

ASSEMBLY, No. 2961

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER P. DEPHILLIPS

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires annual suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

A2961 DEPHILLIPS, VAINIERI HUTTLE

2

1 AN ACT concerning suicide prevention and supplementing Title 45
2 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. A mental health practitioner licensed or otherwise
22 authorized to practice in the State pursuant to Title 45 of the
23 Revised Statutes shall complete a minimum of two hours of suicide
24 prevention training within one year following the effective date of
25 this act, a minimum of two hours of suicide prevention training
26 every year thereafter, and submit proof of completion to the
27 appropriate State Board of Examiners or Committee.

28 b. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
29 Department of Law and Public Safety shall establish a list of
30 approved suicide prevention training programs and a protocol by
31 which providers of suicide prevention training may seek approval of
32 their training programs by the division. The Division of Consumer
33 Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety shall consider
34 the suicide prevention training programs offered through or
35 endorsed by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, the Substance
36 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United
37 States Department of Health and Human Services, and other
38 nationally recognized suicide prevention organizations, in
39 implementing the provisions of this subsection.

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41 3. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
42 Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the State
43 Board of Social Work Examiners, the State Board of Marriage and
44 Family Therapy Examiners, the Alcohol and Drug Counselor
45 Committee, the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, the
46 State Board of Psychological Examiners, and the Certified
47 Psychoanalysts Advisory Committee, shall adopt, pursuant to the
48 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et

1 seq.), rules and regulations deemed necessary to effectuate the
2 purposes of this act.

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

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STATEMENT

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10 This bill requires annual suicide prevention training for mental
11 health practitioners.

12 Under the bill, mental health practitioners are to complete a
13 minimum of two hours of suicide prevention training within one
14 year following the effective date of this bill. Thereafter, mental
15 health practitioners are to complete a minimum of two hours of
16 suicide prevention training each year. Mental health practitioners
17 are to submit proof of completion of suicide prevention training to
18 the appropriate State Board of Examiners or Committee.

19 The bill defines “mental health practitioner” as a clinical social
20 worker, marriage and family therapist, alcohol and drug counselor,
21 professional counselor, associate counselor, rehabilitation
22 counselor, clinical mental health counselor, psychologist, or
23 psychoanalyst who is licensed or otherwise authorized to practice
24 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes. The bill defines
25 “suicide prevention training” as a training program, provided
26 online, in person, or through telephonic means, concerning the
27 prevention, assessment, screening, treatment, and management of
28 suicide in the clinical context that has been approved by the
29 Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public
30 Safety (division).

31 The bill provides that the Director of the Division of Consumer
32 Affairs establish a list of approved suicide prevention training
33 programs and a protocol by which providers of suicide prevention
34 training may seek approval of their training programs by the
35 division.