
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.