

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3218

By Delegates Reynolds, Tully, Ferrell, Sheedy,
Zatezalo, Jeffries, Willis, Hott, Hite, Kimble, and
Mazzocchi

[Introduced February 02, 2023; Referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-2-40b; and to amend and reenact §18B-1B-7 of said code, all relating to
3 student suicide prevention; requiring suicide prevention resources be printed on student
4 identification cards for students in grades 6-12 in public schools that issue student
5 identification cards; and requiring suicide prevention resources be printed on student
6 identification cards for students in a public or private institution of higher education that
7 issues student identification cards.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 18. EDUCATION.

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-40b. Dissemination of information on suicide prevention.

1 Commencing one year from the date of reenactment of this section in the 2023 regular
2 session of the Legislature, a public school that serves students in grades 6 to 12, inclusive,
3 and that issues student identification cards shall have printed on either side of the student
4 identification cards the information for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which can be reached by
5 calling or texting 988; and shall have printed on either side of the student identification cards
6 the information for the Crisis Text line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741.

CHAPTER 18B. HIGHER EDUCATION.

ARTICLE 1B. HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION.

§18B-1B-7. Student mental health policies; suicide prevention.

1 (a) Each public and private institution of higher education shall develop and implement a
2 policy to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus
3 that includes, but is not limited to:

4 (1) Crisis intervention access, which includes information for ~~national, state, and local~~
5 suicide prevention hotlines;

6 (2) Mental health program access, which provides information on the availability of local
7 mental health clinics, student health services and counseling services;

8 (3) Multimedia application access, which includes crisis hotline contact information, suicide
9 warning signs, resources offered and free-of-cost applications;

10 (4) Student communication plans, which consist of creating outreach plans regarding
11 educational and outreach activities on suicide prevention; and

12 (5) Post-intervention plans which include creating a strategic plan to communicate
13 effectively with students, staff, and parents after the loss of a student to suicide.

14 (b) Each public and private institution of higher education shall provide all incoming
15 students with information about depression and suicide prevention resources available to
16 students. The information provided to students shall include available mental health services and
17 other support services, including student-run organizations for individuals at risk of or affected by
18 suicide.

19 (c) The information prescribed by subsection (a), subdivisions (1) through (4) of this
20 section shall be posted on the website of each institution of higher education in this state.

21 (d) Any applicable free-of-cost prevention materials or programs shall be posted on the
22 websites of the public and private institutions of higher education, the Higher Education Policy
23 Commission, and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

24 (e) Commencing one year from the date of reenactment of this section by the 2023 regular
25 session of the Legislature, a public or private institution of higher education that issues student
26 identification cards shall have printed on either side of the student identification cards the
27 information described in both subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection:

28 (1) The information for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which can be reached by calling or
29 texting 988;

30 (2) The information for the Crisis Text Line, accessible by texting HOME to 741741.

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NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require suicide prevention resources be printed on student identification cards at any school that issues identification cards for students in grades 6 to 12 in public schools and for students in a public or private institution of higher education.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.