

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 539

BY SENATORS NEVERS, BUFFINGTON, DORSEY-COLOMB AND ERDEY

MENTAL HEALTH. Provides relative to suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training for certain professions. (8/1/14)

1 AN ACT  
2 To enact Chapter 1-B of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised  
3 of R.S. 37:24 through 27, relative to suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and  
4 management training for certain professionals; to provide relative to the Department  
5 of Health and Hospitals posting on the department's official website a link to these  
6 training programs; to provide relative to continuing education; to provide for certain  
7 definitions, terms, conditions, and procedures; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 1-B of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
10 comprised of R.S. 37:24 through 27, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **CHAPTER 1-B. SUICIDE ASSESSMENT, INTERVENTION, TREATMENT,**  
12 **AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING**  
13 **§24. Licensing provisions; professionals**  
14 **A. In recognition of the state of Louisiana's goal in reducing the number**  
15 **of suicides and suicide attempts each year in Louisiana, beginning January 1,**  
16 **2015, the Department of Health and Hospitals shall offer each of the following**  
17 **professionals certified, licensed, or registered in Louisiana access to certain**

1 training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management  
2 through posting links to such training on the department's official website:

3 (1) A mental health counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1101,  
4 et seq.

5 (2) A social worker certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2701, et seq.

6 (3) A physician certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1261, et seq.

7 (4) A psychiatrist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1261, et seq.

8 (5) A psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2351, et seq.

9 (6) A medical psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.51,  
10 et seq.

11 (7) A nurse certified or licensed under R.S. 37:911, et seq.

12 (8) A physician assistant certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.21, et  
13 seq.

14 (9) An addiction counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:3386, et  
15 seq.

16 B. The training offered via online access by the department under this  
17 Chapter may be such that it is offered in either continuous multi-hour blocks  
18 or spread over shorter training sessions.

19 §25. Continuing education

20 A. The disciplining authorities over the professions listed in R.S.  
21 37:24(A), at each board's discretion, may approve the hours spent completing  
22 training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management under  
23 this Chapter as hours that may count toward meeting any applicable continuing  
24 education or continuing competency requirements for each profession.

25 B. Obtaining any training offered via department website links under  
26 this Chapter shall not be construed to establish a legal basis for negligence or  
27 the standard of care or duty of care owed by a health care professional to a  
28 patient in any civil action for medical malpractice.

29 §26. Model list of training programs; development

1           A. The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall  
2           develop a list of available programs providing training in suicide assessment,  
3           intervention, treatment, and management. In developing such a list, the  
4           secretary shall consider the suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and  
5           management training programs listed on the best practices registry of the  
6           American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention  
7           Resource Center.

8           B. On or before January 1, 2015, the secretary shall make available on  
9           the department's official website online access to its list under this Section, and  
10          where possible links to training programs on the department's list. At the  
11          secretary's discretion, the department may also list on its official website where  
12          and when such training programs may be available for attendance in person in  
13          the state of Louisiana. At the discretion of each board, the disciplining  
14          authorities may provide links on their official board websites to the training  
15          programs linked on the department's official website.

16          C. Nothing in this Chapter may be interpreted to expand or limit the  
17          scope of practice of any profession regulated under Title 37 of the Louisiana  
18          Revised Statutes of 1950.

19          §27. Definitions

20                 As used in this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

21                 (1) "Disciplining authority" means the specific professional licensing or  
22                 certifying board that is referenced by statute in R.S. 37:24(A) as certifying or  
23                 licensing each profession included in the training access offered under this  
24                 Chapter.

25                 (2) "Training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and  
26                 management" means empirically supported training that contains the following  
27                 elements: suicide assessment, including screening and referral, suicide  
28                 intervention, suicide treatment, and suicide management.

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The original instrument was prepared by Julie J. Baxter. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

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#### DIGEST

Nevers (SB 539)

Proposed law provides that suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training may be included within the existing continuing education requirements for certain professionals licensed in Louisiana.

Proposed law provides that, beginning January 1, 2015, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) shall offer each of the following professional certified, licensed, or registered in Louisiana access to certain training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management through posting links to such training on the department's official website:

- (1) A mental health counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1101, et seq.
- (2) A social worker certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2701, et seq.
- (3) A physician certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1261, et seq.
- (4) A psychiatrist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1261, et seq.
- (5) A psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2351, et seq.
- (6) A medical psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.51, et seq.
- (7) A nurse certified or licensed under R.S. 37:911, et seq.
- (8) A physician assistant certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.21, et seq.
- (9) An addiction counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:3386, et seq.

Proposed law provides that the training offered via online access by the department under the proposed law may be such that it is offered in either continuous multi-hour blocks or spread over shorter training sessions.

Proposed law provides the disciplining authorities over the professions listed in proposed law, at each board's discretion, may approve the hours spent completing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management under the proposed law as hours that may count toward meeting any applicable continuing education or continuing competency requirements for each profession.

Proposed law provides that obtaining training offered via the department's website link under proposed law shall not be construed to establish a legal basis for negligence or the standard of care or duty of care owed by a health care professional to a patient in any civil action for medical malpractice.

Proposed law requires that the secretary of DHH to develop a list of available programs providing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management. In developing such a list, the secretary shall consider suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training programs listed on the best practices registry of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

Proposed law requires that on or before January 1, 2015, the secretary shall make available

on the department's official website online access to its list under proposed law, and where possible links to training programs on the department's list.

Proposed law further provides that proposed law may be interpreted to expand or limit the scope of practice of any profession regulated under Title 37 of the La. R.S.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 37:24-27)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Changes from mandatory continuing education or continuing competency training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management for certain health care professionals to beginning January 1, 2015, the Department of Health and Hospitals shall offer certain health care professionals voluntary training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management through posting links to such training on the department's official website.