

ASSEMBLY, No. 1443

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Schepisi, Assemblyman Calabrese, Assemblywomen
Murphy, Downey and Assemblyman Houghtaling**

SYNOPSIS

Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning suicide prevention training for mental health
2 practitioners and supplementing Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Mental health practitioner” means a clinical social worker,
9 marriage and family therapist, alcohol and drug counselor,
10 professional counselor, associate counselor, rehabilitation
11 counselor, clinical mental health counselor, psychologist, or
12 psychoanalyst who is licensed or otherwise authorized to practice
13 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

14 “Suicide prevention training” means a training program,
15 provided online, in person, or through telephonic means, concerning
16 the prevention, assessment, screening, treatment, and management
17 of suicide in the clinical context that has been approved by the
18 Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public
19 Safety.

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21 2. a. An applicant for licensure as a mental health practitioner
22 shall complete a minimum of four hours of suicide prevention
23 training and provide proof of completion as a condition of licensure
24 by the State Board of Social Work Examiners, the State Board of
25 Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the Alcohol and Drug
26 Counselor Committee, the Professional Counselor Examiners
27 Committee, the State Board of Psychological Examiners, or the
28 Certified Psychoanalysts Advisory Committee, as applicable.
29 Following licensure, the mental health practitioner shall complete a
30 minimum of four hours of suicide prevention training every six
31 years thereafter, and shall submit proof of completion to the
32 appropriate State Board of Examiners or Committee.

33 b. A mental health practitioner licensed or otherwise authorized
34 to practice in the State pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes
35 as of the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
36 Legislature as this bill) shall complete a minimum of four hours of
37 suicide prevention training within one year following the effective
38 date of this act, and a minimum of four hours of suicide prevention
39 training every six years thereafter, and shall submit proof of
40 completion to the appropriate State Board of Examiners or
41 Committee.

42 c. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
43 Department of Law and Public Safety shall establish a list of
44 approved suicide prevention training programs and a protocol by
45 which providers of suicide prevention training may seek approval of
46 their training programs by the division. The division shall consider
47 the suicide prevention training programs offered through or
48 endorsed by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, the Substance

1 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United
2 States Department of Health and Human Services, and other
3 nationally recognized suicide prevention organizations, in
4 implementing the provisions of this subsection.

5 d. The director, in consultation with the professional or
6 occupational boards designated in subsection a. of this section shall
7 adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968,
8 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), any rules and regulations deemed
9 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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11 3. This act shall take effect on the 90th day next following the
12 date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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17 This bill requires suicide prevention training as a condition of
18 licensure, and as an ongoing requirement for mental health
19 practitioners in the State. The bill requires that applicants for
20 licensure as a mental health practitioner must complete a minimum
21 of four hours of suicide prevention training, and submit proof of
22 completion to the appropriate State Board of Examiners or
23 Committee. Following their licensure, mental health practitioners
24 must complete a minimum of four hours of suicide prevention
25 training every six years. The bill requires that mental health
26 practitioners licensed to practice as of the effective date of the bill
27 complete a minimum of four hours of suicide prevention training
28 within one year following the effective date of this bill, and every
29 six years thereafter, and that proof of completion be submitted to
30 the appropriate State Board of Examiners or Committee.

31 The bill defines “mental health practitioner” as a clinical social
32 worker, marriage and family therapist, alcohol and drug counselor,
33 professional counselor, associate counselor, rehabilitation
34 counselor, clinical mental health counselor, psychologist, or
35 psychoanalyst who is licensed or otherwise authorized to practice
36 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes. The bill defines
37 “suicide prevention training” as a training program, provided
38 online, in person, or through telephonic means, concerning the
39 prevention, assessment, screening, treatment, and management of
40 suicide in the clinical context that has been approved by the
41 Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public
42 Safety.

43 The bill provides that the Director of the Division of Consumer
44 Affairs establish a list of approved suicide prevention training
45 programs and a protocol by which providers of suicide prevention
46 training may seek approval of their training programs by the
47 division.