



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 1085

LCO No. 5743



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING SUICIDE PREVENTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There is established [a Youth] an Interagency Suicide Advisory
4 Board, within the Department of [Children and Families] Mental Health
5 and Addiction Services, which shall be a state-wide, interagency
6 coordinating source for [youth] suicide prevention. The board shall
7 consist of [twenty] the following members: [, which shall include one
8 psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this state, one psychologist
9 licensed in this state, one representative of a local or regional board of
10 education, one high school teacher, one high school student, one college
11 or university faculty member, one college or university student and one
12 parent, all appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families,
13 one representative of the Department of Public Health appointed by the
14 Commissioner of Public Health, one representative of the state
15 Department of Education appointed by the Commissioner of Education
16 and one representative of the Board of Regents for Higher Education

17 appointed by the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
18 Universities] (1) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
19 Services, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of
20 Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, (3) the
21 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (4) the
22 Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, (5) the
23 Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the
24 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's
25 designee, (7) the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or the
26 commissioner's designee, (8) the Commissioner of Developmental
27 Services, or the commissioner's designee, (9) the president of the
28 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the president's designee,
29 (10) the president of The University of Connecticut, or the president's
30 designee, (11) the executive director of the Court Support Services
31 Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee, and
32 (12) the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
33 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.
34 The balance of the board shall be comprised of persons with expertise
35 in [the] mental health [of children or mental health issues] with a focus
36 on suicide prevention, [and shall be appointed by the Commissioner of
37 Children and Families] including, but not limited to, one psychiatrist
38 licensed pursuant to chapter 370 who shall be appointed by the
39 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, one
40 psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 who specializes in the
41 treatment of children and families, who shall be appointed by the
42 Commissioner of Children and Families, one representative of a local or
43 regional board of education, who shall be appointed by the
44 Commissioner of Education, one high school teacher, who shall be
45 appointed by the Commissioner of Education, one college or university
46 faculty member, who shall be appointed by the president of The
47 University of Connecticut, one college or university student, who shall
48 be appointed by the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
49 Universities, and one parent of a child who has been diagnosed with a
50 mental health disorder, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner of
51 Children and Families. Members of the board shall serve for two-year

52 terms, without compensation. Any member who fails to attend three
53 consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings held during any
54 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the board. [The
55 Commissioner of Children and Families shall be a nonvoting, ex-officio
56 member of the board.] The board shall elect a [chairman,] chairperson
57 and a [vice-chairman] vice-chairperson to act in the [chairman's]
58 chairperson's absence.

59 (b) The board shall: (1) Increase public awareness of the existence of
60 [youth] suicide and means of suicide prevention across a person's
61 lifespan; (2) make recommendations [to the commissioner] for the
62 development of state-wide training in the prevention of [youth] suicide;
63 (3) develop a strategic [youth] state-wide, interagency suicide
64 prevention plan; (4) recommend interagency policies and procedures
65 for the coordination of services [for youths and families] in the area of
66 suicide prevention; (5) make research-based and data-driven
67 recommendations for the establishment and implementation of suicide
68 prevention procedures in schools and communities; (6) establish a
69 coordinated system for the utilization of data for the prevention of
70 [youth] suicide; (7) make recommendations concerning the integration
71 of suicide prevention and intervention strategies into [other] youth-
72 focused prevention and intervention programs; and (8) periodically
73 offer, within available appropriations, [youth] suicide prevention
74 training for health care providers, school employees and other persons
75 who provide services to children, [young] adults, [and] families and the
76 aging population of the state.

77 (c) On or before November 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the
78 chairperson of the board shall report, in accordance with the provisions
79 of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General
80 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health
81 regarding the operations of the board and any recommendations for
82 legislation concerning suicide prevention.

83 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

85 2021):

86 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of this
87 section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a minimum of
88 fifty contact hours of continuing medical education within the
89 preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing medical
90 education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2) reflect the
91 professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs
92 of the public; and (3) during the first renewal period in which continuing
93 medical education is required and not less than once every six years
94 thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training or education in
95 each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases, including, but not
96 limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human
97 immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, including, but not
98 limited to, prescribing controlled substances and pain management,
99 and, for registration periods beginning on or after October 1, 2019, such
100 risk management continuing medical education may also include
101 screening for inflammatory breast cancer and gastrointestinal cancers,
102 including colon, gastric, pancreatic and neuroendocrine cancers and
103 other rare gastrointestinal tumors, (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic
104 violence, (E) cultural competency, and (F) behavioral health, provided
105 further that on and after January 1, 2016, such behavioral health
106 continuing medical education may include, but not be limited to, at least
107 two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal
108 period in which continuing education is required and not less than once
109 every six years thereafter, on (i) suicide prevention, or (ii) diagnosing
110 and treating [(i)] (I) cognitive conditions, including, but not limited to,
111 Alzheimer's disease, dementia, delirium, related cognitive impairments
112 and geriatric depression, or [(ii)] (II) mental health conditions,
113 including, but not limited to, mental health conditions common to
114 veterans and family members of veterans. Training for mental health
115 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans shall
116 include best practices for [(I)] determining whether a patient is a veteran
117 or family member of a veteran, [(II)] screening for conditions such as
118 post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and

119 [(III)] veteran suicide prevention training. For purposes of this section,
 120 qualifying continuing medical education activities include, but are not
 121 limited to, courses offered or approved by the American Medical
 122 Association, American Osteopathic Association, Connecticut Hospital
 123 Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, Connecticut
 124 Osteopathic Medical Society, county medical societies or equivalent
 125 organizations in another jurisdiction, educational offerings sponsored
 126 by a hospital or other health care institution or courses offered by a
 127 regionally accredited academic institution or a state or local health
 128 department. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may
 129 grant a waiver for not more than ten contact hours of continuing medical
 130 education for a physician who [: (I) Engages] engages in activities
 131 related to the physician's service as a member of the Connecticut
 132 Medical Examining Board, established pursuant to section 20-8a₂ [: (II)]
 133 engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of a
 134 medical hearing panel, pursuant to section 20-8a [: or (III)] or assists the
 135 department with its duties to boards and commissions as described in
 136 section 19a-14.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17a-52
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	20-10b(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board in statute and require continuing medical education regarding suicide prevention.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]