

HOUSE BILL NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

BY REQUEST OF THE STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND RURAL YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT GRANT PROGRAM; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM; DEFINING SERVICES THAT QUALIFY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM; REQUIRING REPORTS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. American Indian and rural youth suicide prevention -- pilot grant program. (1) There is an American Indian and rural youth suicide prevention pilot grant program to be administered by the department of public health and human services. The program is a 2-year program. The purpose of the program is to use elder-influenced culturally based education, prevention, and intervention strategies to confront the risk of suicide in rural communities.

(2) The grantee programs shall focus on the continuum of prevention, intervention, and post-event assistance to American Indian and rural individuals and families and Indian tribes. The grantees must identify and meet the specific needs of the community where they are based.

(3) To be awarded a grant under this section, in addition to the requirements in subsection (2), each program selected must provide one or more of the following services:

(a) training for first responders about suicide protocols;

(b) mental health crisis case management for a youth and the youth's family within 24 hours of identification of a crisis situation;

(c) evaluation and assessment of a youth who seeks help from the program or who has been referred to the program using a culturally appropriate trauma screening to determine the services that are available to best meet the needs of the youth and the youth's family;

(d) a culturally based or trauma-informed program for suicide prevention to engage American Indian youth in a practice approved by the tribal community or in the community at large; or

1 (e) short-term residential crisis stabilization services.

2 (4) Successful grantees are encouraged to maximize the impact of the grant funds by leveraging existing
3 resources and forming partnerships with other state, local, tribal, and federal entities.

4 (5) (a) Each grantee shall report to the department on the expenditure of grant funds, outcome
5 measures, and overall program progress.

6 (b) The department shall compile the reports from the grantees and, pursuant to 5-11-210, present a final
7 report on the pilot program to the state-tribal relations committee established in 5-5-229 during the 2017-2018
8 interim. The final report must include the department's findings and recommendations, including a
9 recommendation related to ongoing funding and the viability of medicaid funding for Indian health service
10 providers.

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Reporting to the state-tribal relations committee.** The department shall
13 report regularly to the state-tribal relations committee established in 5-5-229 regarding any activities it undertakes
14 related to the prevention of suicide among American Indians in Montana.

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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$250,000 from the general fund to
17 the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, for the purposes
18 described in [section 1]. Any remaining funds that are unencumbered as of June 30, 2019, must revert to the
19 general fund.

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21 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an
22 integral part of Title 53, chapter 21, part 11, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 21, part 11, apply to [section
23 2].

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25 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
26 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
27 Chippewa tribe.

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29 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.
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