
HOUSE BILL 2411

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Kilduff, and Gildon

1 AN ACT Relating to suicide prevention; reenacting and amending
2 RCW 43.70.442; adding a new section to chapter 18.92 RCW; and
3 providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.442 and 2019 c 444 s 13 and 2019 c 358 s 5 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Each of the following professionals certified or licensed
8 under Title 18 RCW shall, at least once every six years, complete
9 training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that is
10 approved, in rule, by the relevant disciplining authority:

11 (i) An adviser or counselor certified under chapter 18.19 RCW;

12 (ii) A substance use disorder professional licensed under chapter
13 18.205 RCW;

14 (iii) A marriage and family therapist licensed under chapter
15 18.225 RCW;

16 (iv) A mental health counselor licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;

17 (v) An occupational therapy practitioner licensed under chapter
18 18.59 RCW;

19 (vi) A psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW;

20 (vii) An advanced social worker or independent clinical social
21 worker licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW; and

1 (viii) A social worker associate—advanced or social worker
2 associate—independent clinical licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

3 (b) The requirements in (a) of this subsection apply to a person
4 holding a retired active license for one of the professions in (a) of
5 this subsection.

6 (c) The training required by this subsection must be at least six
7 hours in length, unless a disciplining authority has determined,
8 under subsection (10)(b) of this section, that training that includes
9 only screening and referral elements is appropriate for the
10 profession in question, in which case the training must be at least
11 three hours in length.

12 (d) Beginning July 1, 2017, the training required by this
13 subsection must be on the model list developed under subsection (6)
14 of this section. Nothing in this subsection (1)(d) affects the
15 validity of training completed prior to July 1, 2017.

16 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection(~~(1-a)~~):

17 (i) A professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section
18 must complete the first training required by this section by the end
19 of the first full continuing education reporting period after January
20 1, 2014, or during the first full continuing education reporting
21 period after initial licensure or certification, whichever occurs
22 later.

23 (ii) Beginning July 1, 2021, the second training for a
24 psychologist, a marriage and family therapist, a mental health
25 counselor, an advanced social worker, an independent clinical social
26 worker, a social worker associate-advanced, or a social worker
27 associate-independent clinical must be either: (A) An advanced
28 training focused on suicide management, suicide care protocols, or
29 effective treatments; or (B) a training in a treatment modality shown
30 to be effective in working with people who are suicidal, including
31 dialectical behavior therapy, collaborative assessment and management
32 of suicide risk, or cognitive behavior therapy-suicide prevention. If
33 a professional subject to the requirements of this subsection has
34 already completed the professional's second training prior to July 1,
35 2021, the professional's next training must comply with this
36 subsection. This subsection (2)(a)(ii) does not apply if the licensee
37 demonstrates that the training required by this subsection (2)(a)(ii)
38 is not reasonably available.

39 (b)(i) A professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section
40 applying for initial licensure may delay completion of the first

1 training required by this section for six years after initial
2 licensure if he or she can demonstrate successful completion of the
3 training required in subsection (1) of this section no more than six
4 years prior to the application for initial licensure.

5 (ii) Beginning July 1, 2021, a psychologist, a marriage and
6 family therapist, a mental health counselor, an advanced social
7 worker, an independent clinical social worker, a social worker
8 associate-advanced, or a social worker associate-independent clinical
9 exempt from his or her first training under (b) (i) of this subsection
10 must comply with the requirements of (a) (ii) of this subsection for
11 his or her first training after initial licensure. If a professional
12 subject to the requirements of this subsection has already completed
13 the professional's first training after initial licensure, the
14 professional's next training must comply with this subsection
15 (2) (b) (ii). This subsection (2) (b) (ii) does not apply if the licensee
16 demonstrates that the training required by this subsection (2) (b) (ii)
17 is not reasonably available.

18 (3) The hours spent completing training in suicide assessment,
19 treatment, and management under this section count toward meeting any
20 applicable continuing education or continuing competency requirements
21 for each profession.

22 (4) (a) A disciplining authority may, by rule, specify minimum
23 training and experience that is sufficient to exempt an individual
24 professional from the training requirements in subsections (1) and
25 (5) of this section. Nothing in this subsection (4) (a) allows a
26 disciplining authority to provide blanket exemptions to broad
27 categories or specialties within a profession.

28 (b) A disciplining authority may exempt a professional from the
29 training requirements of subsections (1) and (5) of this section if
30 the professional has only brief or limited patient contact.

31 (5) (a) Each of the following professionals credentialed under
32 Title 18 RCW shall complete a one-time training in suicide
33 assessment, treatment, and management that is approved by the
34 relevant disciplining authority:

35 (i) A chiropractor licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW;

36 (ii) A naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW;

37 (iii) A licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced
38 registered nurse practitioner, other than a certified registered
39 nurse anesthetist, licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW;

1 (iv) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under chapter
2 18.57 RCW, other than a holder of a postgraduate osteopathic medicine
3 and surgery license issued under RCW 18.57.035;

4 (v) An osteopathic physician assistant licensed under chapter
5 18.57A RCW;

6 (vi) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant
7 licensed under chapter 18.74 RCW;

8 (vii) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, other than a
9 resident holding a limited license issued under RCW 18.71.095(3);

10 (viii) A physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW;

11 (ix) A pharmacist licensed under chapter 18.64 RCW;

12 (x) A dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW;

13 (xi) A dental hygienist licensed under chapter 18.29 RCW;

14 (xii) An athletic trainer licensed under chapter 18.250 RCW;

15 ((and))

16 (xiii) An optometrist licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW; and

17 (xiv) A person holding a retired active license for one of the
18 professions listed in (a)(i) through (~~(xii)~~) (xiii) of this
19 subsection.

20 (b)(i) A professional listed in (a)(i) through (viii) of this
21 subsection or a person holding a retired active license for one of
22 the professions listed in (a)(i) through (viii) of this subsection
23 must complete the one-time training by the end of the first full
24 continuing education reporting period after January 1, 2016, or
25 during the first full continuing education reporting period after
26 initial licensure, whichever is later. Training completed between
27 June 12, 2014, and January 1, 2016, that meets the requirements of
28 this section, other than the timing requirements of this subsection
29 (5)(b), must be accepted by the disciplining authority as meeting the
30 one-time training requirement of this subsection (5).

31 (ii) A licensed pharmacist or a person holding a retired active
32 pharmacist license must complete the one-time training by the end of
33 the first full continuing education reporting period after January 1,
34 2017, or during the first full continuing education reporting period
35 after initial licensure, whichever is later.

36 (iii) A licensed dentist, a licensed dental hygienist, or a
37 person holding a retired active license as a dentist shall complete
38 the one-time training by the end of the full continuing education
39 reporting period after August 1, 2020, or during the first full
40 continuing education reporting period after initial licensure,

1 whichever is later. Training completed between July 23, 2017, and
2 August 1, 2020, that meets the requirements of this section, other
3 than the timing requirements of this subsection (5)(b)(iii), must be
4 accepted by the disciplining authority as meeting the one-time
5 training requirement of this subsection (5).

6 (iv) A licensed optometrist, or a person holding a retired active
7 license as an optometrist, shall complete the one-time training by
8 the end of the full continuing education reporting period after
9 August 1, 2021, or during the first full continuing education
10 reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later.
11 Training completed between the effective date of this section and
12 August 1, 2021, that meets the requirements of this section, other
13 than the timing requirements of this subsection (5)(b)(iv), must be
14 accepted by the disciplining authority as meeting the one-time
15 training requirement of this subsection (5).

16 (c) The training required by this subsection must be at least six
17 hours in length, unless a disciplining authority has determined,
18 under subsection (10)(b) of this section, that training that includes
19 only screening and referral elements is appropriate for the
20 profession in question, in which case the training must be at least
21 three hours in length.

22 (d) Beginning July 1, 2017, the training required by this
23 subsection must be on the model list developed under subsection (6)
24 of this section. Nothing in this subsection (5)(d) affects the
25 validity of training completed prior to July 1, 2017.

26 (6)(a) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall work
27 collaboratively to develop a model list of training programs in
28 suicide assessment, treatment, and management. Beginning July 1,
29 2021, for purposes of subsection (2)(a)(ii) of this section, the
30 model list must include advanced training and training in treatment
31 modalities shown to be effective in working with people who are
32 suicidal.

33 (b) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall update
34 the list at least once every two years.

35 (c) By June 30, 2016, the department shall adopt rules
36 establishing minimum standards for the training programs included on
37 the model list. The minimum standards must require that six-hour
38 trainings include content specific to veterans and the assessment of
39 issues related to imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious
40 behaviors and that three-hour trainings for pharmacists or dentists

1 include content related to the assessment of issues related to
2 imminent harm via lethal means. When adopting the rules required
3 under this subsection (6)(c), the department shall:

4 (i) Consult with the affected disciplining authorities, public
5 and private institutions of higher education, educators, experts in
6 suicide assessment, treatment, and management, the Washington
7 department of veterans affairs, and affected professional
8 associations; and

9 (ii) Consider standards related to the best practices registry of
10 the American foundation for suicide prevention and the suicide
11 prevention resource center.

12 (d) Beginning January 1, 2017:

13 (i) The model list must include only trainings that meet the
14 minimum standards established in the rules adopted under (c) of this
15 subsection and any three-hour trainings that met the requirements of
16 this section on or before July 24, 2015;

17 (ii) The model list must include six-hour trainings in suicide
18 assessment, treatment, and management, and three-hour trainings that
19 include only screening and referral elements; and

20 (iii) A person or entity providing the training required in this
21 section may petition the department for inclusion on the model list.
22 The department shall add the training to the list only if the
23 department determines that the training meets the minimum standards
24 established in the rules adopted under (c) of this subsection.

25 (e) By January 1, 2021, the department shall adopt minimum
26 standards for advanced training and training in treatment modalities
27 shown to be effective in working with people who are suicidal.
28 Beginning July 1, 2021, all such training on the model list must meet
29 the minimum standards. When adopting the minimum standards, the
30 department must consult with the affected disciplining authorities,
31 public and private institutions of higher education, educators,
32 experts in suicide assessment, treatment, and management, the
33 Washington department of veterans affairs, and affected professional
34 associations.

35 (7) The department shall provide the health profession training
36 standards created in this section to the professional educator
37 standards board as a model in meeting the requirements of RCW
38 28A.410.226 and provide technical assistance, as requested, in the
39 review and evaluation of educator training programs. The educator

1 training programs approved by the professional educator standards
2 board may be included in the department's model list.

3 (8) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to expand or limit
4 the scope of practice of any profession regulated under chapter
5 18.130 RCW.

6 (9) The secretary and the disciplining authorities affected by
7 this section shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this
8 section.

9 (10) For purposes of this section:

10 (a) "Disciplining authority" has the same meaning as in RCW
11 18.130.020.

12 (b) "Training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management"
13 means empirically supported training approved by the appropriate
14 disciplining authority that contains the following elements: Suicide
15 assessment, including screening and referral, suicide treatment, and
16 suicide management. However, the disciplining authority may approve
17 training that includes only screening and referral elements if
18 appropriate for the profession in question based on the profession's
19 scope of practice. The board of occupational therapy may also approve
20 training that includes only screening and referral elements if
21 appropriate for occupational therapy practitioners based on practice
22 setting.

23 (11) A state or local government employee is exempt from the
24 requirements of this section if he or she receives a total of at
25 least six hours of training in suicide assessment, treatment, and
26 management from his or her employer every six years. For purposes of
27 this subsection, the training may be provided in one six-hour block
28 or may be spread among shorter training sessions at the employer's
29 discretion.

30 (12) An employee of a community mental health agency licensed
31 under chapter 71.24 RCW or a chemical dependency program certified
32 under chapter 71.24 RCW is exempt from the requirements of this
33 section if he or she receives a total of at least six hours of
34 training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management from his or
35 her employer every six years. For purposes of this subsection, the
36 training may be provided in one six-hour block or may be spread among
37 shorter training sessions at the employer's discretion.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.92
39 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The board, in consultation with the University of
2 Washington's forefront suicide prevention center of excellence, shall
3 develop a suicide prevention training program for veterinarians by
4 June 30, 2022. The program must:

5 (a) Recognize that veterinarians treat animal patients and have
6 limited interaction with animal patient owners;

7 (b) Focus on mental health and well-being;

8 (c) Include general content on suicide risk, prevention, and
9 resourcing, and specific content on imminent harm by lethal means;
10 and

11 (d) Be three hours in length.

12 (2) Beginning July 1, 2022, all veterinarians and veterinary
13 technicians shall complete the training program developed by the
14 board. The training must be completed during the first full
15 continuing education reporting period after July 1, 2022, or during
16 the first full continuing education reporting period after initial
17 licensure, whichever is later. The board may exempt any veterinarian
18 or veterinary technician who completed training substantially
19 equivalent to the training developed under subsection (1) of this
20 section in the three years prior to July 1, 2022.

21 (3) The hours spent completing training under this section count
22 toward meeting any applicable continuing education requirements for
23 veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

24 (4) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to expand or limit
25 the scope of practice of a veterinarian or veterinary technician.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect August 1, 2020.

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