

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 228

A bill to create a suicide prevention commission within the department of health and human services and to prescribe its powers and duties; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state officers and entities.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2           (a) "Commission" means the suicide prevention commission  
3 created in section 3.

4           (b) "Department" means the department of health and human  
5 services.

6           (c) "Executive committee" means the executive committee  
7 described in section 5.

8           Sec. 3. (1) The suicide prevention commission is created

1 within the department.

2 (2) The commission consists of the following members:

3 (a) Sixteen members appointed by the governor as follows:

4 (i) One member who is a researcher with an advanced degree from  
5 a university that is located in this state who is selected from a  
6 list of nominees submitted by the Michigan Association of State  
7 Universities.

8 (ii) An undergraduate or graduate student who is studying or  
9 working in the area of suicide prevention who is selected from a  
10 list of nominees submitted by the American Foundation for Suicide  
11 Prevention.

12 (iii) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
13 submitted by the Michigan Association of Intermediate School  
14 Administrators and who is trained in the "Michigan Model for  
15 Health" curriculum.

16 (iv) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
17 submitted by the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan.

18 (v) One member who represents health plans who is selected  
19 from lists of nominees submitted by the Michigan Association of  
20 Health Plans and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

21 (vi) One member who has knowledge or expertise in retiree or  
22 vulnerable adult mental health issues who is selected from a list  
23 of nominees submitted by the Fraternal Order of Police.

24 (vii) One member who is a suicide loss survivor who is selected  
25 from a list of nominees submitted by the Michigan Sheriffs'  
26 Association.

27 (viii) One member who represents a national health care system  
28 whose work in this state focuses on providing comprehensive  
29 behavioral health services to children, adolescents, and adults

1 throughout this state.

2 (ix) One member who is experienced in crisis intervention for  
3 suicide response who is selected from a list of nominees submitted  
4 by the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

5 (x) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
6 submitted by the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

7 (xi) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
8 submitted by the Michigan Corrections Organization.

9 (xii) One member who has experience in suicide prevention who  
10 is selected from a list of nominees submitted by the Michigan  
11 Association of Chiefs of Police.

12 (xiii) Two members who are selected from a list of nominees  
13 submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives, 1 of whom  
14 represents a faith-based organization and 1 who is selected from a  
15 list of names provided to the speaker by the Michigan Professional  
16 Firefighters Union.

17 (xiv) Two members who are selected from a list of nominees  
18 submitted by the senate majority leader, at least 1 of whom has  
19 expertise in suicide prevention from a community mental health  
20 services program that holds a grant from the Substance Abuse and  
21 Mental Health Services Administration.

22 (b) The Michigan veterans' facility ombudsman or his or her  
23 designee.

24 (c) One member who is appointed by the director of the  
25 department of state police with expertise in substance use  
26 disorders.

27 (d) Eight members appointed by the director of the department,  
28 including 7 appointed as follows:

29 (i) One member who represents a substance use disorder

1 treatment provider who is selected from a list of nominees  
2 submitted by the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan.

3 (ii) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
4 submitted by the Michigan Psychological Association.

5 (iii) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
6 submitted by the Michigan Psychiatric Society.

7 (iv) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
8 submitted by the Michigan Primary Care Association.

9 (v) One member who is selected from a list of nominees  
10 submitted by the Michigan Health and Hospital Association and who  
11 meets both of the following requirements:

12 (A) Is a physician licensed to engage in the practice of  
13 medicine or the practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery.

14 (B) Has expertise in neurology.

15 (vi) One member who is in charge of a local health department  
16 or his or her designee.

17 (vii) One member who is a suicide attempt survivor.

18 (e) One member who is appointed by the director of the  
19 department of military and veterans affairs.

20 (3) The members first appointed to the commission must be  
21 appointed within 90 days after the effective date of this act.

22 (4) Members of the commission shall serve for 1 term of 4  
23 years or until a successor is appointed, whichever is later.

24 (5) A vacancy on the commission must be filled in the same  
25 manner as the original appointment. A member appointed to fill a  
26 vacancy must be appointed for the balance of the unexpired term.

27 (6) The chairperson of the commission may remove a member of  
28 the commission for incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance,  
29 misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause, on

1 a motion that is approved by a majority of the members of the  
2 commission.

3 (7) The director of the department shall call the first  
4 meeting of the commission. At the first meeting, the commission  
5 shall elect from among its members a chairperson and other officers  
6 as it considers necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting,  
7 the commission shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at  
8 the call of the chairperson or if requested by 5 or more members.

9 (8) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a  
10 quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the  
11 commission. A majority of the members present and serving are  
12 required for official action of the commission.

13 (9) The business that the commission may perform must be  
14 conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance  
15 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

16 (10) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or  
17 retained by the commission in the performance of an official  
18 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,  
19 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

20 (11) Members of the commission shall serve without  
21 compensation. However, members of the commission may be reimbursed  
22 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance  
23 of their official duties as members of the commission.

24 Sec. 5. (1) The commission shall do all of the following:

25 (a) Work with state departments and agencies and nonprofit  
26 organizations on researching the causes and possible underlying  
27 factors of suicide in this state. The research must focus on  
28 demographics showing the highest suicide rates in this state in the  
29 decade immediately preceding the effective date of this act, and

1 the highest growth in suicide rates during the time period  
2 described in this subdivision. In determining the demographics, the  
3 commission shall consider, at a minimum, all of the following:

4 (i) Urban and rural areas, including the Upper Peninsula.

5 (ii) Race.

6 (iii) Sex.

7 (iv) Occupation.

8 (v) Age.

9 (vi) Socioeconomic status.

10 (b) By 6 months after the effective date of this act, prepare  
11 and present a preliminary report of its research and findings to  
12 the legislature. The report must include identified causes for the  
13 increase in suicide rates among the demographics described in  
14 subdivision (a) and any other information the commission considers  
15 relevant.

16 (c) By 1 year after the effective date of this act, and each  
17 year thereafter, prepare and present to the legislature an updated  
18 version of the report described in subdivision (b). The updated  
19 version of the report must include recommendations for reducing  
20 risk factors among the demographics described in subdivision (a)  
21 and contain a list of evidence-based programs for suicide  
22 prevention in this state with successful outcomes.

23 (d) Annually review and update any recommendations made under  
24 this act and, if any of the commission's recommendations are  
25 implemented, provide a process for ongoing monitoring of the  
26 implementation of the recommendations.

27 (e) Provide recommendations for a process for continued state  
28 coordination on suicide data collection, suicide prevention  
29 programs, and a coordinated state approach to the prevention of

1 suicide to continue after this act no longer applies.

2 (2) At the first meeting of the commission, the commission  
3 shall establish a 7-member executive committee that consists of all  
4 of the following:

5 (a) Two members elected by the commission from among its  
6 members.

7 (b) The member appointed to the commission by the governor  
8 under section 3(2)(a)(i).

9 (c) The Michigan veterans' facility ombudsman or his or her  
10 designee.

11 (d) The member appointed to the commission by the director of  
12 the department of state police under section 3(2)(c).

13 (e) One member selected by the director of the department from  
14 the commission members appointed under section 3(2)(d).

15 (f) One member selected by the governor from the commission  
16 members appointed under section 3(2)(a)(xiv).

17 (3) The executive committee shall do all of the following:

18 (a) Oversee the compilation of data and available resources in  
19 coordination with universities in this state.

20 (b) Set timelines and tasks for the completion of the  
21 commission's work by December 30, 2024.

22 (4) The commission shall also establish subcommittees that may  
23 consist of individuals who are not members of the commission,  
24 including, but not limited to, experts in matters of interest to  
25 the commission, including the demographics described in subsection  
26 (1)(a).

27 Sec. 7. The commission may, through its executive committee,  
28 research policy recommendations from relevant sources and policy  
29 initiatives from other states in order to make recommendations to

1 the governor and to the chairpersons of the house and senate  
2 standing committees on health policy and the judiciary on  
3 initiatives to reduce suicide rates among the demographics  
4 described in section 5.

5       Sec. 9. The department shall furnish clerking services to the  
6 commission.

7       Sec. 11. This act does not apply beginning December 31, 2024.

8       Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the  
9 date it is enacted into law.