

ESHB 2366 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 2/28/12

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) According to the centers for disease control and prevention:

5 (i) In 2008, more than thirty-six thousand people died by suicide
6 in the United States, making it the tenth leading cause of death
7 nationally.

8 (ii) During 2007-2008, an estimated five hundred sixty-nine
9 thousand people visited hospital emergency departments with self-
10 inflicted injuries in the United States, seventy percent of whom had
11 attempted suicide.

12 (iii) During 2008-2009, the average percentages of adults who
13 thought, planned, or attempted suicide in Washington were higher than
14 the national average.

15 (b) According to a national study, veterans face an elevated risk
16 of suicide as compared to the general population, more than twice the
17 risk among male veterans. Another study has indicated a positive
18 correlation between posttraumatic stress disorder and suicide.

19 (i) Washington state is home to more than sixty thousand men and
20 women who have deployed in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

21 (ii) Research continues on how the effects of wartime service and
22 injuries such as traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress disorder,
23 or other service-related conditions, may increase the number of
24 veterans who attempt suicide.

25 (iii) As more men and women separate from the military and
26 transition back into civilian life, community mental health providers
27 will become a vital resource to help these veterans and their families
28 deal with issues that may arise.

29 (c) Suicide has an enormous impact on the family and friends of the
30 victim as well as the community as a whole.

1 (d) Approximately ninety percent of people who die by suicide had
2 a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time of death. Most suicide
3 victims exhibit warning signs or behaviors prior to an attempt.

4 (e) Improved training and education in suicide assessment,
5 treatment, and management has been recommended by a variety of
6 organizations, including the United States department of health and
7 human services and the institute of medicine.

8 (2) It is therefore the intent of the legislature to help lower the
9 suicide rate in Washington by requiring certain health professionals to
10 complete training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management as
11 part of their continuing education, continuing competency, or
12 recertification requirements.

13 (3) The legislature does not intend to expand or limit the existing
14 scope of practice of any health professional affected by this act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1)(a) Beginning January 1, 2014, each of the following
18 professionals certified or licensed under Title 18 RCW shall, at least
19 once every six years, complete a training program in suicide
20 assessment, treatment, and management that is approved, in rule, by the
21 relevant disciplining authority:

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

23 (ii) A chemical dependency professional licensed under chapter
24 18.205 RCW;

25 (iii) A marriage and family therapist licensed under chapter 18.225
26 RCW;

27 (iv) A mental health counselor licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;

28 (v) An occupational therapy practitioner licensed under chapter
29 18.59 RCW;

30 (vi) A psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW; and

31 (vii) An advanced social worker or independent clinical social
32 worker licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

33 (b) The requirements in (a) of this subsection apply to a person
34 holding a retired active license for one of the professions in (a) of
35 this subsection.

36 (2)(a)(i) Except as provided in (a)(ii) of this subsection, a
37 professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this section must complete

1 the first training required by this section during the first full
2 continuing education reporting period after the effective date of this
3 section or the first full continuing education reporting period after
4 initial licensure or certification, whichever occurs later.

5 (ii) A professional listed in subsection (1)(a) of this subsection
6 applying for initial licensure on or after the effective date of this
7 section may delay completion of the first training required by this
8 section for six years after initial licensure if he or she can
9 demonstrate successful completion of a six-hour training program in
10 suicide assessment, treatment, and management that:

11 (A) Was completed no more than six years prior to the application
12 for initial licensure; and

13 (B) Is listed on the best practices registry of the American
14 foundation for suicide prevention and the suicide prevention resource
15 center.

16 (3) The hours spent completing a training program in suicide
17 assessment, treatment, and management under this section count toward
18 meeting any applicable continuing education or continuing competency
19 requirements for each profession.

20 (4)(a) A disciplining authority may, by rule, specify minimum
21 training and experience that is sufficient to exempt a professional
22 from the training requirements in subsection (1) of this section.

23 (b) The board of occupational therapy practice may exempt
24 occupational therapists from the training requirements of subsection
25 (1) of this section by specialty, if the specialty in question has only
26 brief or limited patient contact.

27 (5)(a) The secretary and the disciplining authorities shall work
28 collaboratively to develop a model list of training programs in suicide
29 assessment, treatment, and management.

30 (b) When developing the model list, the secretary and the
31 disciplining authorities shall:

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

36 (ii) Consult with public and private institutions of higher
37 education, experts in suicide assessment, treatment, and management,
38 and affected professional associations.

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

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

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

9 (8) For purposes of this section:

10 (a) "Disciplining authority" has the same meaning as in RCW
11 18.130.020.

12 (b) "Training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and
13 management" means an empirically supported training program approved by
14 the appropriate disciplining authority that contains the following
15 elements: Suicide assessment, including screening and referral,
16 suicide treatment, and suicide management. The disciplining authority
17 may approve a training program that excludes one of the elements if the
18 element is inappropriate for the profession in question based on the
19 profession's scope of practice. A training program that includes only
20 screening and referral elements shall be at least three hours in
21 length. All other training programs approved under this section shall
22 be at least six hours in length.

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

29 (10) An employee of a community mental health agency licensed under
30 chapter 71.24 RCW or a chemical dependency program certified under
31 chapter 70.96A RCW is exempt from the requirements of this section if
32 he or she receives a total of at least six hours of training in suicide
33 assessment, treatment, and management from his or her employer every
34 six years. For purposes of this subsection, the training may be
35 provided in one six-hour block or may be spread among shorter training
36 sessions at the employer's discretion.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The secretary of health shall conduct a
2 study evaluating the effect of evidence-based suicide assessment,
3 treatment, and management training on the ability of licensed health
4 care professionals to identify, refer, treat, and manage patients with
5 suicidal ideation. This study shall at a minimum:

6 (a) Review available research and literature regarding the
7 relationship between licensed health professionals completing training
8 in suicide assessment, treatment, and management and patient suicide
9 rates;

10 (b) Assess which licensed health professionals are best situated to
11 positively influence the mental health behavior of individuals with
12 suicidal ideation;

13 (c) Evaluate the impact of suicide assessment, treatment, and
14 management training on veterans with suicidal ideation; and

15 (d) Review curriculum of health profession programs offered at
16 Washington state educational institutions regarding suicide prevention.

17 (2) In conducting this study the secretary may collaborate with
18 other health profession disciplinary boards and commissions,
19 professional associations, and other interested parties.

20 (3) The secretary shall submit a report to the legislature no later
21 than December 15, 2013, summarizing the findings of this study.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the Matt
23 Adler suicide assessment, treatment, and management training act of
24 2012."

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25 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "management;" strike the
26 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter
27 43.70 RCW; and creating new sections."

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