

SENATE, No. 2648

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2021)

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.

20

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 both as a condition
18 of initial mental health licensure and as an ongoing requirement for
19 mental health practitioners in the State. The bill requires that new
20 applicants for licensure as a mental health practitioner complete a
21 minimum of four hours of suicide prevention training and submit
22 proof of completion to the appropriate State Board of Examiners or
23 Committee. Following their licensure, mental health practitioners
24 are to complete a minimum of four hours of suicide prevention
25 training every six years. Mental health practitioners who are
26 already licensed to practice on the bill’s effective date will be
27 required to complete a minimum of four hours of suicide prevention
28 training within one year following the bill’s effective date, and
29 every six years thereafter, and provide proof of completion to the
30 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 requires the Director of the Division of Consumer
44 Affairs to 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.