Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 539

BY SENATORS NEVERS, BUFFINGTON, DORSEY-COLOMB AND ERDEY AND REPRESENTATIVES BARROW, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, HENRY BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CONNICK, COX, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRISON, HILL, HOWARD, HUNTER, IVEY, JAMES, JEFFERSON, NANCY LANDRY, NORTON, POPE, PRICE, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, THIERRY, THOMPSON, ALFRED WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT AND WOODRUFF

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

CHAPTER 1-B. SUICIDE ASSESSMENT, INTERVENTION, TREATMENT, AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING

§24. Licensing provisions; professionals

A. In recognition of the state of Louisiana's goal in reducing the number of suicides and suicide attempts each year in Louisiana, beginning January 1, 2015, the Department of Health and Hospitals shall offer each of the following professionals 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.

B. The training programs and corresponding links included in the online list by the department under this Chapter may be offered in either continuous multi-hour blocks or spread over shorter training sessions.

§25. Continuing education

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

B. Obtaining any training listed or linked via department website links under this Chapter 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.

C. The department shall be immune from civil liability for the development and posting of the list of available programs providing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management.

§26. Model list of training programs; development; interpretation and
A. The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall develop a list of available programs providing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management. In developing such a list, the secretary shall consider the 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.

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

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

D. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to require the department to develop training programs or curriculums or to create online training programs.

§27. Definitions

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

(1) "Department" means the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _______________