



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 429

H.P. 338

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

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

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, PERRY of Calais, SYLVESTER of Portland,
TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators: BREEN of Cumberland,
CARSON of Cumberland, DOW of Lincoln.

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, 2020, 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 in the previous 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based
7 suicide risk assessment or the treatment and management of suicidal persons, including
8 knowledge of community resources and cultural factors. Continuing education courses
9 taken pursuant to this paragraph may be used to satisfy the licensee's other continuing
10 education 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, 2020, 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 in the previous 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based
16 suicide risk assessment or the treatment and management of suicidal persons, including
17 knowledge of community resources and cultural factors. Continuing education courses
18 taken pursuant to this paragraph may be used to satisfy the licensee's other continuing
19 education 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~~ 2022, 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, 2020, demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board
5 successful completion of a minimum of 6 hours of course work in the previous 10
6 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk assessment or the treatment
7 and management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of community resources
8 and cultural factors. Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this paragraph
9 may 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
12 psychologists, social workers and licensed clinical professional counselors that each must
13 show proof upon renewal that the licensee has completed a minimum of 6 hours of course
14 work 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. The bill also changes, from January 1, 2020 to
18 January 1, 2022, the date that licensed clinical professional counselors must begin
19 demonstrating successful completion of a minimum of 12 hours of course work in family
20 or intimate partner violence.