

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 (1) A mental health counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1101
2 et seq.

3 (2) A social worker certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2701 et seq.

4 (3) A psychiatrist and any other physician certified or licensed under
5 R.S. 37:1261 et seq.

6 (4) A psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2351 et seq.

7 (5) A medical psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.51
8 et seq.

9 (6) A nurse certified or licensed under R.S. 37:911 et seq.

10 (7) A physician assistant certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.21 et
11 seq.

12 (8) An addiction counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:3386 et
13 seq.

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

17 §25. Continuing education

18 A. The disciplining authorities over the professions listed in R.S.
19 37:24(A), at each board's discretion, may approve the hours spent completing
20 training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management under
21 this Chapter as hours that may count toward meeting any applicable continuing
22 education or continuing competency requirements for each profession.

23 B. Obtaining any training listed or linked via department website links
24 under this Chapter shall not be construed to establish a legal basis for
25 negligence or the standard of care or duty of care owed by a health care
26 professional to a patient in any civil action for medical malpractice.

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

30 §26. Model list of training programs; development; interpretation and

construction of Chapter

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

1 management" means empirically supported training that contains the following
2 elements: suicide assessment, including screening and referral, suicide
3 intervention, suicide treatment, and suicide management.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____