

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1951

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

February 13, 2008

An act to add Sections 2915.8, 2915.9, 4980.415, 4980.416, 4989.23, 4989.35, 4996.27, and 4996.275 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1951, as introduced, Hayashi. Mental health professionals: suicide prevention training.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professionals who provide mental health-related services, including psychologists, marriage and family therapists, educational psychologists, and clinical social workers. Under existing law, an applicant for licensure in these professions is required to complete certain coursework or training in order to be eligible for a license. Existing law also requires these professionals to participate in continuing education as a prerequisite for renewing their license.

This bill would require that an applicant for licensure as a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, or clinical social worker, or for renewal of one of those licenses, complete 15 hours of training in suicide prevention, assessment, intervention, and postintervention strategies, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2915.8 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:

3 2915.8. (a) An applicant for licensure as a psychologist who
4 began graduate study on or after January 1, 2010, shall complete,
5 as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 hours of coursework
6 in suicide prevention, assessment, intervention, and
7 postintervention strategies. This coursework shall also include
8 training in community resources and an understanding of cultural
9 factors that promote help-seeking behavior.

10 (b) Coursework required by this section shall be obtained from
11 one of the following sources:

12 (1) An accredited or approved educational institution, as defined
13 in Section 2902.

14 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.

15 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
16 and approved by the board.

17 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
18 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.

19 (c) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational
20 requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate
21 course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the
22 requirements of this section.

23 (d) An applicant shall submit to the board evidence acceptable
24 to the board of the applicant's satisfactory completion of the
25 coursework required by subdivision (a).

26 (e) An applicant may request an exemption from this section if
27 he or she intends to practice in an area where the training required
28 by this section would not be needed.

29 (f) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the
30 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

31 SEC. 2. Section 2915.9 is added to the Business and Professions
32 Code, to read:

33 2915.9. (a) A licensee who began graduate study prior to
34 January 1, 2010, shall complete a minimum of 15 hours of
35 continuing education coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
36 intervention, and postintervention strategies during his or her first
37 renewal period after the operative date of this section. The
38 coursework shall also include training in community resources

1 and an understanding of cultural factors that promote help-seeking
2 behavior.

3 (b) The coursework required by this section shall be obtained
4 from one of the following:

5 (1) An accredited or approved educational institution, as defined
6 in Section 2902.

7 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.

8 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
9 and approved by the board.

10 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
11 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.

12 (c) A licensee shall submit to the board evidence acceptable to
13 the board of the licensee's satisfactory completion of the
14 coursework required by subdivision (a).

15 (d) A person seeking to meet the requirements of this section
16 may submit to the board a certificate evidencing completion of
17 equivalent coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
18 intervention, and postintervention strategies taken prior to the
19 operative date of this section, or proof of equivalent teaching or
20 practice experience. The board, in its discretion, may accept that
21 certification as meeting the requirements of this section.

22 (e) A licensee may request an exemption from this section if he
23 or she practices in an area where the training required by this
24 section is not needed.

25 (f) The board may not renew an applicant's license until the
26 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

27 (g) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
28 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
29 required in Section 2915.

30 (h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2011.

31 SEC. 3. Section 4980.415 is added to the Business and
32 Professions Code, to read:

33 4980.415. (a) An applicant for licensure as a marriage and
34 family therapist who began graduate study on or after January 1,
35 2010, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of
36 15 hours of coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
37 intervention, and postintervention strategies. This coursework shall
38 also include training in community resources and an understanding
39 of cultural factors that promote help-seeking behavior.

1 (b) Coursework required by this section shall be obtained from
2 one of the following sources:

3 (1) An accredited or approved educational institution, as
4 specified in Section 4980.40.

5 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.

6 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
7 and approved by the board.

8 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
9 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.

10 (c) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational
11 requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate
12 course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the
13 requirements of this section.

14 (d) An applicant shall submit to the board evidence acceptable
15 to the board of the applicant’s satisfactory completion of the
16 coursework required by subdivision (a).

17 (e) An applicant may request an exemption from this section if
18 he or she intends to practice in an area where the training required
19 by this section would not be needed.

20 (f) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the
21 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

22 SEC. 4. Section 4980.416 is added to the Business and
23 Professions Code, to read:

24 4980.416. (a) A licensee who began graduate study prior to
25 January 1, 2010, shall complete a minimum of 15 hours of
26 continuing education coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
27 intervention, and postintervention strategies during his or her first
28 renewal period after the operative date of this section. The
29 coursework shall also include training in community resources
30 and an understanding of cultural factors that promote help-seeking
31 behavior.

32 (b) The coursework required by this section shall be obtained
33 from one of the following:

34 (1) An accredited or approved educational institution, as
35 specified in Section 4980.40.

36 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.

37 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
38 and approved by the board.

39 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
40 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.

1 (c) A licensee shall submit to the board evidence acceptable to
2 the board of the licensee's satisfactory completion of the
3 coursework required by subdivision (a).

4 (d) A person seeking to meet the requirements of this section
5 may submit to the board a certificate evidencing completion of
6 equivalent coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
7 intervention, and postintervention strategies taken prior to the
8 operative date of this section, or proof of equivalent teaching or
9 practice experience. The board, in its discretion, may accept that
10 certification as meeting the requirements of this section.

11 (e) A licensee may request an exemption from this section if he
12 or she practices in an area where the training required by this
13 section is not needed.

14 (f) The board may not renew an applicant's license until the
15 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

16 (g) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
17 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
18 required in Section 4980.54.

19 (h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2011.

20 SEC. 5. Section 4989.23 is added to the Business and
21 Professions Code, to read:

22 4989.23. (a) An applicant for licensure as an educational
23 psychologist who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2010,
24 shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 hours
25 of coursework in suicide prevention, assessment, intervention, and
26 postintervention strategies. This coursework shall also include
27 training in community resources and an understanding of cultural
28 factors that promote help-seeking behavior.

29 (b) Coursework required by this section shall be obtained from
30 one of the following sources:

31 (1) An educational institution approved by the board, as provided
32 in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 4989.20.

33 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.

34 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
35 and approved by the board.

36 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
37 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.

38 (c) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational
39 requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate

1 course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the
2 requirements of this section.

3 (d) An applicant shall submit to the board evidence acceptable
4 to the board of the applicant's satisfactory completion of the
5 coursework required by subdivision (a).

6 (e) An applicant may request an exemption from this section if
7 he or she intends to practice in an area where the training required
8 by this section would not be needed.

9 (f) The board shall not issue a license to an applicant until the
10 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

11 SEC. 6. Section 4989.35 is added to the Business and
12 Professions Code, to read:

13 4989.35. (a) A licensee who began graduate study prior to
14 January 1, 2010, shall complete a minimum of 15 hours of
15 continuing education coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
16 intervention, and postintervention strategies during his or her first
17 renewal period after the operative date of this section. The
18 coursework shall also include training in community resources
19 and an understanding of cultural factors that promote help-seeking
20 behavior.

21 (b) The coursework required by this section shall be obtained
22 from one of the following:

23 (1) An educational institution approved by the board, as provided
24 in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 4989.20.

25 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.

26 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
27 and approved by the board.

28 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
29 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.

30 (c) A licensee shall submit to the board evidence acceptable to
31 the board of the person's satisfactory completion of the coursework
32 required by subdivision (a).

33 (d) A person seeking to meet the requirements of this section
34 may submit to the board a certificate evidencing completion of
35 equivalent coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
36 intervention, and postintervention strategies taken prior to the
37 operative date of this section, or proof of equivalent teaching or
38 practice experience. The board, in its discretion, may accept that
39 certification as meeting the requirements of this section.

1 (e) A licensee may request an exemption from this section if he
2 or she practices in an area where the training required by this
3 section is not needed.

4 (f) The board may not renew an applicant's license until the
5 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

6 (g) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
7 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
8 required in Section 4989.34.

9 (h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2011.

10 SEC. 7. Section 4996.27 is added to the Business and
11 Professions Code, to read:

12 4996.27. (a) An applicant for licensure as a licensed clinical
13 social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1,
14 2010, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of
15 15 hours of coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
16 intervention, and postintervention strategies. This coursework shall
17 also include training in community resources and an understanding
18 of cultural factors that promote help-seeking behavior.

19 (b) Coursework required by this section shall be obtained from
20 one of the following sources:

21 (1) An accredited or approved educational institution, as
22 specified in Section 4996.18.

23 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.

24 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
25 and approved by the board.

26 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
27 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.

28 (c) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational
29 requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate
30 course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the
31 requirements of this section.

32 (d) An applicant shall submit to the board evidence acceptable
33 to the board of the person's satisfactory completion of the
34 coursework required by subdivision (a).

35 (e) An applicant may request an exemption from this section if
36 he or she intends to practice in an area where the training required
37 by this section would not be needed.

38 (f) The board shall not issue a license to an applicant until the
39 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

1 SEC. 8. Section 4996.275 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:
3 4996.275. (a) A licensee who began graduate study prior to
4 January 1, 2010, shall complete a minimum of 15 hours of
5 continuing education coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
6 intervention, and postintervention strategies during his or her first
7 renewal period after the operative date of this section. The
8 coursework shall also include training in community resources
9 and an understanding of cultural factors that promote help-seeking
10 behavior.
11 (b) The coursework required by this section shall be obtained
12 from one of the following:
13 (1) An accredited or approved educational institution, as
14 specified in Section 4996.18.
15 (2) A continuing education provider approved by the board.
16 (3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association
17 and approved by the board.
18 (4) A course sponsored or offered by a local, county, or state
19 department of health or mental health and approved by the board.
20 (c) A licensee shall submit to the board evidence acceptable to
21 the board of the person's satisfactory completion of the coursework
22 required by subdivision (a).
23 (d) A person seeking to meet the requirements of this section
24 may submit to the board a certificate evidencing completion of
25 equivalent coursework in suicide prevention, assessment,
26 intervention, and postintervention strategies taken prior to the
27 operative date of this section, or proof of equivalent teaching or
28 practice experience. The board, in its discretion, may accept that
29 certification as meeting the requirements of this section.
30 (e) A licensee may request an exemption from this section if he
31 or she practices in an area where the training required by this
32 section is not needed.
33 (f) The board may not renew an applicant's license until the
34 applicant has met the requirements of this section.
35 (g) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
36 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
37 required in Section 4996.22.
38 (h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2011.

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