
DIGEST

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Nevers

SB No. 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 a list of certain training programs 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 psychiatrist and any other physician certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1261 et seq.
- (4) A psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2351 et seq.
- (5) A medical psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.
- (6) A nurse certified or licensed under R.S. 37:911 et seq.
- (7) A physician assistant certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.21 et seq.
- (8) An addiction counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:3386 et seq.

Proposed law provides that the training programs and corresponding links included in the online list by DHH pursuant to proposed law may be offered in either continuous multi-hour blocks or spread over shorter training sessions.

Proposed law provides that the boards which regulate 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 listed or linked via the DHH website pursuant to 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 stipulates that DHH shall be immune from civil liability for the development and posting of a list of programs providing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management as provided for in proposed law.

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 developed list under proposed law and, where possible, links to training programs on the department's list.

Proposed law provides that nothing therein may be interpreted to expand or limit the scope of practice of any profession regulated under present law, or be construed to require DHH to develop training programs or curriculums or to create online training programs.

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.

Senate Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill.

1. Added provision stipulating that the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) shall be immune from civil liability for the development and posting of a list of programs providing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management as provided in proposed law.
2. Added provision stipulating that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to require DHH to develop training programs or curriculums or to create online training programs.
3. Made technical changes.