
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1376

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Orwall, Jinkins, Liiias, Angel, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the requirement that certain health
2 professionals complete training in suicide assessment, treatment, and
3 management; and amending RCW 43.70.442.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.442 and 2012 c 181 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1)(a) Beginning January 1, 2014, each of the following
8 professionals certified or licensed under Title 18 RCW shall, at least
9 once every six years, complete ((a)) training ((program)) in suicide
10 assessment, treatment, and management that is approved, in rule, by the
11 relevant disciplining authority:

- 12 (i) An adviser or counselor certified under chapter 18.19 RCW;
- 13 (ii) A chemical dependency professional licensed under chapter
14 18.205 RCW;
- 15 (iii) A marriage and family therapist licensed under chapter 18.225
16 RCW;
- 17 (iv) A mental health counselor licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;
- 18 (v) An occupational therapy practitioner licensed under chapter
19 18.59 RCW;

1 (vi) A psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW; and
2 (vii) An advanced social worker or independent clinical social
3 worker licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

4 (b) The requirements in (a) of this subsection apply to a person
5 holding a retired active license for one of the professions in (a) of
6 this subsection.

7 (c) The training required by this subsection must be at least six
8 hours in length, unless a disciplinary authority has determined, under
9 subsection (8)(b) of this section, that training that includes only
10 screening and referral elements is appropriate for the profession in
11 question, in which case the training must be at least three hours in
12 length.

13 (2)(a)(i) Except as provided in (a)(ii) of this subsection, a
14 professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section must complete
15 the first training required by this section during the first full
16 continuing education reporting period after ~~((June 7, 2012))~~ January 1,
17 2014, or the first full continuing education reporting period after
18 initial licensure or certification, whichever occurs later.

19 (ii) A professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section
20 applying for initial licensure on or after ~~((June 7, 2012))~~ January 1,
21 2014, may delay completion of the first training required by this
22 section for six years after initial licensure if he or she can
23 demonstrate successful completion of ~~((a six-hour))~~ the training
24 ~~((program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that~~

25 ~~(A) was completed))~~ required in subsection (1) of this section no
26 more than six years prior to the application for initial licensure~~((~~
27 ~~and~~

28 ~~(B) is listed on the best practices registry of the American~~
29 ~~foundation for suicide prevention and the suicide prevention resource~~
30 ~~center)).~~

31 (3) The hours spent completing ~~((a))~~ training ~~((program))~~ in
32 suicide assessment, treatment, and management under this section count
33 toward meeting any applicable continuing education or continuing
34 competency requirements for each profession.

35 (4)(a) A disciplining authority may, by rule, specify minimum
36 training and experience that is sufficient to exempt a professional
37 from the training requirements in subsection (1) of this section.

1 (b) The board of occupational therapy practice may exempt an
2 occupational (~~(therapists)~~) therapy practitioner from the training
3 requirements of subsection (1) of this section (~~(by specialty,~~) if the
4 (~~(specialty in question)~~) occupational therapy practitioner has only
5 brief or limited patient contact.

6 (5)(a) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall work
7 collaboratively to develop a model list of training programs in suicide
8 assessment, treatment, and management.

9 (b) When developing the model list, the secretary and the
10 disciplining authorities shall:

11 (i) Consider suicide assessment, treatment, and management training
12 programs of at least six hours in length listed on the best practices
13 registry of the American foundation for suicide prevention and the
14 suicide prevention resource center; and

15 (ii) Consult with public and private institutions of higher
16 education, experts in suicide assessment, treatment, and management,
17 and affected professional associations.

18 (c) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall report the
19 model list of training programs to the appropriate committees of the
20 legislature no later than December 15, 2013.

21 (6) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to expand or limit
22 the scope of practice of any profession regulated under chapter 18.130
23 RCW.

24 (7) The secretary and the disciplining authorities affected by this
25 section shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section.

26 (8) For purposes of this section:

27 (a) "Disciplining authority" has the same meaning as in RCW
28 18.130.020.

29 (b) "Training (~~(program)~~) in suicide assessment, treatment, and
30 management" means (~~(an)~~) empirically supported training (~~(program)~~)
31 approved by the appropriate disciplining authority that contains the
32 following elements: Suicide assessment, including screening and
33 referral, suicide treatment, and suicide management. However, the
34 disciplining authority may approve ((a)) training ((program)) that
35 ((excludes one of the elements if the element is inappropriate))
36 includes only screening and referral elements if appropriate for the
37 profession in question based on the profession's scope of practice.
38 ~~((A training program that includes only screening and referral elements~~

1 ~~shall be at least three hours in length. All other training programs~~
2 ~~approved under this section shall be at least six hours in length.))~~
3 The board of occupational therapy may also approve training that
4 includes only screening and referral elements if appropriate for
5 occupational therapy practitioners based on practice setting.

6 (9) A state or local government employee is exempt from the
7 requirements of this section if he or she receives a total of at least
8 six hours of training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management
9 from his or her employer every six years. For purposes of this
10 subsection, the training may be provided in one six-hour block or may
11 be spread among shorter training sessions at the employer's discretion.

12 (10) An employee of a community mental health agency licensed under
13 chapter 71.24 RCW or a chemical dependency program certified under
14 chapter 70.96A RCW is exempt from the requirements of this section if
15 he or she receives a total of at least six hours of training in suicide
16 assessment, treatment, and management from his or her employer every
17 six years. For purposes of this subsection, the training may be
18 provided in one six-hour block or may be spread among shorter training
19 sessions at the employer's discretion.

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