

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 890

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT

STATE OFFICIALS: Provides relative to mandatory annual mental health response training and individual counseling requirements for statewide elected officials and legislators

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 6 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S.
3 49:351 through 353, relative to certain state officials; to require certain state officials
4 to receive annual mental health response training; to require certain state officials to
5 receive a certain amount of professional mental health counseling each year; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Chapter 6 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
9 comprised of R.S. 49:351 through 353 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 CHAPTER 6. MENTAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

11 §351. Legislative findings

12 The legislature recognizes the impact that mental health issues, including
13 undiagnosed mental illness and related substance abuse has on all of our citizens, and
14 particularly our children, our economy, our education system, and our criminal
15 justice system. The legislature further recognizes that the state benefits when mental
16 health issues are diagnosed early and addressed with an appropriate treatment plan.
17 To be an example to all of the citizens of our state, the legislature enacts the
18 provisions of this Chapter in order for the leaders and policymakers of this state to
19 learn how to recognize mental health issues and how to direct our citizens to the
20 proper care, as well as to prioritize their own mental well-being by seeking and
21 obtaining personal mental health counseling from a licensed professional.

1 §352. Required annual mental health first aid training

2 A. During each calendar year of his term of office, each statewide elected
3 official and each legislator shall be required to obtain at least one hour of education
4 and training on recognizing the signs and symptoms suggestive of potential mental
5 health challenges and how to properly interact with a person experiencing a mental
6 health crisis.

7 B. The Louisiana Department of Health, office of behavioral health shall
8 work with the Department of State Civil Service to develop and make available
9 education and training material to assist statewide elected officials and state
10 legislators in complying with the requirements of this Section.

11 C. Each statewide elected official and each legislator shall submit
12 documentation to the appropriate human resource officer within his agency
13 confirming the receipt of the required mental health training.

14 §353. Required annual mental health counseling

15 A. Each statewide elected official and each legislator shall be required to
16 obtain at least five hours of mental health counseling each calendar year of his term
17 of office from an appropriate licensed health care professional.

18 B. Each statewide elected official and each legislator shall submit
19 documentation from the licensed healthcare professional to the appropriate human
20 resource officer within his agency affirming the receipt of the required mental health
21 counseling.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 890 Original

2024 Regular Session

Bryant

Abstract: Requires statewide elected officials and legislators receive at least one hour of annual mental health response training and five hours of professional mental health counseling each calendar year of office.

Proposed law provides for findings regarding the impact that mental health issues, including undiagnosed mental illness and related substance abuse has on all of our citizens.

Proposed law provides that each calendar year each statewide elected official and each legislator is required to obtain at least one hour of education and training on recognizing the signs and symptoms suggestive of a potential mental health challenges and how to properly interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Requires the La. Dept. of Health, office of behavioral health to work with the Dept. of State Civil Service to develop and make available education and training material to assist statewide elected officials and state legislators in complying with the education and training requirements. Requires documentation to be submitted to the appropriate agency human resource officer confirming receipt of the training.

Proposed law additionally requires each statewide elected official and each legislator to obtain at least five hours of mental health counseling each calendar year of his term of office from an appropriate licensed health care professional. Requires documentation to be submitted to the appropriate agency human resource officer confirming receipt of the counseling.

(Adds R.S. 49:351–353)