

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND GUN DATA STUDY

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Brian S. King

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the duties of the state suicide prevention coordinator.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires the state suicide prevention coordinator to conduct a study on violent incidents that involve a gun;
- ▶ authorizes the state suicide prevention coordinator to contract with a state agency, private entity, or research institution to assist in the study;
- ▶ requires reports to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

62A-15-1101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 85

ENACTS:

62A-15-1102, Utah Code Annotated 1953



28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **62A-15-1101** is amended to read:

30 **62A-15-1101. Suicide prevention -- Reporting requirements.**

31 (1) As used in the section:

32 (a) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification created in Section [53-10-201](#)
33 within the Department of Public Safety.

34 (b) "Division" means the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

35 (c) "Intervention" means an effort to prevent a person from attempting suicide.

36 (d) "Postvention" means mental health intervention after a suicide attempt or death to
37 prevent or contain contagion.

38 (e) "State suicide prevention coordinator" means an individual designated by the
39 division as described in Subsections (2) and (3).

40 (2) The division shall appoint a state suicide prevention coordinator to administer a
41 state suicide prevention program composed of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention
42 programs, services, and efforts.

43 (3) The state suicide prevention program may include the following components:

44 (a) delivery of resources, tools, and training to community-based coalitions;

45 (b) evidence-based suicide risk assessment tools and training;

46 (c) town hall meetings for building community-based suicide prevention strategies;

47 (d) suicide prevention gatekeeper training;

48 (e) training to identify warning signs and to manage an at-risk individual's crisis;

49 (f) evidence-based intervention training;

50 (g) intervention skills training; and

51 (h) postvention training.

52 (4) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall coordinate with at least the following
53 to gather statistics, among other duties:

54 (a) local mental health and substance abuse authorities;

55 (b) prevention coordinator described in Section [53A-15-1301](#);

56 (c) the Department of Health;

57 (d) health care providers, including emergency rooms; and

58 (e) other public health suicide prevention efforts.

59 (5) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall provide a written report, and shall
60 orally report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee, by the October meeting
61 every year, on:

62 (a) implementation of the state suicide prevention program, as described in Subsections
63 (2) and (3);

64 (b) data measuring the effectiveness of each component of the state suicide prevention
65 program;

66 (c) funds appropriated for each component of the state suicide prevention program; and

67 (d) five-year trends of suicides in Utah, including subgroups of youths and adults and
68 other subgroups identified by the state suicide prevention coordinator.

69 (6) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall report to the Legislature's:

70 (a) Education Interim Committee, by the October 2015 meeting, jointly with the State
71 Board of Education, on the coordination of suicide prevention programs and efforts with the
72 State Board of Education and the State Office of Education suicide prevention coordinator as
73 described in Section 53A-15-1301[-]; and

74 (b) Health and Human Services Interim Committee, by the October 2017 meeting,
75 statistics on the number of annual suicides in Utah, including how many suicides were
76 committed with a gun, and if so:

77 (i) where the victim procured the gun;

78 (ii) if the victim purchased the gun legally and whether a background check was
79 performed before the victim purchased the gun;

80 (iii) whether the victim had a history of mental illness;

81 (iv) whether drugs or alcohol were also involved in the suicide; and

82 (v) if the suicide incident also involved the injury or death of another individual,
83 whether the shooter had a history of domestic violence.

84 (7) The state suicide prevention coordinator shall consult with the bureau to implement
85 and manage the operation of a firearm safety program, as described in Subsection
86 53-10-202(18) and Section 53-10-202.1.

87 (8) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
88 division shall make rules governing the implementation of the state suicide prevention
89 program, consistent with this section.

90 Section 2. Section **62A-15-1102** is enacted to read:

91 **62A-15-1102. Study on gun use -- Report.**

92 (1) As used in this section:

93 (a) "Coordinator" means the state suicide prevention coordinator described in Section
94 62A-15-1101.

95 (b) "Legal intervention" means an incident in which an individual is shot by another
96 individual who has legal authority to use deadly force.

97 (c) "Shooter" means an individual who uses a gun in an act that results in the death of
98 the actor or another individual, whether the act was a suicide, homicide, legal intervention, act
99 of self-defense, or accident.

100 (2) The coordinator shall, by October 30, 2018, conduct a study on use of guns in the
101 state and on an ongoing basis report on the progress and findings of the study to the Health and
102 Human Services Interim Committee.

103 (3) By October 30, 2016, the coordinator shall:

104 (a) determine what information, and from which state and local agencies, will be
105 necessary to complete the study;

106 (b) determine how much the study will cost;

107 (c) make recommendations for legislation, if any, that will be necessary to facilitate
108 information-sharing between local, state, and private entities and the coordinator; and

109 (d) report the findings described in Subsections (3)(a) through (c) to the Health and
110 Human Services Interim Committee.

111 (4) The study described in Subsection (2) shall investigate:

112 (a) the number of deaths in the state that involved a gun, including deaths from suicide,
113 homicide including gang-related violence, legal intervention, self-defense, and accidents;

114 (b) where and how a gun that was involved in a death described in Subsection (4)(a)
115 was procured, and whether that procurement was legal;

116 (c) demographic information on the shooter and, where applicable, a victim of a death
117 described in Subsection (4)(a), including gender, race, and age;

118 (d) the total estimated number of gun owners in the state;

119 (e) information on the shooter, including whether the shooter has a history of:

120 (i) mental illness; or

121 (ii) domestic violence; and

122 (f) whether gun deaths are seasonal.

123 (5) The coordinator may contract with another state agency, private entity, or research
124 institution to assist the coordinator and office with the study required by Subsection (2).

125 (6) The coordinator shall submit a final report on the study described in Subsection (2),
126 including proposed legislation and recommendations, to the Health and Human Services
127 Interim Committee before November 30, 2018.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel