Assembly Bill No. 93–Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Thompson; Elliot Anderson, Araujo, Bustamante Adams, Joiner, Kirkpatrick and Spiegel

CHAPTER..........

AN ACT relating to public health; requiring or encouraging certain licensed or certified professionals to receive suicide prevention and awareness training in order to renew a license or certificate; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires psychiatrists, physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, clinical professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, social workers, alcohol and drug abuse counselors, problem gambling counselors and other persons licensed or certified to practice in various related fields to complete certain continuing education as a condition to the renewal of their licenses or certificates. (NRS 630.253, 632.343, 633.471, 641.220, 641A.260, 641B.280, 641C.450, 641C.500) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5.3 and 5.7 of this bill require certain of those professionals to receive instruction on suicide prevention and awareness as a condition to the renewal of their licenses or certificates beginning on July 1, 2016. Those requirements, however, are temporary and are eliminated or expire by limitation on June 30, 2026.

Sections 1, 1.5 and 2 of this bill require the professional licensing boards for certain physicians and advanced practice registered nurses to encourage their licensees to receive certain training concerning suicide prevention, detection and intervention as part of their continuing education.

Sections 1 and 2 revise provisions concerning compliance with continuing education by physicians to require that they submit evidence of such compliance.

Sections 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5.3 and 5.7 require certain professional licensing boards to establish their continuing education requirements by regulation.

EXPLANATION – Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.  NRS 630.253 is hereby amended to read as follows: 630.253  1.  The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the:
(a) Renewal of a license as a physician assistant; or
(b) Biennial registration of the holder of a license to practice medicine,
 require each holder to [comply] submit evidence of compliance with the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board.
2. These requirements:
(a) May provide for the completion of one or more courses of instruction relating to risk management in the performance of medical services.

(b) Must provide for the completion of a course of instruction, within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The course must provide at least 4 hours of instruction that includes instruction in the following subjects:

1. An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;
2. Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;
3. Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;
4. Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and
5. An overview of the information available on, and the use of, the Health Alert Network.

(c) Must provide for the completion by a holder of a license to practice medicine who is a psychiatrist of a course of instruction that provides at least 2 hours of instruction on clinically-based suicide prevention and awareness.

The Board may thereafter determine whether to include in a program of continuing education additional courses of instruction relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

3. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license who treats or cares for persons who are more than 60 years of age to receive, as a portion of their continuing education, education in geriatrics and gerontology, including such topics as:

(a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address aging issues;
(b) Approaches to providing health care to older persons, including both didactic and clinical approaches;
(c) The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of the aging process; and
(d) The importance of maintenance of function and independence for older persons.

4. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing education, training concerning methods for educating patients about
how to effectively manage medications, including, without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to the container of the drug.

5. **The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice medicine, other than a psychiatrist, to receive as a portion of his or her continuing education training concerning suicide, including, without limitation, such topics as:**

(a) **The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to detect behaviors that may lead to suicide, including, without limitation, post-traumatic stress disorder;**

(b) **Approaches to engaging other professionals in suicide intervention; and**

(c) **The detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations and the prevention of suicide.**

6. A holder of a license to practice medicine may substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in the detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations, and the intervention and prevention of suicide, pain management or addiction care for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.

7. As used in this section:

(a) “**Act of terrorism**” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4415.

(b) “Biological agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.442.

(c) “Chemical agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4425.

(d) “Radioactive agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4437.

(e) “**Weapon of mass destruction**” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4445.

Sec. 1.3.  NRS 630.253 is hereby amended to read as follows:

630.253 1. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the:

(a) Renewal of a license as a physician assistant; or

(b) Biennial registration of the holder of a license to practice medicine,

require each holder to submit evidence of compliance with the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board.

2. These requirements:
(a) May provide for the completion of one or more courses of instruction relating to risk management in the performance of medical services.

(b) Must provide for the completion of a course of instruction, within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The course must provide at least 4 hours of instruction that includes instruction in the following subjects:

   (1) An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;
   (2) Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;
   (3) Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;
   (4) Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and
   (5) An overview of the information available on, and the use of, the Health Alert Network.

(c) Must provide for the completion by a holder of a license to practice medicine who is a psychiatrist of a course of instruction that provides at least 2 hours of instruction on clinically-based suicide prevention and awareness.

The Board may thereafter determine whether to include in a program of continuing education additional courses of instruction relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

3. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license who treats or cares for persons who are more than 60 years of age to receive, as a portion of their continuing education, education in geriatrics and gerontology, including such topics as:

   (a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address aging issues;
   (b) Approaches to providing health care to older persons, including both didactic and clinical approaches;
   (c) The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of the aging process; and
   (d) The importance of maintenance of function and independence for older persons.

4. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing education, training concerning methods for educating patients about
how to effectively manage medications, including, without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to the container of the drug.

5. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice medicine to receive as a portion of his or her continuing education training concerning suicide, including, without limitation, such topics as:

(a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to detect behaviors that may lead to suicide, including, without limitation, post-traumatic stress disorder;

(b) Approaches to engaging other professionals in suicide intervention; and

(c) The detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations and the prevention of suicide.

6. A holder of a license to practice medicine may substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in the detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations, and the intervention and prevention of suicide, pain management or addiction care for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.

7. As used in this section:

(a) “Act of terrorism” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4415.

(b) “Biological agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.442.

(c) “Chemical agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4425.

(d) “Radioactive agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4437.

(e) “Weapon of mass destruction” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4445.

Sec. 1.5. NRS 632.343 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.343 1. The Board shall not renew any license issued under this chapter until the licensee has submitted proof satisfactory to the Board of completion, during the 2-year period before renewal of the license, of 30 hours in a program of continuing education approved by the Board in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. The licensee is exempt from this provision for the first biennial period after graduation from:

(a) An accredited school of professional nursing;

(b) An accredited school of practical nursing;
(c) An approved school of professional nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation; or
(d) An approved school of practical nursing in the process of obtaining accreditation.

2. The Board shall review all courses offered to nurses for the completion of the requirement set forth in subsection 1. The Board may approve nursing and other courses which are directly related to the practice of nursing as well as others which bear a reasonable relationship to current developments in the field of nursing or any special area of practice in which a licensee engages. These may include academic studies, workshops, extension studies, home study and other courses.

3. The program of continuing education required by subsection 1 must include a course of instruction, to be completed within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The course must provide at least 4 hours of instruction that includes instruction in the following subjects:
   (a) An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;
   (b) Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;
   (c) Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;
   (d) Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and
   (e) An overview of the information available on, and the use of, the Health Alert Network.

The Board may thereafter determine whether to include in a program of continuing education additional courses of instruction relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

4. The Board shall encourage each licensee who treats or cares for persons who are more than 60 years of age to receive, as a portion of their continuing education, education in geriatrics and gerontology, including such topics as:
   (a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address aging issues;
   (b) Approaches to providing health care to older persons, including both didactic and clinical approaches;
   (c) The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of the aging process; and
(d) The importance of maintenance of function and independence for older persons.

5. **The Board shall encourage each person licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse to receive as a portion of his or her continuing education at least 2 hours of instruction on clinically-based suicide prevention and awareness.**

6. As used in this section:
   (a) “Act of terrorism” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4415.
   (b) “Biological agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.442.
   (c) “Chemical agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4425.
   (d) “Radioactive agent” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4437.
   (e) “Weapon of mass destruction” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4445.

Sec. 2. NRS 633.471 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.471  1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection [6] 8 and NRS 633.491, every holder of a license issued under this chapter, except a temporary or a special license, may renew the license on or before January 1 of each calendar year after its issuance by:
   (a) Applying for renewal on forms provided by the Board;
   (b) Paying the annual license renewal fee specified in this chapter;
   (c) Submitting a list of all actions filed or claims submitted to arbitration or mediation for malpractice or negligence against the holder during the previous year;
   (d) Submitting [an affidavit] evidence to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal the holder has attended courses or programs of continuing education approved by the Board in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board totaling a number of hours established by the Board which must not be less than 35 hours nor more than that set in the requirements for continuing medical education of the American Osteopathic Association; and
   (e) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.

2. The Secretary of the Board shall notify each licensee of the requirements for renewal not less than 30 days before the date of renewal.

3. The Board shall request submission of verified evidence of completion of the required number of hours of continuing medical
education annually from no fewer than one-third of the applicants for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine or a license to practice as a physician assistant. Upon a request from the Board, an applicant for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine or a license to practice as a physician assistant shall submit verified evidence satisfactory to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal the applicant attended courses or programs of continuing medical education approved by the Board totaling the number of hours established by the Board.

4. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing education, training concerning methods for educating patients about how to effectively manage medications, including, without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to the container of the drug.

5. The Board shall require, as part of the continuing education requirements approved by the Board, the biennial completion by a holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine of: (a) At least 2 hours of continuing education credits in ethics, pain management or addiction care; and (b) If the holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine is a psychiatrist, at least 2 hours of continuing education credits on clinically-based suicide prevention and awareness.

6. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine, other than a psychiatrist, to receive as a portion of his or her continuing education training concerning suicide, including, without limitation, such topics as: (a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to detect behaviors that may lead to suicide, including, without limitation, post-traumatic stress disorder; (b) Approaches to engaging other professionals in suicide intervention; and (c) The detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations and the prevention of suicide.

7. A holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine may substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in the detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations, and the intervention and prevention of suicide for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.
8. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the United States Public Health Service are exempt from payment of the annual license renewal fee during their active duty status.

Sec. 2.5. NRS 633.471 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.471 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8 and NRS 633.491, every holder of a license issued under this chapter, except a temporary or a special license, may renew the license on or before January 1 of each calendar year after its issuance by:

(a) Applying for renewal on forms provided by the Board;
(b) Paying the annual license renewal fee specified in this chapter;
(c) Submitting a list of all actions filed or claims submitted to arbitration or mediation for malpractice or negligence against the holder during the previous year;
(d) Submitting evidence to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal the holder has attended courses or programs of continuing education approved by the Board in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board totaling a number of hours established by the Board which must not be less than 35 hours nor more than that set in the requirements for continuing medical education of the American Osteopathic Association; and
(e) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.

2. The Secretary of the Board shall notify each licensee of the requirements for renewal not less than 30 days before the date of renewal.

3. The Board shall request submission of verified evidence of completion of the required number of hours of continuing medical education annually from no fewer than one-third of the applicants for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine or a license to practice as a physician assistant. Upon a request from the Board, an applicant for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine or a license to practice as a physician assistant shall submit verified evidence satisfactory to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal the applicant attended courses or programs of continuing medical education approved by the Board totaling the number of hours established by the Board.

4. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing education, training concerning methods for educating patients about how to effectively manage medications, including, without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to the container of the drug.
5. The Board shall require, as part of the continuing education requirements approved by the Board, the biennial completion by a holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine of:
   — (a) At least 2 hours of continuing education credits in ethics, pain management or addiction care.
   — (b) If the holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine is a psychiatrist, at least 2 hours of continuing education credits on clinically-based suicide prevention and awareness.

6. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine, other than a psychiatrist, to receive as a portion of his or her continuing education training concerning suicide, including, without limitation, such topics as:
   (a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to detect behaviors that may lead to suicide, including, without limitation, post-traumatic stress disorder;
   (b) Approaches to engaging other professionals in suicide intervention; and
   (c) The detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations and the prevention of suicide.

7. A holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine may substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in the detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations, and the intervention and prevention of suicide for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.

8. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the United States Public Health Service are exempt from payment of the annual license renewal fee during their active duty status.

Sec. 3. NRS 641.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:
641.220 1. To renew a license or certificate issued pursuant to this chapter, each person must, on or before the first day of January of each odd-numbered year:
   (a) Apply to the Board for renewal;
   (b) Pay the biennial fee for the renewal of a license or certificate;
   (c) Submit evidence to the Board of completion of the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and
   (d) Submit all information required to complete the renewal.
2. Upon renewing his or her license, a psychologist shall declare his or her areas of competence, as determined in accordance with NRS 641.112.
3. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license or certificate, require each holder to comply with the
requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder of a license receive at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.

Sec. 3.5. NRS 641.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:
641.220 1. To renew a license or certificate issued pursuant to this chapter, each person must, on or before the first day of January of each odd-numbered year:
(a) Apply to the Board for renewal;
(b) Pay the biennial fee for the renewal of a license or certificate;
(c) Submit evidence to the Board of completion of the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and
(d) Submit all information required to complete the renewal.
2. Upon renewing his or her license, a psychologist shall declare his or her areas of competence, as determined in accordance with NRS 641.112.
3. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license or certificate, require each holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder receive at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.

Sec. 4. NRS 641A.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:
641A.260 1. To renew a license issued pursuant to this chapter, each person must, on or before the date of expiration of the current license:
(a) Apply to the Board for renewal;
(b) Pay the fee for renewal set by the Board;
(c) Submit evidence to the Board of completion of the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and
(d) Submit all information required to complete the renewal.
2. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license, require each holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder receive at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.
Sec. 4.5. NRS 641A.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.260 1. To renew a license issued pursuant to this chapter, each person must, on or before the date of expiration of the current license:
   (a) Apply to the Board for renewal;
   (b) Pay the fee for renewal set by the Board;
   (c) Submit evidence to the Board of completion of the requirements for continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and
   (d) Submit all information required to complete the renewal.

2. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license, require each holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder receive at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.

Sec. 5. NRS 641B.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.280 1. Every holder of a license issued pursuant to this chapter may renew his or her license annually by:
   (a) Applying to the Board for renewal;
   (b) Paying the annual renewal fee set by the Board;
   (c) Submitting evidence to the Board of completion of the required continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and
   (d) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.

2. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license, require the holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder receive at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.

Sec. 5.1. NRS 641B.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.280 1. Every holder of a license issued pursuant to this chapter may renew his or her license annually by:
   (a) Applying to the Board for renewal;
   (b) Paying the annual renewal fee set by the Board;
   (c) Submitting evidence to the Board of completion of the required continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and
   (d) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.

2. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license, require the holder to comply with the requirements for
continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the holder receive at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness.

Sec. 5.3. NRS 641C.450 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.450  Except as otherwise provided in NRS 641C.320, 641C.440 and 641C.530, a person may renew his or her license or certificate by submitting to the Board:

1. An application for the renewal of the license or certificate;
2. The fee for the renewal of a license or certificate prescribed in NRS 641C.470;
3. Evidence of completion of the continuing education required by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the applicant receive at least 1 hour of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness for each year of the term of the applicant's licensure or certification;
4. If the applicant is a certified intern, the name of the licensed or certified counselor who supervises the applicant; and
5. All information required to complete the renewal.

Sec. 5.7. NRS 641C.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.500  1. The Board may, by regulation, provide for the certification of a person as a detoxification technician.
2. Any regulation adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must be consistent with the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS and must include, without limitation, provisions relating to:
   (a) The requirements for submitting an application for a certificate, including, without limitation, the submission of a complete set of fingerprints pursuant to NRS 641C.260;
   (b) The scope of practice for a person who is issued a certificate;
   (c) The conduct of any investigation or hearing relating to an application for a certificate;
   (d) The examination of an applicant for a certificate or a waiver of examination for an applicant;
   (e) The requirements for issuing a certificate or provisional certificate;
   (f) The duration, expiration, renewal, restoration, suspension, revocation and reinstatement of a certificate;
   (g) The grounds for refusing the issuance, renewal, restoration or reinstatement of a certificate;
   (h) Requirements for the completion of continuing education which must include, without limitation, a requirement that the applicant receive at least 1 hour of instruction on evidence-based
suicide prevention and awareness for each year of the term of the applicant’s certification;

(i) The conduct of any disciplinary or other administrative proceeding relating to a person who is issued a certificate;

(j) The filing of a complaint against a person who is issued a certificate;

(k) The issuance of a subpoena for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers and records;

(l) The payment of fees for:

(1) Witnesses, mileage and attendance at a hearing or deposition; and

(2) The issuance, renewal, restoration or reinstatement of a certificate;

(m) The imposition of a penalty for a violation of any provision of the regulations; and

(n) The confidentiality of any record or other information maintained by the Board relating to an applicant or the holder of a certificate.

3. A person shall not engage in any activity for which the Board requires a certificate as a detoxification technician pursuant to this section unless the person is the holder of such a certificate.

4. In addition to the provisions of subsection 2, a regulation adopted pursuant to this section must include provisions that are substantially similar to the requirements set forth in NRS 641C.280 and 641C.710. Any provision included in a regulation pursuant to this subsection remains effective until the provisions of NRS 641C.280 and 641C.710 expire by limitation.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 641C.900, 641C.910 and 641C.950, the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the holder of a certificate that is issued in accordance with a regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

6. As used in this section, “detoxification technician” means a person who is certified by the Board to provide screening for the safe withdrawal from alcohol and other drugs.

Sec. 6. 1. This section and sections 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5.3 and 5.7 of this act become effective on July 1, 2016.

2. Sections 5.3 and 5.7 of this act expire by limitation on June 30, 2026.

3. Sections 1.3, 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 and 5.1 of this act become effective on July 1, 2026.