
HOUSE BILL 1424

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Kagi, Jenkins, Gregerson, Goodman, Santos, Fey, and Sawyer

Read first time 01/20/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to suicide prevention; and amending RCW
2 43.70.442.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.442 and 2014 c 71 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

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

10 (i) An adviser or counselor certified under chapter 18.19 RCW;

11 (ii) A chemical dependency professional licensed under chapter
12 18.205 RCW;

13 (iii) A marriage and family therapist licensed under chapter
14 18.225 RCW;

15 (iv) A mental health counselor licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;

16 (v) An occupational therapy practitioner licensed under chapter
17 18.59 RCW;

18 (vi) A psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW;

19 (vii) An advanced social worker or independent clinical social
20 worker licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW; and

1 (viii) A social worker associate—advanced or social worker
2 associate—independent clinical licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

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

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

12 (d) Beginning July 1, 2017, the training required by this
13 subsection must be on the model list developed under subsection (6)
14 of this section. Nothing in this subsection (1)(d) affects the
15 validity of training completed prior to July 1, 2017.

16 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a
17 professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section must
18 complete the first training required by this section (~~during~~) by
19 the end of the first full continuing education reporting period after
20 January 1, 2014, or during the first full continuing education
21 reporting period after initial licensure or certification, whichever
22 occurs later.

23 (b) A professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section
24 applying for initial licensure may delay completion of the first
25 training required by this section for six years after initial
26 licensure if he or she can demonstrate successful completion of the
27 training required in subsection (1) of this section no more than six
28 years prior to the application for initial licensure.

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

33 (4)(a) A disciplining authority may, by rule, specify minimum
34 training and experience that is sufficient to exempt ((a)) an
35 individual professional from the training requirements in subsections
36 (1) and (5) of this section. Nothing in this subsection (4)(a) allows
37 a disciplining authority to provide blanket exemptions to broad
38 categories or specialties within a profession.

1 (b) A disciplining authority may exempt a professional from the
2 training requirements of subsections (1) and (5) of this section if
3 the professional has only brief or limited patient contact.

4 (5)(a) Beginning January 1, 2016, each of the following
5 professionals credentialed under Title 18 RCW shall complete a one-
6 time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that
7 is approved by the relevant disciplining authority:

8 (i) A chiropractor licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW;

9 (ii) A naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW;

10 (iii) A licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced
11 registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW;

12 (iv) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under chapter
13 18.57 RCW;

14 (v) An osteopathic physician assistant licensed under chapter
15 18.57A RCW;

16 (vi) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant
17 licensed under chapter 18.74 RCW;

18 (vii) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW;

19 (viii) A physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW;

20 and

21 (ix) A person holding a retired active license for one of the
22 professions listed in (a)(i) through (viii) of this subsection.

23 (b) A professional listed in (a) of this subsection must complete
24 the one-time training (~~during~~) by the end of the first full
25 continuing education reporting period after (~~June 12, 2014~~) January
26 1, 2016, or during the first full continuing education reporting
27 period after initial licensure, whichever is later.

28 (c) The training required by this subsection must be at least six
29 hours in length, unless a disciplining authority has determined,
30 under subsection (9)(b) of this section, that training that includes
31 only screening and referral elements is appropriate for the
32 profession in question, in which case the training must be at least
33 three hours in length.

34 (d) Beginning July 1, 2017, the training required by this
35 subsection must be on the model list developed under subsection (6)
36 of this section. Nothing in this subsection (5)(d) affects the
37 validity of training completed prior to July 1, 2017.

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

1 (b) ~~((When developing the model list, the secretary and the~~
2 ~~disciplining authorities shall:~~

3 ~~(i) Consider suicide assessment, treatment, and management~~
4 ~~training programs of at least six hours in length listed on the best~~
5 ~~practices registry of the American foundation for suicide prevention~~
6 ~~and the suicide prevention resource center; and~~

7 ~~(ii) Consult with public and private institutions of higher~~
8 ~~education, experts in suicide assessment, treatment, and management,~~
9 ~~and affected professional associations.~~

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

13 ~~(d))~~ The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall update
14 the list at least once every two years. ~~((When updating the list, the~~
15 ~~secretary and the disciplining authorities shall, to the extent~~
16 ~~practicable, endeavor to include training on the model list that~~
17 ~~includes content specific to veterans. When identifying veteran-~~
18 ~~specific content under this subsection, the secretary and the~~
19 ~~disciplining authorities shall consult with the Washington department~~
20 ~~of veterans affairs.))~~

21 (c) By June 30, 2016, the department shall adopt rules
22 establishing minimum standards for the training programs included on
23 the model list. The minimum standards must require that the training
24 include content specific to veterans and the assessment of issues
25 related to imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious
26 behaviors. When adopting the rules required under this subsection
27 (6)(c), the department shall:

28 (i) Consult with the affected disciplining authorities, public
29 and private institutions of higher education, experts in suicide
30 assessment, treatment, and management, the Washington department of
31 veterans affairs, and affected professional associations; and

32 (ii) Consider standards related to the best practices registry of
33 the American foundation for suicide prevention and the suicide
34 prevention resource center.

35 (d) Beginning January 1, 2017:

36 (i) The model list may include only trainings that meet the
37 minimum standards established in the rules adopted under (c) of this
38 subsection;

1 (ii) The model list must include both six-hour trainings in
2 suicide assessment, treatment, and management and three-hour
3 trainings that include only screening and referral elements; and

4 (iii) A person or entity providing the training required in this
5 section may petition the department for inclusion on the model list.
6 The department shall add the training to the list only if the
7 department determines that the training meets the minimum standards
8 established in the rules adopted under (c) of this subsection.

9 (7) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to expand or limit
10 the scope of practice of any profession regulated under chapter
11 18.130 RCW.

12 (8) The secretary and the disciplining authorities affected by
13 this section shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this
14 section.

15 (9) For purposes of this section:

16 (a) "Disciplining authority" has the same meaning as in RCW
17 18.130.020.

18 (b) "Training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management"
19 means empirically supported training approved by the appropriate
20 disciplining authority that contains the following elements: Suicide
21 assessment, including screening and referral, suicide treatment, and
22 suicide management. However, the disciplining authority may approve
23 training that includes only screening and referral elements if
24 appropriate for the profession in question based on the profession's
25 scope of practice. The board of occupational therapy may also approve
26 training that includes only screening and referral elements if
27 appropriate for occupational therapy practitioners based on practice
28 setting.

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

36 (11) An employee of a community mental health agency licensed
37 under chapter 71.24 RCW or a chemical dependency program certified
38 under chapter 70.96A RCW is exempt from the requirements of this
39 section if he or she receives a total of at least six hours of
40 training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management from his or

1 her employer every six years. For purposes of this subsection, the
2 training may be provided in one six-hour block or may be spread among
3 shorter training sessions at the employer's discretion.

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