1    SB11
2    175195-7
3    By Senator Allen
4    RFD: Education and Youth Affairs
5    First Read: 02-FEB-16
6    PFD: 10/22/2015
ENROLLED, An Act,

To establish the Jason Flatt Act, relating to student health in grades K-12 public school systems; to amend Section 16-28B-8, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide for annual suicide prevention education training for certificated school system personnel; to provide that no cause of action is created; to provide that no duty of care is created; to provide for legislative findings; and to provide for an advisory committee and related matters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Jason Flatt Act.

Section 2. The Legislature finds as follows:

(1) Suicide in youth cuts across ethnic, economic, social, and age boundaries and has a tremendous and traumatic impact on surviving family members, friends, and the community at large.

(2) After unintentional injury, suicide has become the leading cause of death among young people. At a time when unintentional injuries have been on the decline, suicides have increased.
(3) Suicide is a complex issue that requires school, family, and community resources be harnessed for appropriate and timely help to be available in order to prevent suicide.

Section 3. Section 16-28B-8 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§16-28B-8.

(a) To the extent that the Legislature shall appropriate funds, or to the extent that any local board may provide funds from other sources, each school system shall implement the following standards and policies for programs in an effort to prevent student suicide:

(1) Foster individual, family, and group counseling services related to suicide prevention.

(2) Make referral, crisis intervention, and other related information available for students, parents, and school personnel.

(3) Foster training for school personnel who are responsible for counseling and supervising students.

(4) Increase student awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and suicide.

(5) Educate students in recognizing signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts and warning signs of suicide.

(6) Inform students of available community suicide prevention services.
"(7) Promote cooperative efforts between school personnel and community suicide prevention program personnel. 

"(8) Foster school-based or community-based, or both, alternative programs outside of the classroom.

"(9) Develop a strategy to assist survivors of attempted suicide, students, and school personnel in coping with the issues relating to attempted suicide, suicide, the death of a student, and healing.

"(10) Engage in any other program or activity which the local board determines is appropriate and prudent in the efforts of the school system to prevent student suicide.

"(11) Provide training for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students on the local board policies to prevent harassment, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence.

"(12) Develop a process for discussing with students local board policies relating to the prevention of student suicide and to the prevention of harassment, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence.

"(13) Provide annual training for all certificated school employees in suicide awareness and prevention. This training may be provided within the framework of existing inservice training programs or as a part of required professional development offered by the local school system.
(b)(1) The State Department of Education shall create an advisory committee consisting of practitioners and representatives from all of the following organizations:

"a. The School Superintendents of Alabama.

"b. The Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools.

"c. The Alabama Education Association.

"d. The Alabama Association of School Boards.

"e. The Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation.

"f. Other pertinent mental health and suicide prevention organizations as determined by the department.

(2) The advisory committee shall assist the department in developing and adopting rules to provide for the training of certificated school employees in suicide awareness and prevention pursuant to subdivision (13) of subsection (a).

(3) The department and the advisory committee may develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of subdivision (13) of subsection (a). Approved training materials may include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

"a. Training materials that are currently being used by a local school system.

"b. Training materials that provide instruction on identifying appropriate mental health services, both within the school system and within the larger community.
"c. Training materials that may be completed through self-review.

"(c) Each local school system shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. To assist local school systems in developing their own policies for student suicide prevention, the department and advisory committee shall establish a model policy for use by local school systems in accordance with this section.

"(d) Any person involved in a cause of action or omission resulting from the implementation of this section or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section, shall be subject to Section 36-1-12."

Section 4. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.
Presidential and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB11
Senate 15-MAR-16
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Passed: 28-APR-16

By: Senator Allen

APPROVED 5-10-2016
TIME 5:30 AM

Alabama Secretary Of State
Act Num....: 2016-310
Bill Num....: 5-11
Recv'd 05/10/15 04:52pmSLF
SENATE ACTION

I hereby certify that the Resolution as required in Section C of Act No. 81-889 was adopted and is attached to the Bill.

SB 11

YEAS 27 NAYS 0

Abstain 0

PATRICK HARRIS,
Secretary

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

This bill having been referred by the House to its standing committee on Education Policy was acted upon by such committee in session and returned therefrom to the House with the recommendation that it be Passed w/amend(s) w/sub

This day of April 1, 2016

JEFF WOODARD, Chairperson

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Senate Conferences

I hereby certify that the Resolution as required in Section C of Act No. 81-889 was adopted and is attached to the Bill.

SB

YEAS NAYS

Abstain

JEFF WOODARD,
Clerk

FURTHER HOUSE ACTION (OVER)