

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

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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

1                    construction of Chapter

2                    A. The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall  
3                    develop a list of available programs providing training in suicide assessment,  
4                    intervention, treatment, and management. In developing such a list, the  
5                    secretary shall consider the suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and  
6                    management training programs listed on the best practices registry of the  
7                    American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention  
8                    Resource Center.

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

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

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

23                   §27. Definitions

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

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

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

30                   (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.**

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_