 (ii) Develop an online resource to disseminate best practices in
2 workplace mental health and suicide prevention and host a biannual
3 workplace summit;

4 (l) During the 2019-2021 biennium:

5 (i) Deliver the task force's SAFER intervention and firearms and
6 medication locking devices in partnership with nongovernment
7 organizations in twelve rural communities across Washington; and

8 (ii) Develop and distribute a tool kit for suicide prevention and
9 curriculum for firearms safety instructors for their inclusion in
10 firearms safety courses; and

11 (m) Incorporate into the suicide awareness and prevention
12 materials and training created, produced, and distributed by the task
13 force information on how a person may access information on obtaining
14 an extreme risk protection order under chapter 7.94 RCW.

15 ~~(3) ((The task force shall, in consultation with the department~~
16 ~~of health, develop and prioritize a list of projects to carry out the~~
17 ~~task force's purposes and submit the prioritized list to the~~
18 ~~department of health for funding from the suicide-safer homes project~~
19 ~~account created in RCW 43.70.446.~~

20 ~~(4))~~ Beginning December 1, 2016, the task force shall annually
21 report to the legislature on the status of its work. The task force
22 shall submit a final report by December 1, ~~((2019))~~ 2021, that
23 includes the findings of the suicide awareness and prevention pilot
24 program evaluation under subsection (2) of this section and
25 recommendations on possible continuation of the program. The task
26 force shall submit its reports in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

27 ~~((5))~~ (4) This section expires July 1, ~~((2020))~~ 2022.

28 **Sec. 7.** RCW 9.41.310 and 2016 c 90 s 4 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (1) After a public hearing, the department of fish and wildlife
31 shall publish a pamphlet on firearms safety and the legal limits of
32 the use of firearms. The pamphlet shall include current information
33 on firearms laws and regulations and state preemption of local
34 firearms laws. By July 1, 2017, the department of fish and wildlife
35 shall update the pamphlet to incorporate information on suicide
36 awareness and prevention as recommended by the ~~((safe-homes))~~ safer
37 homes, suicide aware task force established in RCW 43.70.445.

38 (2) This pamphlet may be used in the department's hunter safety
39 education program and shall be provided to the department of

1 licensing for distribution to firearms dealers and persons authorized
2 to issue concealed pistol licenses. The department of fish and
3 wildlife shall reimburse the department of licensing for costs
4 associated with distribution of the pamphlet.

5 **Sec. 8.** RCW 43.70.446 and 2017 c 262 s 3 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware
8 project is created within the department of health for the purpose of
9 accepting private funds for use by the (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer
10 homes, suicide aware task force created in RCW 43.70.445 in
11 developing and providing suicide education and prevention materials,
12 training, and outreach programs to help create suicide-safer homes.
13 The secretary may accept gifts, grants, donations, or moneys from any
14 source for deposit in the (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer homes,
15 suicide aware project account created in subsection (2) of this
16 section.

17 (2) The (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware
18 project account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The
19 account shall consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for
20 the (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware project
21 account and all receipts from gifts, grants, bequests, devises, or
22 other funds from public and private sources to support the activities
23 of the (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware project.
24 Only the secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's
25 designee, may authorize expenditures from the account to fund
26 projects identified and prioritized by the (~~suicide-safer-homes~~)
27 safer homes, suicide aware task force. Funds deposited in the
28 (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware project account
29 may be used for the development and production of suicide prevention
30 materials and training programs, for providing financial incentives
31 to encourage firearms dealers and others to participate in suicide
32 prevention training, and to implement pilot programs involving
33 community outreach on creating suicide-safer homes.

34 (3) The (~~suicide-safer-homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware
35 project account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter
36 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

37 **Sec. 9.** RCW 43.70.447 and 2017 c 262 s 5 are each amended to
38 read as follows:

1 (1) By July 1, 2020, the school of dentistry at the University of
2 Washington shall develop a curriculum on suicide assessment,
3 treatment, and management for dental students and licensed dentists.
4 The curriculum must meet the minimum standards established under RCW
5 43.70.442 and must include material on identifying at-risk patients
6 and limiting access to lethal means. When developing the curriculum,
7 the school of dentistry must consult with experts on suicide
8 assessment, treatment, and management and with the ((~~suicide-safer~~
9 ~~homes~~)) safer homes, suicide aware task force established in RCW
10 43.70.445. The school of dentistry shall submit a progress report to
11 the governor and the relevant committees of the legislature by July
12 1, 2019.

13 (2) The dental quality assurance commission shall, for purposes
14 of RCW 43.70.442(4)(a), consider a dentist who has successfully
15 completed the curriculum developed under subsection (1) of this
16 section prior to licensure as possessing the minimum training and
17 experience necessary to be exempt from the training requirements in
18 RCW 43.70.442.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** RCW 28B.20.746 is recodified as a section
20 in chapter 43.70 RCW.

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