

House Bill 3643

Sponsored by Representative ELMER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Creates a new state day to raise awareness of youth suicide. (Flesch Readability Score: 80.3).

Designates October 9 of each year as Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day; and declaring an emergency.

2 Whereas the topic of youth suicide does not receive the elevation and attention it deserves; and

3 Whereas youth suicide has impacted far too many communities and families throughout our
4 beautiful state; and

5 Whereas the warning signs of youth suicide often go unnoticed or unrecognized; and

6 Whereas shame, stigma and a lack of knowledge are barriers to seeking professional mental
7 health support; and

8 Whereas 20 percent of all high school students have reported having serious thoughts about
9 suicide; and

10 Whereas in Oregon, 38 percent of high school juniors reported feeling so sad or hopeless they
11 stopped normal activities; and

12 Whereas 109 Oregon youths died by suicide in 2022; and

13 Whereas in 2022, Oregon had the 12th highest youth suicide rate in the nation; and

14 Whereas according to Mental Health America, Oregon ranks last in the nation in balancing the
15 prevalence of youth mental illness with access to care; and

16 Whereas suicide remains the second leading cause of death in the nation among people aged 5
17 to 24; and

18 Whereas Oregon must remain dedicated to ending the prevalence of youth suicide; and

19 Whereas the young lives we have lost to suicide live on in our hearts and memories; now,
20 therefore,

21 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

22 **SECTION 1. October 9 of each year is designated as Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness**
23 **Day.**

24 **SECTION 2. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
25 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
26 **on its passage.**
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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.