



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2015

LCO No. 7095



Offered by:

REP. HENNESSY, 127th Dist.
SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
REP. YACCARINO, 87th Dist.
REP. TWEEDIE, 13th Dist.

REP. SRINIVASAN, 31st Dist.
REP. FERRARO, 117th Dist.
REP. CANDELORA, 86th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6780

File No. 81

Cal. No. 77

"AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS COMMON TO VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS."

1 In line 14, strike "each registration period" and insert in lieu thereof
2 "during the first renewal period in which continuing education is
3 required and not less than once every six years thereafter"

4 In line 43, after "education" insert "during the first renewal period in
5 which continuing education is required and not less than once every
6 six years thereafter"

7 Strike section 3 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
8 and internal references accordingly

9 In line 161, after "education" insert "during the first renewal period
10 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every

11 six years thereafter"

12 In line 190, strike "each registration period" and insert in lieu thereof
13 "during the first renewal period in which continuing education is
14 required and not less than once every six years thereafter"

15 In line 211, strike "each registration period" and insert in lieu thereof
16 "during the first renewal period in which continuing education is
17 required and not less than once every six years thereafter"

18 In line 227, strike "each registration"

19 In line 228, strike "period" and insert in lieu thereof "during the first
20 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less
21 than once every six years thereafter"

22 Strike lines 260 and 261 and insert in lieu thereof "behavioral health,
23 provided further that on and after January 1, 2016, such behavioral
24 health continuing medical education shall include, but not be limited
25 to, at least two contact hours of training or education during the first
26 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less
27 than once every six years thereafter,"

28 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
29 internal references accordingly:

30 "Sec. 501. Section 20-94d of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

32 (a) As used in this section:

33 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

34 (2) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing
35 education and activities;

36 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

37 (4) "Licensee" means an advanced practice registered nurse licensed
38 pursuant to section 20-94a; and

39 (5) "Registration period" means the one-year period for which a
40 license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 and is
41 current and valid.

42 (b) Except as provided in this section, for registration periods
43 beginning on and after October 1, 2014, a licensee applying for license
44 renewal shall earn a minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing
45 education within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such
46 continuing education shall: (1) Be in an area of the advanced practice
47 registered nurse's practice; (2) reflect the professional needs of the
48 licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public; (3) include
49 at least five contact hours of training or education in
50 pharmacotherapeutics; [and] (4) include at least one contact hour of
51 training or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious
52 diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency
53 syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management,
54 (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural competency, and
55 (F) substance abuse; and (5) on and after January 1, 2016, include not
56 less than two contact hours of training or education during the first
57 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less
58 than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health
59 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,
60 including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family
61 member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-
62 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C)
63 suicide prevention training. For purposes of this section, qualifying
64 continuing education activities include, but are not limited to, courses,
65 including on-line courses, offered or approved by the American
66 Nurses Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut
67 Nurses Association, Connecticut League for Nursing, a specialty
68 nursing society or an equivalent organization in another jurisdiction,
69 an educational offering sponsored by a hospital or other health care

70 institution or a course offered by a regionally accredited academic
71 institution or a state or local health department. The commissioner
72 may grant a waiver of not more than ten contact hours of continuing
73 education for an advanced practice registered nurse who: (i) Engages
74 in activities related to the advanced practice registered nurse's service
75 as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing,
76 established pursuant to section 20-88; or (ii) assists the department
77 with its duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-
78 14.

79 (c) Each licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to section
80 19a-88 shall sign a statement attesting that he or she has satisfied the
81 continuing education requirements of subsection (b) of this section on
82 a form prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall retain records
83 of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate
84 compliance with the continuing education requirements of subsection
85 (b) of this section for a minimum of three years following the year in
86 which the continuing education activities were completed and shall
87 submit such records or certificates to the department for inspection not
88 later than forty-five days after a request by the department for such
89 records or certificates.

90 (d) A licensee applying for the first time for license renewal
91 pursuant to section 19a-88 is exempt from the continuing education
92 requirements of this section.

93 (e) (1) A licensee who is not engaged in active professional practice
94 in any form during a registration period shall be exempt from the
95 continuing education requirements of this section, provided the
96 licensee submits to the department, prior to the expiration of the
97 registration period, a notarized application for exemption on a form
98 prescribed by the department and such other documentation as may
99 be required by the department. The application for exemption
100 pursuant to this subdivision shall contain a statement that the licensee
101 may not engage in professional practice until the licensee has met the
102 requirements of this section.

103 (2) Any licensee who is exempt from the provisions of subsection (b)
 104 of this section for less than two years shall complete twenty-five
 105 contact hours of continuing education that meets the criteria set forth
 106 in subsection (b) of this section within the twelve-month period
 107 immediately preceding the licensee's return to active professional
 108 practice.

109 (f) In individual cases involving medical disability or illness, the
 110 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may grant a waiver of
 111 the continuing education requirements or an extension of time within
 112 which to fulfill the continuing education requirements of this section to
 113 any licensee, provided the licensee submits to the department an
 114 application for waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the
 115 department, along with a certification by a licensed physician,
 116 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse of the
 117 disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required
 118 by the commissioner. The commissioner or his or her designee may
 119 grant a waiver or extension for a period not to exceed one registration
 120 period, except that the commissioner or his or her designee may grant
 121 additional waivers or extensions if the medical disability or illness
 122 upon which a waiver or extension is granted continues beyond the
 123 period of the waiver or extension and the licensee applies for an
 124 additional waiver or extension.

125 (g) Any licensee whose license has become void pursuant to section
 126 19a-88 and who applies to the department for reinstatement of such
 127 license pursuant to section 19a-14 shall submit evidence documenting
 128 successful completion of twenty-five contact hours of continuing
 129 education within the one-year period immediately preceding
 130 application for reinstatement."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	October 1, 2015	20-94d