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)
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman Schepisi, Assemblyman Calabrese, Assemblywomen Murphy, Downey, Assemblymen Houghtaling, DePhillips, Conaway, Assemblywomen DiMaso, Lopez and Assemblyman Rooney

SYNOPSIS

Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Human Services Committee with technical review.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)

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

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

1. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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