

## State of Tennessee

### PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 455

#### HOUSE BILL NO. 1354

**By Representatives Cochran, Williams, Sanderson, White, Love, Moon, Staples, Faison, Marsh, Boyd, Helton, Calfee, Holsclaw, Tillis, Whitson, Hazlewood, Shaw, Coley, Smith, Stewart, Russell, Chism, Howell, Lynn, Weaver, Crawford, Littleton, Lamberth, Hodges, Hurt, Haston, Freeman, Powers, Thompson, Rudder, Terry, Gant, Byrd, Parkinson, Hall, Clemmons, Powell, Windle, Beck, Curcio, Doggett, Camper, Travis, Sparks, Keisling, Ogles**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1175**

**By Senators Dickerson, Yarbro**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to higher education.

WHEREAS, suicide is the second-leading cause of death among college and university students in the United States, and is the third-leading cause of death for Tennesseans aged eighteen to twenty-four; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network has established the Tennessee Higher Education Suicide Prevention Task Force to unite colleges and universities throughout Tennessee toward the goal of suicide prevention, with appointed members including delegates from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission as well as public and private colleges and universities throughout the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, following the 105th General Assembly's passage of the Jason Flatt Act of 2007, and the 110th General Assembly's passage of the Kenneth and Madge Tullis, MD, Suicide Prevention Training Act in 2017, to establish awareness programs specific to elementary and secondary school stakeholders and to further develop information and resources to assist in the training of mental health and substance abuse professionals across this State, the 111th General Assembly finds it further necessary to encourage the same of Tennessee's higher education community and stakeholders; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Each state institution of higher education shall develop and implement a suicide prevention plan for students, faculty, and staff. The plan must be developed in consultation with campus mental health professionals and suicide prevention experts. The plan must identify procedures related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

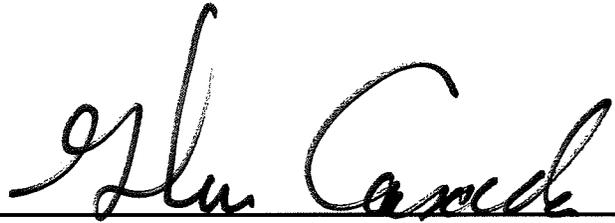
(b) Each state institution of higher education may seek assistance in developing a suicide prevention plan from an organization that engages in a variety of initiatives to improve crisis services and advance suicide prevention, such as the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network or a successor organization, and may seek information from such an organization for information on the development of training programs pursuant to § 63-1-125(c)(1).

(c) Each state institution of higher education shall provide the suicide prevention plan to students, faculty, and staff at least one (1) time each semester.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 30, 2019



GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2019



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR