

2017 -- S 0300

LC001521

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Goodwin, Ruggerio, Miller, and Gee

Date Introduced: February 16, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-81 of the General Laws entitled "Right To A Safe School In  
2 Higher Education" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-81-1.1. Suicide prevention and mental health services.**

4 (a) Each public institution of postsecondary education shall establish a plan for  
5 addressing the mental health needs of its students in a timely fashion that may include written  
6 memorandum of understanding with local community service providers or other mental health  
7 providers. Sole reliance on off-campus mental health services is strongly discouraged.

8 (b) Each public institution of postsecondary education shall develop and implement  
9 policies that advise students, faculty, and staff, including residence hall staff, of the proper  
10 procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of a student exhibiting suicidal tendencies or  
11 behavior, and provide training, where appropriate.

12 (c) The plan and policies along with the implementation timetable in subsections (a) and  
13 (b) of this section shall be provided to the president of the senate, speaker of the house of  
14 representatives, and the council on postsecondary education by August 1, 2017.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION

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1           This act would have each public institution of postsecondary education establish a plan  
2 for addressing the mental health needs of its students. Each institution shall develop policies  
3 aimed at identifying a student exhibiting suicidal behavior or tendencies.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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