

Assembly Bill No. 2198

Passed the Assembly August 19, 2014

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 14, 2014

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2014, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Sections 2915.3, 2915.4, 4980.393, 4980.394, 4989.21, 4989.35, 4996.27, 4996.275, 4999.37, and 4999.77 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2198, Levine. 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, professional clinical counselors, 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 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. The bill would also require, commencing January 1, 2016, a person licensed in these professions or any applicant for licensure who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, to take a six-hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment, and management in order to renew his or her license.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2915.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2915.3. (a) Any applicant for licensure as a psychologist who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

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

SEC. 2. Section 2915.4 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2915.4. (a) A licensee or any applicant for licensure who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide assessment, treatment, and management during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall submit to the board evidence acceptable to the board of the person's satisfactory completion of that course.

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

(c) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required by Section 2915.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

SEC. 3. Section 4980.393 is added to the Business and Professions Code, immediately following Section 4980.39, to read:

4980.393. (a) An applicant for licensure who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, and whose education qualifies him or her under Section 4980.36 or 4980.37, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

SEC. 4. Section 4980.394 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4980.394. (a) A licensee or any applicant for licensure who began graduate study before January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section and shall submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the person's satisfactory completion of the course.

(b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required by Section 4980.54.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

SEC. 5. Section 4989.21 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4989.21. (a) Any applicant for licensure as an educational psychologist who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

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

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

4989.35. (a) A licensee or any applicant for licensure who began graduate study before January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section and shall submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the person's satisfactory completion of the course.

(b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required by Section 4989.34.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

SEC. 7. Section 4996.27 is added to the Business and Professions Code, immediately following Section 4996.26, to read:

4996.27. (a) Any applicant for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

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

SEC. 8. Section 4996.275 is added to the Business and Professions Code, immediately following Section 4996.27, to read:

4996.275. (a) A licensee or any applicant for licensure who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the person's satisfactory completion of the course.

(b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required in Section 4996.22.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

SEC. 9. Section 4999.37 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4999.37. An applicant for examination eligibility or registration who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, and whose education qualifies him or her under Section 4999.32 or 4999.33, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

SEC. 10. Section 4999.77 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4999.77. (a) A licensee or any applicant for licensure who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the person's satisfactory completion of the course.

(b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required in Section 4999.76.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

Approved _____, 2014

Governor