

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2001 SESSION

CHAPTER 291

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 32.1 an article numbered 14, consisting of a section numbered 32.1-73.7, relating to youth suicide prevention.

[S 1190]

Approved March 15, 2001

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 32.1 an article numbered 14, consisting of a section numbered 32.1-73.7, as follows:

Article 14.

Youth Suicide Prevention.

§ 32.1-73.7. Department to be lead agency for youth suicide prevention.

With such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose, the Department, in consultation with the Department of Education, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Virginia Council on Coordinating Prevention, community services boards, and local departments of health, shall have the lead responsibility for the youth suicide prevention program within the Commonwealth. This responsibility includes coordination of the activities of the agencies of the Commonwealth pertaining to youth suicide prevention in order to develop a comprehensive youth suicide prevention plan addressing the promotion of health development, early identification, crisis intervention, and support to survivors. The plan shall be targeted to the specific needs of children and adolescents. The Department shall cooperate with federal, state and local agencies, private and public agencies, survivor groups and other interested individuals in order to prevent youth suicide within the Commonwealth. The Department shall report annually by December 1 of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly on its youth suicide prevention activities.

The provisions of this section shall not limit the powers and duties of other state agencies.