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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 439
127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. R. Hagan

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires school districts and community schools to provide suicide prevention services for students in grades 5 to 12.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill requires each school district and each community school to provide suicide prevention services for all students enrolled in grades 5 through 12.¹ These services may include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- Mental health services in school-based health centers;
- Evidence-based suicide prevention programs;
- Awareness training for all district or school employees;
- Suicide prevention education;
- A written policy and procedures for responding to suicidal warning signs, threats, attempts, and completions;
- Mental health risk assessments and referral to mental health providers; and
- Referral systems.²

¹ R.C. 3313.719 and 3314.03(A)(11)(d).

² R.C. 3313.719(A) to (E).

COMMENT

The bill does not directly apply to the recently authorized science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools. But since those schools, which may open for instruction in the 2008-2009 school year, will be operated as a collaborative effort among a school district and other public and private entities, it might be possible that students enrolled in a STEM school would receive the bill's suicide prevention services from one of the districts or schools that collaborates in operating the school.³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	01-22-08

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³ A subcommittee of the Partnership for Continued Learning is authorized to select, based on a request for proposals, up to five STEM schools to begin operating in the 2008-2009 school year (R.C. Chapter 3326.).