

AMENDMENTS TO LB414

Introduced by Government, Military and Veterans Affairs.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 **Section 1.** (1) The suicide mortality review team is established in
4 the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

5 (2) For purposes of sections 1 to 6 of this act:

6 (a) Department means the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

7 (b) Director means the Director of the Department of Veterans'
8 Affairs or the director's designee; and

9 (c) Review team means the suicide mortality review team established
10 in subsection (1) of this section.

11 **Sec. 2.** (1) The suicide mortality review team shall consist of the
12 following members: (a) The director; (b) a representative of the Nebraska
13 Violent Death Reporting System; (c) a representative of Nebraska Local
14 Outreach to Suicide Loss Survivors; (d) a representative of Division of
15 Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.

16 (2) The director shall appoint the following individuals to be
17 additional members of the suicide mortality review team: (a) An education
18 administrator; (b) a hospital representative; (c) an emergency medical
19 services representative; (d) a member of law enforcement; (e) a mental
20 health professional or a licensed clinical social worker; (f) a veteran
21 representative; and (g) additional members as needed.

22 (3) The department shall provide professional and administrative
23 support to the review team.

24 **Sec. 3.** The suicide mortality review team shall:

25 (1) Develop a suicide mortalities data collection system;

26 (2) Conduct an annual analysis of the incidences and causes of
27 suicides in this state during the preceding fiscal year;

1 (3) Develop protocols for suicide investigations, including
2 protocols for law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, medical examiners,
3 health care facilities, and social service agencies;

4 (4) Study the adequacy of statutes, ordinances, rules, training, and
5 services to determine the changes required to decrease the incidence of
6 preventable suicides and, as appropriate, take steps to implement these
7 changes;

8 (5) Educate the public regarding the incidences and causes of
9 suicide and the public's role in preventing these deaths; and

10 (6) Designate a member of the suicide mortality review team to serve
11 as chairperson.

12 **Sec. 4.** The review team shall establish a cooperative agreement
13 with the Nebraska Violent Death Reporting System to allow for the sharing
14 and storing of all information relevant to the review team's review
15 process, including, but not limited to, data collection and reporting
16 within the Nebraska Violent Death Reporting System.

17 **Sec. 5.** (1) Upon request by the director, a county attorney or the
18 Attorney General may issue a subpoena to compel the production of any
19 records or information specified in this section. Any subpoenaed
20 information shall be entered into the Nebraska Violent Death Reporting
21 System and provided to the review team using an aggregate narrative only.
22 Such sources include, but are not limited to, (a) death investigation
23 reports from a coroner, (b) forensic autopsy reports, (c) subject to
24 subsection (3) of this section, law enforcement reports, including
25 probation and corrections reports, (d) medical records and discharge
26 notes, including hospital, primary care, outpatient, and specialist
27 records, (e) mental health therapy notes, (f) substance use or treatment
28 reports, (g) school records, (h) emergency medical services data, (i)
29 prescription drug monitoring program data, (j) toxicology findings, (k)
30 interviews with next of kin when available and willing to participate,
31 and (l) employment records.

1 (2) A review team shall have access to information and records
2 relating to a suicide under review by the review team. Within five
3 business days of a review team's request, it shall be provided with
4 access to the information requested.

5 (3) A law enforcement agency, with the approval of the prosecuting
6 attorney, may withhold from a review team investigative records that may
7 interfere with a pending criminal investigation or prosecution.

8 (4) All information and records acquired by a review team are
9 confidential and are not subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction
10 into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding, except that
11 information, documents, and records that are otherwise available from
12 other sources are not immune from subpoena, discovery, or introduction
13 into evidence through those sources solely because they were presented
14 to, or reviewed by, a review team.

15 (5) Members of a review team, individuals attending a review team
16 meeting, and individuals who present information to a review team shall
17 not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding
18 information presented in a meeting or opinions formed as a result of a
19 meeting. This subsection does not prevent an individual from testifying
20 to information that is obtained independently of a review conducted by a
21 review team or that is public information.

22 (6) A member of a review team may contact, interview, or request
23 information from a family member of an individual who died by suicide.
24 The review team shall approve any contact, interview, or request before
25 the review team member contacts, interviews, or requests information from
26 such family member.

27 **Sec. 6.** (1)(a) No later than April 1, 2026, and each April 1
28 thereafter, the review team shall prepare and submit electronically to
29 the Clerk of the Legislature, the Department of Health and Human
30 Services, and other nonprofit organizations, a report that summarizes the
31 following information for each individual who died by suicide reviewed by

1 the review team in the previous calendar year: (i) Cause of death; (ii)
2 factors contributing to the death; (iii) age; (iv) sex; (v) race; (vi)
3 geographic location at the time of death; and (vii) date of death.

4 (b) The report shall also include the number of suicide deaths that
5 were not reviewed in the previous calendar year.

6 (2) The report may include recommendations for actions that may
7 prevent additional suicide deaths and any other information, as
8 determined by the review team.