

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-fourth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2020

# HOUSE BILL 2135

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 36-146, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO VETERAN  
SUICIDES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 36-146, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 36-146. Veteran suicides; annual report; distribution

5 A. Beginning January 1, 2020, the department of health services  
6 shall annually compile a report on veteran suicides in this state that  
7 includes all of the following information:

8 1. The number and rate of veterans who died by suicide in this  
9 state's resident population for the most current complete calendar year.

10 2. Historic trends of veteran suicide rates and instances in this  
11 state's resident population covering at least the preceding five years.

12 3. Historic trends of rates and instances of the most common  
13 mechanism of suicide among this state's resident veterans.

14 4. An analysis of the years of potential life lost to suicide among  
15 this state's resident veterans.

16 5. Comparisons of this state's resident veteran suicide rate to the  
17 suicide rates of the nation and other regions of the country during the  
18 same time period as reported by the United States department of veterans  
19 affairs.

20 6. An analysis of the relative risk of suicide among this state's  
21 resident veterans, including demographic breakdowns by race or ethnicity,  
22 age group, gender and region of the state.

23 7. A regional distribution analysis of suicide patterns among this  
24 state's resident veterans that considers population density as a potential  
25 risk factor and informs the distribution of suicide prevention services  
26 within this state.

27 8. An analysis of patterns of drugs, or combinations of drugs, that  
28 were used by this state's resident veterans when drug poisoning was the  
29 mechanism of suicide.

30 9. An analysis of patterns of recent medical history of this  
31 state's resident veterans who died by suicide using data from the United  
32 States department of veterans affairs and from the Arizona health care  
33 cost containment system. Data linkage completed for this analysis shall  
34 be used to inform suicide prevention strategies based on medical risk  
35 factors that significantly correlate to suicide.

36 10. UTILIZATION AND ENCOUNTER DATA FOR A NONPROFIT VETERANS'  
37 SERVICES ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES SERVICES RELATED TO REDUCING SUICIDES  
38 AMONG THIS STATE'S MILITARY AND VETERAN POPULATIONS.

39 B. The report required by this section may not contain any  
40 identifiers that would make it possible to personally identify in any  
41 manner or under any circumstance an individual who died by suicide.

42 C. The department of veterans' services shall submit to the  
43 department of health services on a form prescribed by the department of  
44 health services all data, including protected health information, if  
45 necessary, in order for the department of health services to comply with

1 this section. THE DATA MAY INCLUDE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL SOURCES AS  
2 AVAILABLE.

3 D. The information and records acquired by the department of health  
4 services to create the report required by this section are confidential  
5 and are not subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence  
6 in any civil or criminal proceedings.

7 E. The department of health services shall provide the annual  
8 report required by this section to the speaker of the house of  
9 representatives, the president of the senate and the department of  
10 veterans' services and shall provide a copy to the secretary of state.