

Jim Morishima 786-7191  
House Health Care & Wellness Committee  
November 13, 2014 (5:14 PM)

1 AN ACT Relating to suicide prevention;

2

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

4

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.442 and 2014 c 71 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

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

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

12 (ii) A chemical dependency 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  
17 RCW;

18 (v) An occupational therapy practitioner licensed under chapter  
19 18.59 RCW;

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

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

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

6 (b) The requirements in (a) of this subsection apply to a  
7 person holding a retired active license for one of the professions  
8 in (a) of this subsection.

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

15 (d) Beginning July 1, 2016, the training required by this  
16 subsection must meet the minimum standards established in rules  
17 adopted under subsection (12) of this section. Nothing in this  
18 subsection (1)(d) affects the validity of training completed prior  
19 to July 1, 2016.

20 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a  
21 professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section must  
22 complete the first training required by this section (~~during~~) by  
23 the end of the first full continuing education reporting period  
24 after January 1, 2014, or during the first full continuing education  
25 reporting period after initial licensure or certification, whichever  
26 occurs later.

27 (b) A professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section  
28 applying for initial licensure may delay completion of the first  
29 training required by this section for six years after initial  
30 licensure if he or she can demonstrate successful completion of the  
31 training required in subsection (1) of this section no more than six  
32 years prior to the application for initial licensure.

33 (3) The hours spent completing training in suicide assessment,  
34 treatment, and management under this section count toward meeting

1 any applicable continuing education or continuing competency  
2 requirements for each profession.

3 (4) (a) A disciplining authority may, by rule, specify minimum  
4 training and experience that is sufficient to exempt a professional  
5 from the training requirements in subsections (1) and (5) of this  
6 section.

7 (b) A disciplining authority may exempt an individual  
8 professional from the training requirements of subsections (1) and  
9 (5) of this section if the professional has only brief or limited  
10 patient contact. Nothing in this subsection allows a disciplining  
11 authority to provide blanket exemptions to broad categories or  
12 specialties within a profession.

13 (5) (a) Beginning January 1, 2016, each of the following  
14 professionals credentialed under Title 18 RCW shall complete a one-  
15 time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that  
16 is approved by the relevant disciplining authority:

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

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

19 (iii) A licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced  
20 registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW;

21 (iv) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under  
22 chapter 18.57 RCW;

23 (v) An osteopathic physician assistant licensed under chapter  
24 18.57A RCW;

25 (vi) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant  
26 licensed under chapter 18.74 RCW;

27 (vii) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW;

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

29 and

30 (ix) A person holding a retired active license for one of the  
31 professions listed in (a) (i) through (viii) of this subsection.

32 (b) A professional listed in (a) of this subsection must  
33 complete the one-time training (~~during~~) by the end of the first  
34 full continuing education reporting period after (~~June 12, 2014~~)

1 January 1, 2016, or the during first full continuing education  
2 reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later.

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

9 (d) Beginning July 1, 2016, the training required by this  
10 subsection must meet the minimum standards established in rules  
11 adopted under subsection (12) of this section. Nothing in this  
12 subsection (5) (d) affects the validity of training completed prior  
13 to July 1, 2016.

14 (6) (a) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall  
15 work collaboratively to develop a model list of training programs in  
16 suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

17 (b) When developing the model list, the secretary and the  
18 disciplining authorities shall:

19 (i) Consider suicide assessment, treatment, and management  
20 training programs of at least six hours in length listed on the best  
21 practices registry of the American foundation for suicide prevention  
22 and the suicide prevention resource center; and

23 (ii) Consult with public and private institutions of higher  
24 education, experts in suicide assessment, treatment, and management,  
25 and affected professional associations.

26 (c) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall report  
27 the model list of training programs to the appropriate committees of  
28 the legislature no later than December 15, 2013.

29 (d) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall update  
30 the list at least once every two years. When updating the list, the  
31 secretary and the disciplining authorities shall (~~(, to the extent~~  
32 ~~practicable, endeavor to~~)) include training on the model list that  
33 includes content specific to veterans. When identifying veteran-  
34 specific content under this subsection, the secretary and the

1 disciplining authorities shall consult with the Washington  
2 department of veterans affairs.

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

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

9 (9) 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  
20 approve training that includes only screening and referral elements  
21 if appropriate for occupational therapy practitioners based on  
22 practice setting.

23 (10) 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 (11) An employee of a community mental health agency licensed  
31 under chapter 71.24 RCW or a chemical dependency program certified  
32 under chapter 70.96A 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

