
SENATE BILL NO. 266—SENATOR SPEARMAN

MARCH 12, 2019

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN SPIEGEL;
AND FLORES

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Provides for the establishment of the Mental Health First Aid Program. (BDR 39-550)

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 mental health; providing for the establishment of the Mental Health First Aid Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to operate certain facilities and programs for the provision of mental health services. (NRS 433.233-433.374) This bill requires the Division to establish the Mental Health First Aid Program to provide training concerning the identification and assistance of persons who have a mental illness or substance use disorder or who may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. This bill requires a person who provides such training to have successfully completed a training program for mental health first aid instructors. This bill additionally requires the Division to collaborate with interested persons and groups when developing the Mental Health First Aid Program and inform interested persons and groups concerning the availability and benefits of training under the Program. This bill also requires the Division to annually submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report containing certain information about the Program.



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

Section 1. Chapter 433 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. To the extent that money is available for that purpose, the Division shall establish the Mental Health First Aid Program to provide training concerning the identification and assistance of persons who have a mental illness or substance use disorder or who may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. The training must include, without limitation:

(a) Recognizing the symptoms of a mental illness or substance use disorder;

(b) Providing initial assistance to persons experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis;

(c) Guiding persons requiring assistance with mental health issues, including, without limitation, persons experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis, to professionals qualified to provide such assistance;

(d) Comforting a person experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis;

(e) Helping a person with a mental illness or substance use disorder avoid a mental health or substance abuse crisis; and

(f) Promoting healing, recovery and good mental health.

2. A person who provides training through the Mental Health First Aid Program must have successfully completed a training program for mental health first aid instructors offered by Mental Health First Aid USA or its successor organization or, if none, by the Division.

3. The Division shall:

(a) Consult with interested persons, including, without limitation, legislators, representatives of governmental and private entities that provide or arrange for the provision of mental health services, public safety agencies, the Department of Education, school districts, charter schools, school employees, community-based organizations and members of the public, when developing the Mental Health First Aid Program;

(b) Inform the public and interested groups, including, without limitation, providers of emergency medical services, law enforcement officers, teachers, school administrators and providers of primary health care services, concerning the availability and benefits of training through the Mental Health First Aid Program;



(c) *Employ persons who meet the requirements of subsection 2 to provide training through the Mental Health First Aid Program; and*

(d) *On or before January 1 of each year:*

(1) *Compile a report that includes, without limitation, the number of persons who provide training through the Mental Health First Aid Program, the number of training sessions provided by such persons, the groups of persons to whom such training was provided and any other information determined by the Division to be relevant to evaluating the effectiveness of the Mental Health First Aid Program; and*

(2) *Submit the report to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to:*

(I) *In even-numbered years, the Legislative Committee on Health Care; and*

(II) *In odd-numbered years, the next regular session of the Legislature.*

4. *The Division may apply for and accept gifts, grants and donations to carry out the provisions of this section.*

5. *As used in this section, "public safety agency" means:*

(a) *A fire-fighting agency; or*

(b) *A law enforcement agency as defined in NRS 277.035.*

Sec. 2. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

