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.
AN ACT concerning suicide prevention and supplementing Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. As used in this act:

“Mental health practitioner” means a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, alcohol and drug counselor, professional counselor, associate counselor, rehabilitation counselor, clinical mental health counselor, psychologist, or psychoanalyst who is licensed or otherwise authorized to practice pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

“Suicide prevention training” means a training program, provided online, in person, or through telephonic means, concerning the prevention, assessment, screening, treatment, and management of suicide in the clinical context that has been approved by the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

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

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

3. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the State Board of Social Work Examiners, the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee, the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, the State Board of Psychological Examiners, and the Certified Psychoanalysts Advisory Committee, shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
seq.), rules and regulations deemed necessary to effectuate the
purposes of this act.

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

STATEMENT

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

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

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

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