

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 70

4  
5 By: Senator J. Jeffress  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS TEENAGE SUICIDE  
10 PREVENTION TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT  
11 OF MEMBERS; AND TO DESCRIBE ITS MISSION AND  
12 RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14  
15 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS TEENAGE SUICIDE  
16 PREVENTION TASK FORCE AND TO PROVIDE FOR  
17 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND ITS MISSION.  
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, is amended to add an  
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

24 Subchapter 15 - Arkansas Teenage Suicide Prevention Task Force

25  
26 20-77-1501. Establishment.

27 (a)(1) The Arkansas Teenage Suicide Prevention Task Force is  
28 established to address issues related to the prevention of teenage suicides  
29 in this most vulnerable age group for mental depression.

30 (2) The task force shall be made up of teenage school students  
31 from around Arkansas, school counselors, and classroom teachers in Arkansas's  
32 schools.

33 (b) The offices of the task force shall be located with the Department  
34 of Education in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, and the department  
35 shall provide administrative staff for the task force.  
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20-77-1502. Task force membership and qualifications.

(a) The Arkansas Teenage Suicide Prevention Task Force shall consist of twelve (12) members who are residents of this state.

(b) The membership of the Arkansas Teenage Suicide Prevention Task Force shall be appointed as follows:

(1) The Governor shall appoint four (4) members who are teenage school students, and each student shall reside in and represent a different Arkansas congressional district;

(2) The Governor shall appoint two (2) members who are classroom teachers;

(3) The Governor shall appoint two (2) members who are school counselors;

(4) The President Pro Tempore of the Arkansas Senate shall appoint two (2) members who are teenage school students representing the state at large; and

(5) The Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives shall appoint two (2) members who are teenage school students representing the state at large;

(c)(1)(A) The members of the task force that are teenage school students shall be students who have been recommended by the superintendents of the school districts to the Department of Education.

(B) Teenage school student members shall be more than age fourteen (14), but less than age nineteen (19) when appointed.

(2) The classroom teacher members shall come from a list of interested teachers recommended to the Governor by the Arkansas Education Association.

(3) The school counselor members appointed by the Governor shall come from a list of interested school counselors recommended to the Governor by the Arkansas Counseling Association.

(d)(1)(A) Beginning January 15, 2004, each member shall serve for a term of two (2) years.

(B) The term of office of each member of the task force shall begin on January 15 following the expiration date of the predecessor's term, and shall end on January 14 of the second year following the year in which the term commenced.

(2) Any vacancies arising in the membership of the board for any

1 reason other than expiration of the regular terms shall be filled by  
 2 appointment by the appointing authority effective until the expiration of the  
 3 regular term.

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 5 20-77-1503. Mission.

6 The Arkansas Teenage Suicide Prevention Task Force shall:

7 (1) Assist in increasing the awareness among school personnel and  
 8 community leaders of the incidence of teenage suicide;

9 (2) Enhance school climate and relationships between teachers,  
 10 counselors, and students to encourage everyone to recognize signs of suicidal  
 11 tendencies and other facts about teenage suicide;

12 (3) Encourage the development and implementation of school-based  
 13 teenage suicide prevention programs and pilot projects;

14 (4) Through cooperative efforts, utilize community resources in the  
 15 development and implementation of teenage suicide prevention programs;

16 (5) Increase students' awareness of the relationship between drug and  
 17 alcohol use and youth suicide;

18 (6) Advocate for programs to collect data on teenage suicide attempts;  
 19 and

20 (7) Develop a program of suicide prevention public awareness for  
 21 distribution to the schools of Arkansas.

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 23 20-77-1504. Meetings.

24 (a)(1) The Arkansas Teenage Suicide Prevention Task Force shall hold  
 25 meetings at least once during each calendar quarter of the year.

26 (2) At the end of each calendar year, the task force shall  
 27 report to the Director of the Department of Education.

28 (b)(1) At the first meeting called by the director, the task force  
 29 shall select from its membership a chair and a secretary that shall serve  
 30 until the first meeting of the following year.

31 (2) The task force shall elect officers annually to serve one-  
 32 year terms at the taskforce's first meeting of each calendar year.

33 (c) A quorum shall consist of not less than a majority of the  
 34 membership of the task force and the affirmative vote of that number is  
 35 necessary for the disposition of business.

36 (d)(1) Members shall receive no pay for services with respect to

1 attendance at each meeting.

2 (2) However, if funds are appropriated for the purpose, members  
3 are entitled to expense reimbursement under § 25-16-902 for each day the task  
4 force is in session.

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6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-1005(a)(7), concerning student  
7 services programs in Arkansas schools, is amended to read as follows:

8 (7) The distribution of a suicide prevention public awareness  
9 program developed for distribution by the ~~interprogram task force established~~  
10 ~~by the Lieutenant Governor's~~ Arkansas Teenage Suicide Prevention Task Force.

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