


MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 20, 2018
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Jason Glasspiegel Central Services Coordinator
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #22(b)(1)(a) – AB 1436 (Levine) Board of Behavioral Sciences: Licensees: Suicide Prevention Training

Background:

This bill, on or after January 1, 2021, would require an applicant for any license type under the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), to complete a minimum of 6 hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. Additionally, the bill would require, on or after January 1, 2021, as a one-time requirement, any licensee under BBS to have completed this suicide risk assessment and intervention training requirement prior to the time of his or her first renewal. Lastly, the bill would also require, on or after January 1, 2021, a person applying for reactivation or for reinstatement to have completed this suicide risk assessment and intervention training requirement.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Status: 06/20/18 – Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Committee on Appropriations

Votes: 6/18/18 – Senate Business Professions and Economic Development (9-0-0)
 5/22/17 – Assembly Floor (44-28-8)
 5/10/17 – Assembly Committee on Local Government (5-3-1)

Action Requested:

Staff recommends the Policy and Advocacy Committee take a **Support** position on AB 1436 as this bill enhances the state’s suicide prevention efforts and protects the consumers of mental health services who rely on mental health professionals having the basic education and training required to identify and aid a patient or client with suicidal ideation in finding competent treatment.

Attachment A: Analysis of AB 1436 (Levine)

Attachment B: AB 1436 (Levine) Text

2018 Bill Analysis

Author: Levine	Bill Number: AB 1436	Related Bills:
Sponsor: The Steinberg Institute	Version: Amended 6/60/18	
Subject: Board of Behavioral Sciences: licensees: suicide prevention training		

SUMMARY

This bill, on or after January 1, 2021, would require an applicant for any license type under the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), to complete a minimum of 6 hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. Additionally, the bill would require, on or after January 1, 2021, as a one-time requirement, any licensee under BBS to have completed this suicide risk assessment and intervention training requirement prior to the time of his or her first renewal. Lastly, the bill would also require, on or after January 1, 2021, a person applying for reactivation or for reinstatement to have completed this suicide risk assessment and intervention training requirement.

RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT - Staff recommends the Policy and Advocacy Committee take a Support position on AB 1436 as this bill enhances the state's suicide prevention efforts and protects the consumers of mental health services who rely on mental health professionals having the basic education and training required to identify and aid a patient or client with suicidal ideation in finding competent treatment.

Other Boards/Departments that may be affected:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Change in Fee(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Affects Licensing Processes <input type="checkbox"/> Affects Enforcement Processes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgency Clause <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations Required <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Reporting <input type="checkbox"/> New Appointment Required	
Policy & Advocacy Committee Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support if Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose Unless Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Date: _____ Vote: _____	Full Board Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support if Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose Unless Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Date: _____ Vote: _____

REASON FOR THE BILL

Per the author, everyday across America, an average of 123 people die by suicide, making it the 10th leading cause of death.

In California, we lose someone to suicide about every two hours. It's an epidemic we must confront with every tool at our disposal. Research shows that three-quarters of those who die by suicide had contact with a primary care provider in the year before their death; and that about a third of them had contact with a mental health professional. The stunning reality is that many of the health professionals in best position to intervene with someone in crisis are not trained in suicide prevention.

A recent report from the American Association of Suicidology found that only about half of psychology training programs include instruction in how to identify patients at risk of suicide, bring them through the crisis and impart the coping skills needed to help them manage their condition going forward. The statistics are even more dismal for training programs for social workers, marriage and family therapists and educational counselors.

Research shows that effective training in suicide prevention has a marked difference in outcomes. Multiple studies have pinpointed intervention strategies with a clear track record at saving lives. Effective treatment options exist. But we need more professionals trained in how to use them.

ANALYSIS

Suicide is a critical public health issue in the State of California, where on average, one person dies of suicide every two hours and twice as many people die of suicide than by homicide. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) data show that, between 2000 and 2015, suicide was the third leading cause of death for Californians ages 15 to 34, and the tenth leading cause of death for Californians of all ages. Furthermore, CDC data also show that the overall suicide rate in California increased by 21.4 percent between the years 2000 and 2015.

Consistency Across Mental Health Professionals: With the passage of AB 89 (Levine, Chapter, 182), the Board of Psychology became the only mental health board in the state of California to mandate training in suicide assessment and intervention. With the introduction of this bill, as of July 1, 2021, BBS would join the Board of Psychology in verifying all licensees and applicants receive a consistent amount of training in suicide prevention and intervention. On May 11, 2018 BBS voted to support AB 1436 and its requirement that all BBS licensees have a minimum level of training in suicide assessment and intervention.

The Right Step for Consumer Protection: As the author stated, rates of suicide are on the rise. It is the mission of each mental health board to protect the consumers of their respective services by ensuring their licensees are properly trained in the necessary areas/topics affecting those consumers. By ensuring BBS licensees meet a minimum level of education or training in suicide prevention, this bill protects the consumers of these mental health services who rely on these professionals having the basic

education and training required to identify and aid a patient with suicidal ideation in finding competent treatment.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

AB 89 (Levine, Chapter 182, Statutes of 2018) requires an applicant for licensure as a psychologist to show completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience in suicide risk assessment and intervention after January 1, 2020.

AB 2198 (Levine, 2014). This bill would have required 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. This bill would have also required applicants for license renewal who graduated prior to the January 1, 2016 cut-off date to six-hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment, and management in order to renew his or her license. (Status: This bill was vetoed by the Governor.)

OTHER STATES' INFORMATION

The states of Kentucky, Nevada, New Hampshire, Utah and Washington have passed legislation requiring mental health professionals to receive training in suicide prevention.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Board advances quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the practice. To accomplish this, the Board regulates licensed psychologists, psychological assistants, and registered psychologists.

FISCAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Not Applicable

LEGAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

APPOINTMENTS

Not Applicable

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

Support:

Steinberg Institute (Sponsor)
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Board of Behavioral Sciences

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Chicago School of Professional Psychology
Disability Rights California
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford

Opposition:

None on File

ARGUMENTS**Proponents:**

The Steinberg Institute writes, "We are proud sponsors of AB 1436 (Levine) [which] would require marriage and family therapists, educational psychologists, clinical social workers and professional clinical counselors to receive suicide prevention training in suicide assessment, treatment and management. Every day across America, an average of 123 people die by suicide, making it the 10th leading cause of death. Even as death rates from cancer and heart disease have declined, suicide rates have climbed for more than a decade. In California, we lose someone to suicide about every two hours. For young people in our state ages 10-24, it is the second leading cause of death. It's an epidemic we must confront with every tool at our disposal. Research shows that three-quarters of those who die by suicide had contact with a primary care provider in the year before their death; and that about a third of them had contact with a mental health professional. The stunning reality is that many of the health professionals in best position to intervene with someone in crisis are not trained in suicide prevention.

Last year, we were proud to sponsor AB 89 (Levine, Chapter 182) which requires all applicants for licensure as a psychologist with the Board of Psychology to complete a minimum of six hours of coursework and/or applied experience in suicide risk assessment and intervention. We are proud to partner again with Assembly member Levine to sponsor AB 1436 which builds off that legislation and ensures that all mental health professions receive the training they need."

Opponents:

None on File

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AB-1436 Board of Behavioral Sciences: licensees: suicide prevention training. (2017-2018)

SECTION 1. Section 4980.396 is added to the Business and Professions Code, immediately following Section 4980.395, to read:

4980.396. (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall show, as part of the application, that he or she has completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

(1) Obtained as part of his or her qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.

(2) Obtained as part of his or her applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum or associateship that meets the requirement of this chapter, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.

(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4980.54. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of his or her first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).

(c) Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

SEC. 2. Section 4989.23 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4989.23. (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as an educational psychologist shall show, as part of the application, that he or she has completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

(1) Obtained as part of his or her qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.

(2) Obtained as part of his or her applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum, supervised experience gained pursuant to Section 4989.20, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.

(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4989.34. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of his or her first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).

(c) Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

SEC. 3. Section 4996.27 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4996.27. (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall show, as part of the application, that he or she has completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

(1) Obtained as part of his or her qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.

(2) Obtained as part of his or her applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum or associateship that meets the requirement of this chapter, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.

(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4996.22. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of his or her first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).

(c) Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

SEC. 4. Section 4999.66 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4999.66. (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a professional clinical counselor shall show, as part of the application, that he or she has completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

(1) Obtained as part of his or her qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.

(2) Obtained as part of his or her applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum or associateship that meets the requirement of this chapter, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.

(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4999.76. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of his or her first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).

(c) Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

SEC. 5. *No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.*