

ASSEMBLY, No. 4604

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY
District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Flynn and Dunn

SYNOPSIS

Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/6/2023)

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, certified, or otherwise authorized to
13 practice 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 licensing or certification board 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 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
39 bill), and a minimum of four hours of suicide prevention training
40 every six years thereafter, and shall submit proof of completion to
41 the appropriate licensing or certification board or 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
49 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United

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

4 d. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
5 Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the
6 licensing and certification boards and committees designated in
7 subsection a. of this section, shall adopt, pursuant to the
8 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
9 seq.), any rules and regulations deemed necessary to effectuate the
10 purposes of this act.

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

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16 STATEMENT

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

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

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