

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 20 of Title 2.2 a section numbered*  
3 *2.2-2004.2, relating to Department of Veterans Services; Suicide Prevention Coordinator; position*  
4 *created; report.*

5 [H 1203]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 20 of Title 2.2 a section numbered**  
9 **2.2-2004.2 as follows:**

10 **§ 2.2-2004.2. *Suicide Prevention Coordinator; position created; duties; report.***

11 *A. There is created in the Department of Veterans Services the position of Suicide Prevention*  
12 *Coordinator to support and closely coordinate effective mental health care services for military service*  
13 *members and veterans and their families.*

14 *B. The Suicide Prevention Coordinator shall:*

15 *1. Gather data on mental health challenges commonly experienced by military service members and*  
16 *veterans and their families that may lead to suicide;*

17 *2. In coordination with federal, state, and local partners, gather, review, analyze, and disseminate*  
18 *timely federal, state, and local data on the quantity, common causes, and methods of suicide utilized*  
19 *among military service members, veterans, and their family members;*

20 *3. Collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to increase mental health, substance abuse, and*  
21 *suicide risk screenings and refer military service members and veterans and their family members to the*  
22 *appropriate behavioral health and medical professionals or services;*

23 *4. Identify and coordinate new behavioral health and suicide prevention opportunities and funding*  
24 *for those opportunities and, from such funds as may be appropriated or are otherwise available for this*  
25 *purpose, administer a grant program to assist local partners in implementing and coordinating suicide*  
26 *prevention efforts in local communities;*

27 *5. Provide suicide prevention resources, training, and support to federal, state, and local agencies;*  
28 *and*

29 *6. Perform other duties as may be required to effectively provide suicide prevention resources,*  
30 *training, and support to military service members, veterans, and their families.*

31 *C. The Commissioner shall include a summary of the work of the Suicide Prevention Coordinator in*  
32 *the annual report to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Governor, and the General*  
33 *Assembly as required pursuant to subdivision 9 of § 2.2-2004.*