

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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House Bill 5482 (H-1) as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Andrea K. Schroeder

1st Committee: Education

2nd Committee: Ways and Means

Complete to 6-17-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

BRIEF SUMMARY: House Bill 5482 would create a Save Our Students Act, requiring that the telephone number for a suicide prevention hotline be printed on student ID cards.

FISCAL IMPACT: House Bill 5482 would create a cost increase for the state and could create a minimal cost increase for school districts, ISDs, and PSAs. (Please see **Fiscal Information**, below, for a more detailed discussion.)

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Suicide among young people is a substantial and growing problem, with youth and young adult suicide rates increasing in both Michigan and the United States from 2007 until at least 2017.¹ In 2017, it was the second leading cause of death for youth and young adults aged 10 to 24 years in Michigan. On a national level, a 2019 brief from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a near tripling of suicide rates among 10- to 14-year-olds between 2007 and 2017—from 0.9 to 2.5 per 100,000 children that age.²

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

House Bill 5482 would create a new act, the Save Our Students Act, to require that the telephone number for a suicide prevention hotline be printed on student ID cards.

Specifically, beginning one year after the bill takes effect, the board of a school district or intermediate school district (ISD) or the board of directors of a public school academy (PSA, or charter school) would have to ensure that each of their schools providing 6th to 12th graders with a student ID card include a local, state, or national suicide prevention hotline telephone number printed on the card. The hotline would have to be one that could be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) would have to develop or adopt model information materials regarding suicide, depression, and anxiety and suicide prevention services. DHHS would have to provide the model materials to a district, ISD, or PSA upon request.

¹ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/FINAL_Suicide_Deaths_Among_Youth_in_Michigan_-_Accessible_648431_7.pdf

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db352-h.pdf>

Finally, boards and boards of directors for schools offering any of grades 6 to 12 would be encouraged to display the model materials developed by DHHS on or in any of the following:

- The school's website homepage.
- A conspicuous location in the office of the school counselor (or a specified person serving in a counseling capacity).
- A conspicuous location in the principal's or chief administrator's office.

However, districts, ISDs, PSAs, public schools, and board members and their designees would not be liable in a civil or criminal matter arising from a failure to include the hotline on student IDs. (This would not limit any other immunity or defense that such a person would have under other state law.)

FISCAL INFORMATION:

The bill has estimated fiscal implications of up to \$220,000 for DHHS to: a) develop and publish information materials on suicide prevention services, suicide, depression, and anxiety, and b) upon request, disseminate materials to school districts, ISDs, and PSAs with students in grades 6 to 12. DHHS would incur costs for staff time for the initial development/procurement of materials and the publication of materials, as well as ongoing costs for subsequent updated materials. Initially, and ongoing, DHHS would incur costs for printed materials and postage/delivery services to schools.

School districts, ISDs, and PSAs could incur a minimal cost to ensure that each of their schools that offers grades 6 to 12 and provides identification cards to students include on their identification cards a local, state, or national suicide prevention hotline telephone number. However, this cost likely would be minimal or completely offset for the following reasons: a) for schools that print their own identifications cards, the required text is minimal, so it is likely that any change could be absorbed into other yearly updates for these identification cards, and b) many schools have agreements where vendors take school photos for picture day or provide other similar services to schools, and the vendor then provides the schools with identification cards free of charge.

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Supporters proposed the bill as a way to provide young people with resources and a place to turn. Many who have unsuccessfully attempted suicide report that the attempt to take their own lives was brought about by a feeling of hopelessness and that there was nowhere else to turn. Especially for young people, whose access to resources may be limited, easy access to a hotline on their student ID, school website, and around the school could be enough to stop an irreversible action.

Against:

No one testified or voted against the bill in committee.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (6-10-20):

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Oakland Schools

Legislative Analyst: Jenny McInerney
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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.