



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	August 7, 2014
<b>TO</b>	Psychology Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	Jonathan Burke Administrative Services Coordinator
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>AB 2198 (Levine): Mental Health Professionals: Suicide Prevention Training</b>

### Background:

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On June 17, 2014, the Board of Psychology took an “oppose” position on AB 2198.

### Action Requested:

This item is for informational purposes as there have been no substantive changes to the bill. No action is requested.

**Attachment A** is the staff analysis of AB 2198.

**Attachment B** shows the current language proposed in AB 2198.

**Attachment C** is the “oppose” letter sent for AB 2198.

# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

## BILL ANALYSIS

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**BILL NUMBER:** AB 2198

**VERSION:** AMENDED AUGUST 4, 2014

**AUTHOR:** LEVINE

**SPONSOR:** AUTHOR

**BOARD POSITION:** OPPOSE

**SUBJECT:** MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

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### **Existing Law:**

**1)** Provides that the Board of Psychology (Board) is the state licensing entity for Psychologists, Registered Psychologists, and Psychological Assistants. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§2900, 2903, 2913)

**2)** Requires the director of the Department of Consumer Affairs to establish, by regulation, guidelines to prescribe components for mandatory continuing education programs administered by any board within the department. The guidelines shall be developed to ensure that mandatory continuing education is used as a means to create a more competent licensing population, thereby enhancing public protection. (Business and Professions Code §166)

**3)** Requires licensees of the Board of Psychology (Board), upon renewal of their license, to certify to the Board that he or she has completed at least 36 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to their field of practice. (BPC §§2914.1, 2914.2, 2915 (a), 2915 (d) (1), 2915 (2) (a-b), 2915.5, 2915.7).

### **This Bill:**

**1)** States the intent of the Legislature to help lower the suicide rate in California by requiring certain health professionals to complete training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management as part of their continuing education. (BPC §§2915.3, 2915.4)

**2)** Would require a Psychologist, whose graduate study begins on or after January 1, 2016, to complete a 15 hours of contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. (BPC §2915.3)

**3)** Would require a Psychologist, whose graduate study began prior to January 1, 2016, to complete a six-hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. (BPC §2915.4 (a))

**Comments:**

**1) Author's Intent.** The intent of this bill is to ensure mental health professionals have concentrated training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. In 2008, over 36,000 people died by suicide in the U.S., making it the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death nationally. Several organizations, including the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the Institute of Medicine, have indicated a need for improved education and training in suicide assessment.

**2) Current Education Requirements.** There is currently no specific requirement that a licensee of the Board has coursework covering suicide assessment, treatment, and management in his or her degree, or complete continuing education, which covers suicide assessment.

The courses below must be completed prior to licensure or at the first renewal, depending on when the applicant began graduate study:

- Spousal/partner abuse (15 hours);
- Human Sexuality (10 hours);
- Child Abuse (7 hours);
- Substance Abuse (15 hours);
- Aging/long term care (10 hours);

Conversations with one of the Board's subject matter experts indicated that suicide assessment is likely covered in Master's degree and post-doctoral programs, both in basic counseling skills courses and in trauma courses.

**3) Continuing Education Requirements.** The Board has several one-time continuing educational requirements that must be completed by its licensees. These additional courses must be completed prior to licensure or at the first renewal, depending on when the applicant began graduate study.

All licensees must also certify that they have kept abreast of changes to the law or ethical codes every renewal period. In total, a licensee must complete 36 hours of continuing education every renewal period. There is no requirement for suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

**4) Board Position:** Oppose

## **5) Support and Opposition.**

### Support

- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention California Chapters
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Greater San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
- Asian Americans for Community Involvement
- Association of California Healthcare Districts
- California Association of Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions
- California Catholic Conference of Bishops
- California Federation of Teachers
- California Institute for Mental Health
- California Mental Health Directors Association
- California Professional Firefighters
- California State Sheriffs' Association
- Caltrain
- Community Solutions
- Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
- El Camino Hospital
- Family & Children Services of Silicon Valley
- Momentum for Mental Health
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) California
- NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors
- NAMI Santa Cruz
- Veterans Caucus for the California Democratic Party

### Opposition

- Alameda County Psychological Association
- Board of Behavioral Sciences
- Board of Psychology
- California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors
- California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
- California Psychological Association
- National Association of Social Workers- California Chapter
- San Gabriel Valley Psychological Association
- San Joaquin Valley Psychological Association

## **11) History**

**2014**

- Aug. 05** Read second time. Ordered to third reading.
- Aug. 04** From committee: Be placed on second reading file pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.
- Aug. 04** From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on APPR.
- Jun. 24** From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) (June 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
- May 28** Referred to Com. on B., P. & E.D.
- May 19** In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.
- May 19** Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 47. Noes 11. Page 5026.)
- May 15** Read second time. Ordered to third reading.
- May 14** From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 15. Noes 1.) (May 14).
- Apr. 30** From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (April 29). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
- Apr. 22** In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
- Apr. 22** Re-referred to Com. on B.,P. & C.P.
- Apr. 21** From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on B.,P. & C.P. Read second time and amended.
- Mar. 6** Referred to Com. on B.,P. & C.P.
- Feb. 21** From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.
- Feb. 21** Read first time. To print.

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 4, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2198**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Levine**

(Principal ~~coauthor: Senator~~ *coauthors: Senators Hill and Steinberg*)

February 20, 2014

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An act to add Sections 2915.3, 2915.4, 4980.393, 4980.394, 4989.21, 4989.35, 4996.27, 4996.275, 4999.37, and 4999.77 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2198, as amended, Levine. Mental health professionals: suicide prevention training.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professionals who provide mental health-related services, including psychologists, marriage and family therapists, educational psychologists, professional clinical counselors, and clinical social workers. Under existing law, an applicant for licensure in these professions is required to complete certain coursework or training in order to be eligible for a license. Existing law also requires these professionals to participate in continuing education as a prerequisite for renewing their license.

This bill would require a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, professional clinical counselor, and clinical social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, to complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management before he or she may be issued a license. The bill would also require, commencing January 1, 2016, a

person licensed in these professions *or any applicant for licensure* who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, to take a six-hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment, and management in order to renew his or her license.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 2915.3 is added to the Business and  
2 Professions Code, to read:

3 2915.3. (a) Any applicant for licensure as a psychologist who  
4 began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete,  
5 as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact hours of  
6 coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

7 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the  
8 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

9 SEC. 2. Section 2915.4 is added to the Business and Professions  
10 Code, to read:

11 2915.4. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who  
12 began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a  
13 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide  
14 assessment, treatment, and management during his or her first  
15 renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall  
16 submit to the board evidence acceptable to the board of the person’s  
17 satisfactory completion of that course.

18 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the  
19 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

20 (c) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section  
21 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education  
22 required by Section 2915.

23 (d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

24 SEC. 3. Section 4980.393 is added to the Business and  
25 Professions Code, immediately following Section 4980.39, to read:

26 4980.393. (a) An applicant for licensure who began graduate  
27 study on or after January 1, 2016, and whose education qualifies  
28 him or her under Section 4980.36 or ~~4980.37~~ 4980.37, shall  
29 complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact  
30 hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and  
31 management.

1 SEC. 4. Section 4980.394 is added to the Business and  
2 Professions Code, to read:

3 4980.394. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who  
4 began graduate study before January 1, 2016, shall complete a  
5 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide  
6 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first  
7 renewal period after the operative date of this section and shall  
8 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the  
9 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

10 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section  
11 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education  
12 required by Section 4980.54.

13 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

14 SEC. 5. Section 4989.21 is added to the Business and  
15 Professions Code, to read:

16 4989.21. (a) Any applicant for licensure as an educational  
17 psychologist who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016,  
18 shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15  
19 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and  
20 management.

21 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the  
22 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

23 SEC. 6. Section 4989.35 is added to the Business and  
24 Professions Code, to read:

25 4989.35. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who  
26 began graduate study before January 1, 2016, shall complete a  
27 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide  
28 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first  
29 renewal period after the operative date of this section and shall  
30 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the  
31 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

32 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section  
33 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education  
34 required by Section 4989.34.

35 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

36 SEC. 7. Section 4996.27 is added to the Business and  
37 Professions Code, immediately following Section 4996.26, to read:

38 4996.27. (a) Any applicant for licensure as a licensed clinical  
39 social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1,  
40 2016, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of



1 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment,  
2 and management.

3 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the  
4 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

5 SEC. 8. Section 4996.275 is added to the Business and  
6 Professions Code, immediately following Section 4996.27, to read:

7 4996.275. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who  
8 began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a  
9 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide  
10 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first  
11 renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall  
12 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the  
13 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

14 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section  
15 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education  
16 required in Section 4996.22.

17 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

18 SEC. 9. Section 4999.37 is added to the Business and  
19 Professions Code, to read:

20 4999.37. An applicant for examination eligibility or registration  
21 who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, and whose  
22 education qualifies him or her under Section 4999.32 ~~or 4999.33~~  
23 4999.33, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum  
24 of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment,  
25 and management.

26 SEC. 10. Section 4999.77 is added to the Business and  
27 Professions Code, to read:

28 4999.77. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who  
29 began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a  
30 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide  
31 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first  
32 renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall  
33 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the  
34 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

35 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section  
36 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education  
37 required in Section 4999.76.

38 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

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June 18, 2014

The Honorable Ted W. Lieu  
Chair, Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2053  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2198 – **Oppose**

Dear Senator Lieu:

At its June 17, 2014 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) took an **oppose** position on AB 2198 (Levine).

The Board's (Board) mission is to advance quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the profession.

The Board is aware that suicide is an extremely important topic that has touched the lives of many families in our State. The Board is committed to educating our licensees and the general public on this issue via various outreach and educational tools. The Board does not believe, however, that AB 2198 is the appropriate vehicle for achieving competence in this area.

Specifically the Board opposes the bill for the following reasons;

- The coursework and continuing education (CE) hours mandated in the bill will not help a licensee achieve competency in the area of suicide assessment, prevention, and training. The Board is concerned that attending a six hour course may provide a false sense of subject area mastery to a licensee.
- Suicide assessment, prevention, and training is currently integrated into the curriculum of most graduate training programs. Additionally, suicide assessment is a knowledge point tested in both the national and State examinations.
- The Board is opposed to CE courses being mandated by the legislature when the Board is better positioned to determine what areas of study will further the professional development of its licensees.

The Board has concerns that while well-intentioned, this bill will not achieve the intended goals of increasing competence in the important area of suicide prevention, assessment, and training.

If you would like to discuss the Board's position, please feel free to contact the Board's Administrative Coordinator, Jonathan Burke, at (916) 574-7137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Erickson".

MICHAEL ERICKSON, PH.D.  
President, Board of Psychology

cc: Senator Mark Wyland (Vice Chair)

Senator Tom Berryhill

Senator Marty Block

Senator Ellen M. Corbett

Senator Cathleen Galgiani

Senator Ed Hernandez

Senator Jerry Hill

Senator Norma J. Torres

Board Members

Assembly Member Marc B. Levine

Tracy Rhine, Deputy Director, Legislative and Policy Review, Department of Consumer Affairs