

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public health; revising continuing education requirements relating to suicide prevention and awareness for certain providers of health care; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law requires or encourages certain providers of health care, including physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts, marriage and family therapists, clinical professional counselors, social workers, alcohol and drug abuse counselors and problem gambling counselors and certain interns related to these professions to receive at least 1 or 2 hours of continuing education in certain topics related to suicide prevention and awareness. (NRS 630.253, 632.343, 633.471, 641.220, 641A.260, 641B.280, 641C.450) **Sections 1-6** of this bill make mandatory continuing education requirements relating to suicide prevention and awareness for each of these providers of health care and requires the completion of a course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness at regular intervals.

**Sections 1 and 2.5** also remove the authority for certain persons who hold a license to practice medicine, including, without limitation, physicians, osteopathic physicians and psychiatrists, to substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education in certain topics related to suicide prevention for an equivalent continuing education requirement in ethics. (NRS 630.253, 633.471)

**Section 9** of this bill repeals the prospective expiration of the existing requirement for a physician and osteopathic physician to complete a course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness. **Section 9** also repeals a provision to remove the prospective expiration of the requirement for psychologists, behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts to complete a course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness.

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

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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 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 *within 2 years after initial licensure* that provides at least 2 hours of instruction on ~~clinically-based~~ *evidence-based* suicide prevention and awareness ~~as described in subsection 5.~~

↳ 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~~ **require** each holder of a license to practice medicine ~~to, other than a psychiatrist,~~ to receive as a portion of his or her continuing education ~~training concerning suicide, including,~~ **at least 2 hours of instruction every 4 years on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness, which may include,** without limitation, ~~such topics as:~~ **instruction concerning:**

(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 **not** substitute ~~not more than 2 hours of~~ **the** continuing education credits ~~in the detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations, and the intervention and prevention of suicide, pain management or addiction care~~ **relating to suicide prevention and awareness required by this section** for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.

7. **A holder of a license to practice medicine may substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in pain management or addiction care for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.**

8. 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 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~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, 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) For a person licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse, a course of instruction to be completed within 2 years after initial licensure that provides at least 2 hours of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness as described in subsection 5.*

*(b) For each person licensed pursuant to this chapter, 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)~~ *(1) An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;*

~~(b)~~ *(2) Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;*

~~(c)~~ *(3) Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;*



~~(4)~~ (4) Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and

~~(5)~~ (5) 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~~ *require* 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 *every 4 years* on ~~clinically-based~~ *evidence-based* suicide prevention and awareness ~~+~~ *or another course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness that is approved by the Board which the Board has determined to be effective and appropriate.*

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

633.471 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~1~~ **9** 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 require each holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine to complete a course of instruction within 2 years after initial licensure that provides at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness as described in subsection 7.*

5. 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.}~~ 6. 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~~ *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.}~~ 7. The Board shall ~~{encourage}~~ *require* 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,}~~ *at least 2 hours of instruction every 4 years on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness which may include,* without limitation, ~~{such topics as:}~~ *instruction concerning:*

(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.}~~ 8. A holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine may *not* substitute ~~{not more than 2 hours of}~~ *the* continuing education credits ~~{in the detection of suicidal thoughts and ideations, and the intervention and prevention of suicide}~~ *relating to suicide prevention and awareness required by this section* for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.

~~{8.}~~ 9. 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 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;

(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, require each holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board. ~~†, which†~~

***4. The requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection 3 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 †† or another course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness that is approved by the Board which the Board has determined to be effective and appropriate. The hours of instruction required by this subsection must be completed within 2 years after initial licensure and at least every 4 years thereafter.***

**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 ~~††~~ ***or another course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness that is approved by the Board which the Board has determined to be effective and appropriate.***

**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 ~~+~~ *or another course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness that is approved by the Board which the Board has determined to be effective and appropriate.*

**Sec. 6.** NRS 641C.450 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.450 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 641C.310, 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 *or another course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness that is approved by the Board which the Board has determined to be effective and appropriate* 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. 7.** Section 6 of chapter 403, Statutes of Nevada 2015, at page 2289, is hereby amended to read as follows:

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.

**Sec. 8.** A person who is:

1. Licensed to practice medicine pursuant to the provisions of chapter 630 of NRS;
2. Licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to the provisions of chapter 632 of NRS;
3. Licensed to practice osteopathic medicine pursuant to the provisions of chapter 633 of NRS; or
4. Licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 641 of NRS,



↳ and who has previously renewed his or her license before July 1, 2017, shall complete a course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness as required pursuant to NRS 630.253, 632.343, 633.471 or 641.220, as amended by sections 1, 2, 2.5 and 3 of this act, as applicable, by July 1, 2018, or before the date on which the license of the person must next be renewed, whichever is later.

**Sec. 9.** Sections 1.3, 2.5 and 3.5 of chapter 403, Statutes of Nevada 2015, at pages 2281, 2285 and 2287, respectively, are hereby repealed.

**Sec. 10.** This act becomes effective:

1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
2. On July 1, 2017, for all other purposes.

