

SENATE BILL No. 228

March 19, 2019, Introduced by Senators RUNESTAD, WOJNO, LUCIDO, IRWIN, MACDONALD, JOHNSON and HOLLIER and referred to the Committee on Health Policy and Human Services.

A bill to create a suicide prevention commission within the legislative council and to prescribe its powers and duties; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Commission" means the suicide prevention commission
3 created in section 3.

4 (b) "Council" means the legislative council established under
5 section 15 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963.

6 Sec. 3. (1) The suicide prevention commission is created
7 within the council.

8 (2) The commission consists of the following 25 members:

9 (a) Ten members appointed by the governor as follows:

10 (i) One member who is a suicide prevention researcher with a

1 doctor of philosophy degree from a university that is located in
2 this state who is selected from a list of nominees submitted by the
3 Michigan Association of State Universities.

4 (ii) An undergraduate or graduate student who is studying or
5 working in the area of suicide prevention who is selected from a
6 list of nominees submitted by the Michigan Association of State
7 Universities.

8 (iii) One member who is selected from a list submitted by the
9 Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.

10 (iv) One member who is selected from a list submitted by the
11 School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan.

12 (v) One member who represents health plans who is selected
13 from lists submitted by the Michigan Association of Health Plans
14 and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

15 (vi) One member who has knowledge or expertise in retiree or
16 vulnerable adult mental health issues who is selected from a list
17 submitted by the Fraternal Order of Police.

18 (vii) One member who is a suicide loss survivor who is
19 selected from a list submitted by the Michigan Sheriffs'
20 Association.

21 (viii) One member who has experience in suicide prevention who
22 is selected from a list submitted by the Michigan Association of
23 Chiefs of Police.

24 (ix) One member with expertise in suicide response who is
25 selected from a list submitted by the Police Officers Association
26 of Michigan.

27 (x) One member who is selected from a list submitted by the

1 Michigan Corrections Organization.

2 (b) The Michigan veterans' facility ombudsman or his or her
3 designee.

4 (c) One member who is appointed by the director of the
5 department of state police with expertise in drug addiction.

6 (d) Two members who are appointed by the speaker of the house
7 of representatives, 1 of whom represents a faith-based organization
8 and 1 of whom represents nonmanagement-level laborers.

9 (e) Two members who are appointed by the senate majority
10 leader, at least 1 of whom has expertise in suicide prevention from
11 a community mental health services program that holds a grant from
12 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

13 (f) Nine members appointed by the director of the department
14 of health and human services, including 8 appointed as follows:

15 (i) One member who is selected from a list of nominees
16 submitted by the Michigan chapter of the National Association of
17 Social Workers.

18 (ii) One member who is selected from a list of nominees
19 submitted by the Michigan Psychological Association.

20 (iii) One member who is selected from a list of nominees
21 submitted by the Michigan Psychiatric Society.

22 (iv) One member who is selected from a list of nominees
23 submitted by the Michigan Nurses Association.

24 (v) One member who is selected from a list of nominees
25 submitted by the Michigan Health and Hospital Association.

26 (vi) One member who is selected from a list of nominees
27 submitted by the Michigan Disabilities Rights Coalition.

1 (vii) One member who is selected from a list of nominees
2 submitted by the Michigan chapter of the American Foundation for
3 Suicide Prevention.

4 (viii) One member who is a suicide attempt survivor.

5 (3) The members first appointed to the commission must be
6 appointed within 90 days after the effective date of this act.

7 (4) Members of the commission shall serve for terms of 2 years
8 or until a successor is appointed, whichever is later.

9 (5) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same
10 manner as the original appointment. A member appointed to fill a
11 vacancy shall be appointed for the balance of the unexpired term.

12 (6) The chairperson of the commission may remove a member of
13 the commission for incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance,
14 misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause, on
15 a motion that is approved by a majority of the members of the
16 commission.

17 (7) The council administrator shall call the first meeting of
18 the commission. At the first meeting, the commission shall elect
19 from among its members a chairperson and other officers as it
20 considers necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the
21 commission shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the
22 call of the chairperson or if requested by 5 or more members.

23 (8) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a
24 quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the
25 commission. A majority of the members present and serving are
26 required for official action for the commission.

27 (9) The business that the commission may perform must be

1 conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance
2 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

3 (10) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or
4 retained by the commission in the performance of an official
5 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,
6 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

7 (11) Members of the commission shall serve without
8 compensation. However, members of the commission may be reimbursed
9 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance
10 of their official duties as members of the commission.

11 Sec. 5. (1) The commission shall do all of the following:

12 (a) Work with state departments and agencies and nonprofit
13 organizations on researching the causes and possible underlying
14 factors of suicide in this state. The study must focus on
15 demographics showing the highest suicide rates in this state in the
16 decade immediately preceding the effective date of this act, and
17 the highest growth in suicide rates during the time period
18 described in this subdivision.

19 (b) By January 1, 2020, prepare and present a preliminary
20 report of its research and findings to the legislature. The report
21 must include the possible causes for the increase in suicide rates
22 and recommendations for reducing risk factors among the
23 demographics described in subdivision (a) and any other information
24 the commission considers relevant.

25 (c) By June 1, 2021, and each year thereafter, prepare and
26 present to the legislature an updated version of the report
27 described in subdivision (b).

1 (d) Annually review and update any recommendations made under
2 this act and, if any of the commission's recommendations are
3 implemented, monitor the implementation of the recommendations.

4 (e) Provide recommendations for a process for continued state
5 coordination on suicide prevention data collection and a
6 coordinated state approach to the prevention of suicide to continue
7 after this act no longer applies.

8 (2) The commission shall establish subcommittees that may
9 consist of individuals who are not members of the commission,
10 including, but not limited to, experts in matters of interest to
11 the commission, including the demographics described in subsection
12 (1) (a).

13 Sec. 7. The commission may, through its chairperson, research
14 policy recommendations from relevant sources and policy initiatives
15 from other states in order to make recommendations to the governor
16 and to the chairpersons of the house and senate standing committees
17 on health policy and the judiciary on initiatives to reduce suicide
18 rates among the demographics described in section 5.

19 Sec. 9. The council shall furnish clerking services to the
20 commission.

21 Sec. 11. This act does not apply beginning December 31, 2026.

22 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the
23 date it is enacted into law.