

MEMORANDUM

DATE	February 28, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Cherise Burns Central Services Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #6 (b) – AB 89 (Levine) - Suicide Assessment and Intervention Coursework Requirements

Background:

This item provides a brief synopsis of Board's Suicide Assessment and Intervention Coursework Requirement Legislative Proposal and proposed amendments to the statutory text to include Board requested intent language.

In response to the Governor's veto message of AB 2198 (Levine, 2014) relating to mandated one-time continuing education (CE) coursework in suicide prevention, assessment and training, the Board conducted surveys of doctoral programs and pre- and post-doctoral internship and practicum programs and reviews of licensure requirements for licensed psychologists in 2015. The Board's Licensing Committee then reviewed the issue and determined that due to gaps in the current educational and training requirements, that there should be a minimal one-time requirement for coursework or training in suicide risk assessment and intervention for all licensed psychologists. In 2016, the Licensing Committee, in coordination with Board staff and Legal Counsel, worked on draft language and background materials for presentation to the Board. During the Licensing Committee meetings in 2016, multiple stakeholders provided input on the draft language, and Assembly Member Levine's office watched committee hearings and periodically checked in with Board staff on the progress of the Committee. In anticipation of the Board's consideration of the Licensing Committee's proposed language at its November 2016 meeting, Assembly Member Levine's office submitted the Licensing Committee's draft language to Legislative Counsel to be drafted into un-backed draft bill language. Legislators can submit multiple drafts of un-backed draft text to Legislative Counsel and create multiple drafts of a bill that can later be introduced in the Legislature as a bill backed by an author.

At the November 2016 Board Meeting, the Licensing Committee and Policy and Advocacy Committee jointly presented the Suicide Assessment and Intervention Coursework Requirement Legislative Proposal. This proposal would, effective January 1, 2020, require all applicants for licensure as a psychologist with the Board of Psychology (Board) to have completed a minimum of six (6) hours of coursework and/or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement could be met through coursework in their qualifying degree program,

The Legislature finds and declares the following:

- (a) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, suicide is the third leading cause of death for Californians ages fifteen to thirty-four, and ultimately the tenth leading cause of death for Californians of all ages between the years of 2000 through 2015. Furthermore, the CDC's data shows the overall suicide rate in California has increased 21.4 percent between the years 2000 through 2015.
- (b) In 2008, California's Governor adopted the "California Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention: Every Californian is a Part of the Solution," prepared by the California Department of Mental Health and California Health and Human Services Agency, in order to improve the State's suicide prevention efforts by developing and implementing guidelines to promote effective and consistent suicide prevention, as well as expanding opportunities by incorporating suicide prevention training in existing licensing, credentialing, and graduate school programs.
- (c) There are currently six states that require a specified number of instruction/training hours in suicide assessment, treatment, and management for psychologists and other health professionals; these range from two hours of training as a condition of licensure, to three hours of continuing education every biennial license renewal cycle. Additionally, three other states have implemented laws which encourage and provide information on training in suicide prevention to health professionals, including psychologists.

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 89

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

January 9, 2017

An act to add Section 2915.4 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to psychologists.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 89, as introduced, Levine. Psychologists: suicide prevention training.

Existing law, the Psychology Licensing Law, provides for the licensing and regulation of psychologists and requires a person applying for licensure as a psychologist to have completed specified coursework or training. Existing law also requires licensed psychologists to participate in continuing professional development as a prerequisite for renewing their licenses. Existing law requires a person applying for relicensure or for reinstatement to an active license status to certify under penalty of perjury that he or she has fulfilled the continuing professional development requirements. Existing law defines "continuing professional development" as certain continuing education learning activities and provides requirements for continuing education courses approved to meet the continuing professional development requirements.

This bill, effective January 1, 2020, would require an applicant for licensure as a psychologist to complete a minimum of 6 hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. The bill would also require, effective January 1, 2020, as a one-time requirement, a licensed psychologist to have completed this suicide risk assessment and intervention training

1 of training for the program or primary supervisor where the
2 qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required
3 by this section is included within the applied experience.

4 (3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the
5 requirements of subdivision (e) or (f) of Section 2915 and that
6 qualifies as a continuing education learning activity category
7 specified in paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 2915.
8 To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board
9 a certification of completion.

10 (b) Effective January 1, 2020, as a one-time requirement, a
11 licensee prior to the time of his or her first renewal after the
12 operative date of this section, or an applicant for reactivation or
13 reinstatement to an active license status, shall have completed a
14 minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under
15 supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, as specified
16 in subdivision (a). Proof of compliance with this section shall be
17 certified under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance
18 with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board
19 upon request.

20 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
21 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
22 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
23 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
24 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
25 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
26 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
27 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
28 Constitution.