



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 502 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Anielski

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: In-service training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools

The administrative workload of public districts and schools and educational service centers may increase to provide more frequent in-service training in youth suicide awareness and prevention to public school employees, including teachers, nurses, counselors, school psychologists, and administrators. The bill requires this training to occur annually. Currently, school employees must attend at least four hours of in-service training on the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse, and the promotion of positive youth development, in addition to youth suicide and prevention programs, every five years after their initial two years of employment with the district or school.

The bill maintains current law permitting (1) districts and schools to use a youth suicide awareness and prevention curriculum developed by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) or other materials approved by the district or school's governing board and (2) the youth suicide awareness and prevention training to be conducted through self-review of suitable materials, which presumably can be completed at little to no cost to schools. The curriculum developed by ODE for the current training requirement includes a module on recognizing depression and suicide ideation in students.¹ In addition, a variety of organizations, such as the Jason Foundation, provide free model youth suicide prevention programs to schools.²

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¹ ODE's Safety and Violence Prevention Training curriculum is available online at: https://saferschools.ohio.gov/content/k_12_schools_training.

² For example, see the Jason Foundation's series of Staff Development Training Modules. The modules are available online at <http://jasonfoundation.com/get-involved/educator-youth-worker-coach/professional-development-series/>.