

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2005 SESSION

CHAPTER 434

An Act to amend and reenact § 32.1-73.7 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 37.1-24.001, relating to suicide prevention across the lifespan.

[H 2796]

Approved March 21, 2005

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 32.1-73.7 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 37.1-24.001 as follows:

§ 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, community services boards *and behavioral health authorities*, 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 *and carry out* comprehensive youth suicide prevention ~~plan~~ *strategies* addressing *public awareness*, the promotion of health development, early identification, ~~crisis~~ *intervention and treatment*, and support to survivors. The ~~plan~~ *strategies* 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~~ *persons* 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.

§ 37.1-24.001. *Department to be lead agency for suicide prevention across the lifespan.*

With such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose, the Department, in consultation with community services boards and behavioral health authorities, the Department of Health, local departments of health, and the Department for the Aging, shall have the lead responsibility for the suicide prevention across the lifespan program. The Department shall coordinate the activities of the agencies of the Commonwealth pertaining to suicide prevention in order to develop and carry out a comprehensive suicide prevention plan addressing public awareness, the promotion of health development, early identification, intervention and treatment, and support to survivors. The Department shall cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies, private and public agencies, survivor groups, and other interested persons to prevent suicide.