

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 294—ASSEMBLYMEN THOMPSON, ELLIOT ANDERSON, FLORES, BENITEZ-THOMPSON, SPRINKLE; ARAUJO, BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARRILLO, DIAZ, JOINER, MOORE, MUNFORD, NEAL, O’NEILL, SPIEGEL, SWANK AND WHEELER

MARCH 13, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS SPEARMAN, PARKS, FORD, ATKINSON, KIHUEN; DENIS, MANENDO AND WOODHOUSE

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Enacts provisions relating to suicide prevention for veterans. (BDR 54-692)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public health; requiring providers of health care to receive training relating to suicide assessment, screening and referral; requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to report information concerning the suicide mortality rate of veterans to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law requires certain health care professionals to receive training relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. (NRS 450B.180, 630.253, 631.342, 632.343) **Section 1** of this bill requires a provider of health care to receive training relating to suicide assessment, screening and referral and authorizes a provider of health care to use credit for completing such training in place of not more than 3 hours of the requirements for continuing education, not relating to ethics, of the provider of health care.

Existing law provides for the creation, powers and duties of the Department of Veterans Services and the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs. (NRS 417.0191-417.105) **Section 2** of this bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report to the Council certain information relating to the suicide



mortality rate of veterans and requires the Council to report such information annually to the Legislature or, if the Legislature is not in session, to the Legislative Commission.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 629 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. A provider of health care shall complete a course of instruction, within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to suicide assessment, screening and referral. The course must provide at least 3 hours of instruction relating to suicide assessment, screening and referral and be approved by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.*

*2. Unless a specific statute or regulation requires or authorizes a greater number of hours, a provider of health care who is required to complete continuing education may use the completion of a course of instruction pursuant to this section in place of not more than 3 hours of the continuing education that the provider of health care is required to complete, other than any continuing education relating to ethics that the provider of health care is required to complete.*

*3. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services may adopt such regulations as it determines to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.*

**Sec. 2.** Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide, subject to any limitations or restrictions contained in any state or federal law governing the privacy or confidentiality of records, a report from the State Registrar of Vital Statistics setting forth the suicide mortality rate of veterans in this State to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs. The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit such information to the Council not later than November 30 of each year and shall provide the information in aggregate and in digital form, and in a manner such that the data is capable of integration by the Council.*

*2. The Council shall, upon receiving the information submitted pursuant to this section, analyze and compile the information, including any recommendations of the Council, and*



1 *submit the information with the report submitted pursuant to*  
2 *subsection 3 of NRS 417.0195.*

3 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective:

4 1. Upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting  
5 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative  
6 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

7 2. On January 1, 2016, for all other purposes.

