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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2411**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Orwall, Kilduff, Gildon, Leavitt, Paul, Cody, Davis, Pollet, Goodman, Wylie, Doglio, and Morgan)

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;

17 (xiv) An acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner licensed  
18 under chapter 18.06 RCW; and

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

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

33 (ii) A licensed pharmacist or a person holding a retired active  
34 pharmacist license must complete the one-time training by the end of  
35 the first full continuing education reporting period after January 1,  
36 2017, or during the first full continuing education reporting period  
37 after initial licensure, whichever is later.

38 (iii) A licensed dentist, a licensed dental hygienist, or a  
39 person holding a retired active license as a dentist shall complete  
40 the one-time training by the end of the full continuing education

1 reporting period after August 1, 2020, or during the first full  
2 continuing education reporting period after initial licensure,  
3 whichever is later. Training completed between July 23, 2017, and  
4 August 1, 2020, that meets the requirements of this section, other  
5 than the timing requirements of this subsection (5)(b)(iii), must be  
6 accepted by the disciplining authority as meeting the one-time  
7 training requirement of this subsection (5).

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

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

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

30 (6)(a) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall work  
31 collaboratively to develop a model list of training programs in  
32 suicide assessment, treatment, and management. Beginning July 1,  
33 2021, for purposes of subsection (2)(a)(ii) of this section, the  
34 model list must include advanced training and training in treatment  
35 modalities shown to be effective in working with people who are  
36 suicidal.

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

39 (c) By June 30, 2016, the department shall adopt rules  
40 establishing minimum standards for the training programs included on

1 the model list. The minimum standards must require that six-hour  
2 trainings include content specific to veterans and the assessment of  
3 issues related to imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious  
4 behaviors and that three-hour trainings for pharmacists or dentists  
5 include content related to the assessment of issues related to  
6 imminent harm via lethal means. When adopting the rules required  
7 under this subsection (6)(c), the department shall:

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

13 (ii) Consider standards related to the best practices registry of  
14 the American foundation for suicide prevention and the suicide  
15 prevention resource center.

16 (d) Beginning January 1, 2017:

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

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

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

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

39 (7) The department shall provide the health profession training  
40 standards created in this section to the professional educator

1 standards board as a model in meeting the requirements of RCW  
2 28A.410.226 and provide technical assistance, as requested, in the  
3 review and evaluation of educator training programs. The educator  
4 training programs approved by the professional educator standards  
5 board may be included in the department's model list.

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

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

12 (10) For purposes of this section:

13 (a) "Disciplining authority" has the same meaning as in RCW  
14 18.130.020.

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

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

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

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

3        (1)    The board, in consultation with the University of  
4    Washington's forefront suicide prevention center of excellence and  
5    affected professional associations, shall develop a suicide  
6    prevention training program for veterinarians and veterinary  
7    technicians by June 30, 2022. The program must:

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

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

11       (c)    Include general content on suicide risk, prevention, and  
12    resourcing, and specific content on imminent harm by lethal means;  
13    and

14       (d)    Be three hours in length.

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

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

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

29       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    Section 1 of this act takes effect August  
30    1, 2020.

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