



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1158

S.P. 410

In Senate, March 31, 2015

**An Act To Improve the Ability of Mental Health Professionals To
Assess the Risk of Suicide**

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative BUCKLAND of Farmington and
Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, BURNS of Washington, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DIAMOND
of Cumberland, KATZ of Kennebec, Representative: HILLIARD of Belgrade.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §3835**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §2, is further amended
3 by adding after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

4 Beginning January 1, 2018, a person who submits an application for license renewal
5 shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board successful completion of a minimum of
6 6 hours of course work every 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk
7 assessment or the treatment and management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of
8 community resources and cultural factors. Continuing education courses taken pursuant
9 to this paragraph may be used to satisfy the licensee's other continuing education
10 requirements.

11 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §7060**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §4, is further amended
12 by adding after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

13 Beginning January 1, 2018, a person who submits an application for license renewal
14 shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board successful completion of a minimum of
15 6 hours of course work every 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk
16 assessment or the treatment and management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of
17 community resources and cultural factors. Continuing education courses taken pursuant
18 to this paragraph may be used to satisfy the licensee's other continuing education
19 requirements.

20 **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §13858, sub-§2, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §5, is
21 further amended to read:

22 B. Two years of experience after obtainment of a master's degree or a doctoral
23 degree to include at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience with a
24 minimum of 100 hours of personal supervision;~~and~~

25 **Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §13858, sub-§2, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 262, §5, is
26 amended to read:

27 C. Beginning January 1, 2020, demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board
28 successful completion of a minimum of 12 hours of course work in family or intimate
29 partner violence, including course work in spousal or partner abuse that addresses
30 screening, referral and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community
31 resources, cultural factors, evidence-based risk assessment and same-gender abuse
32 dynamics. An applicant may fulfill this requirement through course work taken in
33 fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or through separate course
34 work provided through contact hours, Internet hours or distance learning programs, as
35 evidenced by certification from an accredited educational institution. The board shall
36 accept certification from the accredited educational institution from which the
37 applicant is a graduate that verifies the applicant's satisfaction of this requirement
38 within the applicant's completed course curriculum. An applicant for initial licensure
39 that is unable to demonstrate completion of the requirements of this paragraph at the
40 time the initial application is submitted shall demonstrate to the board that these

1 requirements have been fulfilled upon the applicant's first application for license
2 renewal; and

3 **Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §13858, sub-§2, ¶D** is enacted to read:

4 D. Beginning January 1, 2018, demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board
5 successful completion of a minimum of 6 hours of course work every 10 years in
6 suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk assessment or the treatment and
7 management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of community resources and
8 cultural factors. Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this paragraph may
9 be used to satisfy the licensee's other continuing education requirements.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This bill adds a new requirement for the renewal of professional licenses for social
12 workers, licensed clinical professional counselors and psychologists that each must show
13 proof upon renewal that the licensee has completed a minimum of 6 hours of course work
14 every 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk assessment or the
15 treatment and management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of community
16 resources and cultural factors. These courses may be used to satisfy the licensee's other
17 continuing education requirements.