

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)

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; 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 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.

B. The training offered via online access by the department under this Chapter may be such that it is 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 offered 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.

§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 developed under this
10 Section and, where possible, links to training programs on the department's list.
11 At the secretary's discretion, the department may also list on its official website
12 where and when such training programs may be available for attendance in
13 person in the state of Louisiana. At the discretion of each board, the
14 disciplining authorities may provide links on their official board websites to the
15 training 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.

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 J. W. Wiley.

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 developed 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. of 1950.

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.