

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2018 SESSION

CHAPTER 370

An Act to amend and reenact § 37.2-312.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; report on suicide prevention activities.

[H 569]

Approved March 19, 2018

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 37.2-312.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 37.2-312.1. Department to be lead agency for suicide prevention across the lifespan.

A. 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 Aging and Rehabilitative Services, 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.

B. *The Commissioner shall report annually by December 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Department's activities related to suicide prevention across the lifespan.*