

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 105—ASSEMBLYMAN THOMPSON

PREFILED FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises continuing education requirements relating to suicide prevention and awareness for certain providers of health care. (BDR 54-32)

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

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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; revising continuing education requirements relating to suicide prevention and awareness for certain providers of health care; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law requires or encourages certain providers of health care, including
2 physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists,
3 behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts, marriage and family therapists,
4 clinical professional counselors, social workers, alcohol and drug abuse counselors
5 and problem gambling counselors and certain interns related to these professions to
6 receive at least 1 or 2 hours of continuing education in certain topics related to
7 suicide prevention and awareness. (NRS 630.253, 641.220, 641A.260, 641B.280,
8 641C.450) **Sections 1-6** of this bill increase to 3 hours and make mandatory certain
9 continuing education requirements relating to suicide prevention and awareness for
10 each of these providers of health care.

11 **Section 1** also removes the authority for certain persons who hold a license
12 to practice medicine, including, without limitation, physicians and psychiatrists, to
13 substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education in certain topics related to
14 suicide prevention for an equivalent continuing education requirement in ethics.
15 (NRS 630.253)

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 630.253 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 630.253 1. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the:
3 (a) Renewal of a license as a physician assistant; or



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(b) Biennial registration of the holder of a license to practice medicine,
➔ require each holder to submit evidence of compliance with the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board.

2. These requirements:

(a) May provide for the completion of one or more courses of instruction relating to risk management in the performance of medical services.

(b) Must provide for the completion of a course of instruction, within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The course must provide at least 4 hours of instruction that includes instruction in the following subjects:

(1) An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;

(2) Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;

(3) Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;

(4) Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and

(5) An overview of the information available on, and the use of, the Health Alert Network.

(c) Must provide for the completion by a holder of a license to practice medicine who is a psychiatrist of a course of instruction that provides at least ~~2~~ 3 hours of instruction on ~~clinically-based~~ suicide ~~prevention and awareness~~ *assessment, treatment and management*.

➔ The Board may thereafter determine whether to include in a program of continuing education additional courses of instruction relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

3. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license who treats or cares for persons who are more than 60 years of age to receive, as a portion of their continuing education, education in geriatrics and gerontology, including such topics as:

(a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address aging issues;

(b) Approaches to providing health care to older persons, including both didactic and clinical approaches;

(c) The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of the aging process; and



(d) The importance of maintenance of function and independence for older persons.

4. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing education, training concerning methods for educating patients about how to effectively manage medications, including, without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to the container of the drug.

5. The Board shall ~~encourage~~ *require* each holder of a license to practice medicine, other than a psychiatrist, to receive as a portion of his or her continuing education ~~training concerning suicide, including~~ *at least 3 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness, which may include,* without limitation, ~~such topics as:~~ *instruction concerning:*

(a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to detect behaviors that may lead to suicide, including, without limitation, post-traumatic stress disorder;

(b) Approaches to engaging other professionals in suicide intervention; and

(c) The detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations and the prevention of suicide.

6. A holder of a license to practice medicine may *not* substitute ~~not more than 2 hours of~~ *the* continuing education credits ~~in the detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations, and the intervention and prevention of suicide, pain management or addiction care~~ *relating to suicide required by this section* for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.

7. *A holder of a license to practice medicine may substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in pain management or addiction care for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.*

8. As used in this section:

(a) "Act of terrorism" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4415.

(b) "Biological agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.442.

(c) "Chemical agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4425.

(d) "Radioactive agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4437.

(e) "Weapon of mass destruction" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4445.



Sec. 2. NRS 632.343 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.343 1. The Board shall not renew any license issued under this chapter until the licensee has submitted proof satisfactory to the Board of completion, during the 2-year period before renewal of the license, of 30 hours in a program of continuing education approved by the Board in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. The licensee is exempt from this provision for the first biennial period after graduation from:

- (a) An accredited school of professional nursing;
- (b) An accredited school of practical nursing;
- (c) An approved school of professional nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation; or
- (d) An approved school of practical nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation.

2. The Board shall review all courses offered to nurses for the completion of the requirement set forth in subsection 1. The Board may approve nursing and other courses which are directly related to the practice of nursing as well as others which bear a reasonable relationship to current developments in the field of nursing or any special area of practice in which a licensee engages. These may include academic studies, workshops, extension studies, home study and other courses.

3. The program of continuing education required by subsection 1 must include a course of instruction, to be completed within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The course must provide at least 4 hours of instruction that includes instruction in the following subjects:

- (a) An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;
- (b) Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;
- (c) Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;
- (d) Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and
- (e) An overview of the information available on, and the use of, the Health Alert Network.

➤ The Board may thereafter determine whether to include in a program of continuing education additional courses of instruction relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

4. The Board shall encourage each licensee who treats or cares for persons who are more than 60 years of age to receive, as a



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1 portion of their continuing education, education in geriatrics and
2 gerontology, including such topics as:

3 (a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address
4 aging issues;

5 (b) Approaches to providing health care to older persons,
6 including both didactic and clinical approaches;

7 (c) The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of
8 the aging process; and

9 (d) The importance of maintenance of function and
10 independence for older persons.

11 5. The Board shall ~~encourage~~ **require** each person licensed as
12 an advanced practice registered nurse to receive as a portion of his
13 or her continuing education at least ~~12~~ **3** hours of instruction on
14 ~~clinically-based~~ **evidence-based** suicide prevention and awareness.

15 6. As used in this section:

16 (a) "Act of terrorism" has the meaning ascribed to it in
17 NRS 202.4415.

18 (b) "Biological agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in
19 NRS 202.442.

20 (c) "Chemical agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in
21 NRS 202.4425.

22 (d) "Radioactive agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in
23 NRS 202.4437.

24 (e) "Weapon of mass destruction" has the meaning ascribed to it
25 in NRS 202.4445.

26 **Sec. 3.** NRS 641.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 641.220 1. To renew a license issued pursuant to this chapter,
28 each person must, on or before the first day of January of each odd-
29 numbered year:

30 (a) Apply to the Board for renewal;

31 (b) Pay the biennial fee for the renewal of a license;

32 (c) Submit evidence to the Board of completion of the
33 requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations
34 adopted by the Board; and

35 (d) Submit all information required to complete the renewal.

36 2. Upon renewing his or her license, a psychologist shall
37 declare his or her areas of competence, as determined in accordance
38 with NRS 641.112.

39 3. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a
40 license, require each holder to comply with the requirements for
41 continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include,
42 without limitation, a requirement that the holder of a license receive
43 at least ~~12~~ **3** hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide
44 prevention and awareness.



Sec. 4. NRS 641A.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.260 1. To renew a license issued pursuant to this chapter, each person must, on or before the date of expiration of the current license:

(a) Apply to the Board for renewal;

(b) Pay the fee for renewal set by the Board;

(c) Submit evidence to the Board of completion of the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and

(d) Submit all information required to complete the renewal.

2. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license, require each holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder receive at least ~~12~~ **3** hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.

Sec. 5. NRS 641B.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.280 1. Every holder of a license issued pursuant to this chapter may renew his or her license annually by:

(a) Applying to the Board for renewal;

(b) Paying the annual renewal fee set by the Board;

(c) Submitting evidence to the Board of completion of the required continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and

(d) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.

2. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license, require the holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder receive at least ~~12~~ **3** hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.

Sec. 6. NRS 641C.450 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.450 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 641C.310, 641C.320, 641C.440 and 641C.530, a person may renew his or her license or certificate by submitting to the Board:

1. An application for the renewal of the license or certificate;

2. The fee for the renewal of a license or certificate prescribed in NRS 641C.470;

3. Evidence of completion of the continuing education required by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the applicant receive at least ~~1 hour~~ **3 hours** of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness for each year of the term of the applicant's licensure or certification;



- 1 4. If the applicant is a certified intern, the name of the licensed
- 2 or certified counselor who supervises the applicant; and
- 3 5. All information required to complete the renewal.
- 4 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2018, and expires
- 5 by limitation on June 30, 2026.

